

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 11th MAY 2009, IN THE PLAYING FIELD PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

PRESENT Councillor S. P. Rockall (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs D. Nichol, Mrs E. Palethorpe, Mrs S. Shaw,
M. S. Clasper, P. Gable, D. Hughes, M. Pearson, P. Stevenson,
Fr. Damien Walne

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)
Cllr. K. Davies (NCC & NBC), Cllr. C. Malpas (NBC)
P.C. Richard Jewell (SCT), Neil Wooding and Lesley Ingram
(new Neighbourhood Wardens) and four electors.

		Action
131	<i>Election of Chairman</i>	
131.1	Mr. S. P. Rockall was unanimously re-elected to the office of Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.	
132	<i>Apologies</i>	
132.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. R. Clements (ill), Cllr. J. Marlow (business commitment) and Rev. Steven Palmer (holiday). Apologies were also received from Cllr. D. Palethorpe (NBC).	
133	<i>Acceptance of Office by Councillors</i>	
133.1	All existing councillors accepted office for the forthcoming year. There was no co-option due to the forthcoming election on 4 th June 2009.	
134	<i>Minutes</i>	
134.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20 th April 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.	
135	<i>Election of Officers</i>	
135.1	Vice-Chair. Cllr. Michael Clasper and Cllr. David Hughes.	
135.2	Responsible Financial Officer. The Clerk, Mrs Sue Harris.	
136	<i>Appointment of Committees/Working Parties</i>	
136.1	Finance, Planning & Conservation: The Chairman, Cllrs. Mrs S. Shaw, R. Clements, D. Hughes, J. Marlow, M. Pearson and P. Stevenson.	
136.2	Leisure, Recreation and Road Safety: The Chairman, Cllrs. Mrs E. Palethorpe, M. Clasper, P. Gable, and D. Hughes.	
136.3	Little Billing: Cllrs. Mrs E. Palethorpe, Mrs. S. Shaw, M. Clasper, R. Clements, P. Gable and the GSM, Mr. C. Campling.	

		Action
136	<i>Appointment of Committees/Working Parties (Continued)</i>	
136.4	Parish Plan & Quality Status: The Chairman, Cllrs. Mrs. E. Palethorpe, Mrs. D. Nichol, Mrs. S. Shaw, M. Clasper and Rev. Steven Palmer.	
136.5	Northants C.A.L.C. Mr. D. Hughes, The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen or their nominees.	
136.6	Charities: Fr. Damien Walne.	
136.7	Neighbourhood Partnership 7 Cllrs. Mrs S. Shaw and M. Clasper	
136.8	Bellinge Community House Cllrs. Mrs D. Nichol, Rev. Steven Palmer (or his representative) and Fr Damien Walne.	
137	<i>Declarations of Interest</i>	
137.1	None declared.	
138	<i>Public Forum</i>	
138.1	PC Richard Jewell apologised for not being able to attend the April Parish Council meeting due to injury. He reported that SCT were coming to the end of the three month period of tackling the concerns highlighted by parishioners and were looking to prioritise for the next three months. It was proposed that this time they would concentrate more on Great Billing and Ecton Brook. All five members of the team were now back at work bringing them up to full strength.	
138.2	Keith Bonham said he was concerned about the condition of the parish in general due to lack of grass cutting etc. Cllr Malpas replied that this had been reported to NBC but was unlikely to be remedied due to lack of staff and funds. This also applied to the vast amount of pot holes within the parish.	
138.3	Henry Jones asked if it would be possible for his team to use the Great Billing Playing Fields for 20/20 cricket matches on some Wednesday evenings. He was asked to write to the Chairman and this request would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.	
138.4	Neil Wooding introduced himself and Lesley Ingram as the new Neighbourhood Wardens for the parish. He explained that they would not be able to cover the area in as much depth as Sue Parsons had as they were covering Rectory Farm and other areas as well. He and Lesley will be taking it in turns to attend the PC meetings in future. Lesley said that she had walked the area with Sue Parsons who had given a lot of information to her. She will also liaise with the GSM.	
138.5	Cllr Davies reported that the cars for sale in Great Billing Way were on NBC land and it appeared they were getting on top of this problem.	
139	<i>Ongoing Matters</i>	
139.1	Little Billing Village Green. Keith Bonham reported that he had telephoned NBC last week and was once again told that there should be a decision in the next two weeks. RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the Legal Department at NBC to try to expedite the matter.	Clerk

		Action
139	<i>Ongoing Matters (Continued)</i>	
139.2	Burial Grounds. Nothing to report. Held over to June meeting.	
139.3	Website. Nothing to report. Held over to June meeting.	
140	<i>Finance</i>	
140.1	The accounts for payment had been circulated and it was RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:	
	<u>Power of Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
	Clerk (Postage/Telephone/Stationery)	LGA1972 s111 69.28
	Co-op Motors (Service GSM Vehicle)	LGA1972 s111 175.88
	E.ON (Electricity – Pavilion)	PGA1957s3 867.51
	A H Osborn (Signwriting Pavilion)	LG(MP)A1976s19 75.00
	Small Business Payroll (Salaries May)	LGA1972s112 3000.00
	Garden Machines (Chain/Bar & Nylon Line)	LGA1972s111 68.28
	D F Phipps (Trees – The Leys)	HA198s96 536.36
	J. Marlow (Photocopies burial land)	LGAA1972s214 16.60
	NBC (Transfer from current a/c)	N/A 45,000.00
	NCC (Underpayment E'ers contributions)	LGA1972s112 18.56
140.2	It was RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 st March 2009 as approved by the Internal Auditor be approved and these were duly signed (see Appendix I). The Clerk was thanked for completing these so quickly and with no issues raised.	
140.3	It was RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and this was duly signed.	
140.4	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget to the end of April, together with the bank reconciliation had already been circulated to members. This was approved.	
140.5	The Clerk reported that the account with regard to the Government Procurement Card was now operational with two cards issued.	
141	<i>Planning</i>	
141.1	N/2009/0267 – 14 Pound Lane, Great Billing – Proposed installation of Dormers to front elevation. No comments or observations.	
141.2	No determinations had been received this month.	
142	<i>Other Matters</i>	
142.1	P C Richard Jewell presented a quotation from Newlec Cycles for £695.96 inclusive of VAT for the purchase of a bicycle for Ecton Brook and Billing SCT. RESOLVED that the Council would pay for this. P C Jewell expressed the team's thanks for this and confirmed that livery would be applied to the bicycle denoting that it had been supplied by Billing Parish Council. He also suggested that the local newspaper be invited for the official handover.	
142.2	A quotation had been received from Great Billing WI regarding the purchase of 8 small folding tables at a cost of £20.49 each. RESOLVED that the Council would purchase these together with an additional ten chairs at £28.00 each. GSM to liaise with the WI.	GSM

		Action
142	<i>Other Matters (Continued)</i>	
142.3	A petition had been received from Little Billing Residents Association requesting provision of a children's playground on the village green in Little Billing. Although money has been earmarked for play equipment it was agreed that no further progress could be made until a decision had been received with regard to village green status. Held over to next meeting.	
142.4	Fr Damien Walne asked the council to consider the provision of a clock and possibly a weathervane for the pavilion. This was agreed in principle. Cllr. Stevenson offered to research costs of both and report back to the next meeting.	PS
142.5	A request had been received from Gt Billing Conservative Association for the use of the Playing Fields car park on the evening of Saturday 11 th July. This was agreed subject to the GSM confirming that any cricket match would have finished and that all vehicles would be removed by the end of the evening.	GSM
143.6	Both council owned laptops are now outdated and very slow. The Clerk reported that she tends to use her own desktop computer the majority of the time and as she had just replaced her tower unit asked if the council would be prepared to meet 50% of the £225 cost rather than replace the laptop. RESOLVED that the council would do this. It was also agreed that replacement of the other laptop be held over for the next couple of months until the new office in the pavilion was operational and for the council to acquire a new desktop computer at that time.	
143.7	Bizzy Bears Pre-School had asked to increase their sessions at the pavilion from 7 to 8 per week. This was agreed. They had also asked for permission to erect a Pre-School sign on the main gate below the Bernard Weston Pavilion sign. This was agreed subject to Bizzy Bears meeting all costs involved and liaising with the GSM on size and shape of the sign.	GSM
143.8	The Clerk reported that she had been advised by the Returning Officer at NBC that only one nomination had been received for the vacancy in Ecton Brook ward. Steve Ward is therefore duly elected as Councillor. Unfortunately although no election will now take place there were costs involved and notification was awaited of what these will be.	
144	<i>Leisure & Recreation</i>	
144.1	Report from Green Space Manager. See Appendix II. Points arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that letter of thanks be sent to the donator of the greenhouse. Clerk to liaise with GSM. • RESOLVED that broken glass in the bus shelter be replaced with wood. GSM to arrange. 	Clerk/ GSM GSM
144.2	Green Space, Ashmead. Nothing to report at present.	
144.3	Great Billing Pocket Park. The Chairman reported that a further request had been received for use of the pocket park. This had been received from Jackie Line and they would be participating in the Giant Picnic on 29 th May. The GSM reported that he was extremely concerned to notice an invasion of Mare's Tail at the top end of the pocket park as this was almost impossible to get rid of and could invade the whole park. He will discuss this problem with Jim Snedker.	GSM

		Action
144	<i>Leisure & Recreation (Continued)</i>	
144.4	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr Clasper reported that the grant of £3,999.75 from NCC had been paid into BPC's bank account on behalf of the pocket park. Unfortunately due to the time of year, work would not now start until the autumn. A volunteers meeting will be held very shortly.	
144.5	The Leys. The six trees already purchased have been planted with protection round. The GSM estimated that the cost of purchasing a tree would be in the region of £150. He suggested that wooden plinths be used with a bronze plaque and he will check on suggested number of words and size of plaque. As already agreed the first two trees will be dedicated to David McKintosh and his wife. Cllr. Clasper will give thought to the wording for these two plaques.	GSM MC
144.6	D. F. Phipps had pointed out to the GSM that there was a problem with standing water in the middle of The Leys. This has apparently been an ongoing problem since Standing Stones was built. The GSM is to ask D. F. Phipps to investigate further and will also speak to Laurence Padbury.	GSM
144.7	Pavilion. New UVPC door and shutter have now been ordered. Installation of both will obviously have to be co-ordinated. The insurance company will pay for the new door but the council will be paying for the shutter.	
145	<i>Northants CALC</i>	
145.1	Cllr Hughes reported that the next meeting of NCALC would be held on Saturday 16 th May when they would be looking at the local status with regard to financial liability. He will report back on this at the next meeting.	
146	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i>	
146.1	The Chairman thanked Cllr Clasper for the excellent newsletter. It was agreed, however, that the wording describing the vandals in the parish be toned down. It was also suggested that wording to the effect 'Billing Parish Council will pay a reward of £50 to anyone supplying information that leads to a conviction' be published in the newsletter. Mrs Knight was asked to advise Cllr Clasper of anything she wished to be published in future newsletters with regard to Little Billing Residents Association.	
146.2	Cllr. Pearson expressed his concern with regard to the decision by NBC to only collect garden refuse on a monthly basis. It was suggested that an article be published in the next newsletter asking parishioners to let their Parish Councillors know their views on this but Cllr Malpas said he felt that letters from individuals sent direct to NBC may be more effective.	
146.3	Cllr. Stephenson asked that an agenda item be included for the next meeting to review the CCTV system with a view to adding an additional camera.	Clerk
147	<i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i>	
147.1	Informal meeting of Leisure & Recreation and Finance working parties to finalise review of insurance cover. Monday 18 th May 2009 at 7.30 pm at The Elwes Arms, Great Billing. Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 8 th June 2009 at 7.30 pm.	

APPENDIX I

Annual Return

For the Year Ended 31st March 2009

Billing Parish Council

		Last Year	This Year	
		£	£	All figures rounded to nearest £
1	Balances Brought Forward	65,714	65,143	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year.
2	Annual Precept	107,490	121,114	Total amount of Precept income received during the year
3	Total other receipts	10,303	15,768	Total income or receipts received during the year excluding precept
4	Staff Costs	35,249	38,955	Staff wages, etc and expenses
5	Loan Interest/ Capital repayments	10,339	10,340	Repayments made on borrowings during the year
6	Total other payments	72,776	77,448	Total expenditure or payments excluding lines 4 and 5
7	Balances Carried Forward	65,143	75,282	
8	Total Cash & Investments	65,143	75,282	Sum of all cash, bank accounts and investments held at 31 st March 2009
9	Total Fixed Assets	326,216	368,825	Current value of tangible fixed assets as at 31 st March 2009
10	Total Borrowings	58,984	48,644	Outstanding capital balances as at 31 st March 2009

APPENDIX II**Green Space Manager****Monthly Report****April/May 2009**

Grass cutting is now in full swing and the mower we purchased last year is making the cutting a lot easier and quicker and produces a very good finish. I had a teething problem when new with the drive belt coming off but this has been adjusted under warranty and (touch wood) now seems fine.

Unfortunately through lack of light and an undetected attack of greenfly I lost a lot of my fuchsia cuttings and have had to buy in to top up. I managed to find a few bargains and I have made up this summer's hanging baskets and will be able to plant up the new beds with plenty of colour. I have grown dahlias from seed at home for the circular bed and they should be strong enough to be planted out in a few weeks. I have various foxgloves to go in the beds under the trees where there is not so much light.

Another hiccup is with visiting dogs; they sniff around the posts as they come into the park, do their business, then scratch with their back paws and demolish the plantings. I am hopeful to get round this by building a low rail around the beds to deter the dogs and give the plants a chance.

On a more positive note a local resident has kindly donated an 8' by 6' greenhouse plus staging and racking. I don't think glass will be appropriate but nowadays there are conversion kits of polycarbonate, much safer and better insulation qualities. We can incorporate it into the new developments with the workshop etc.

Working with the volunteers this month gave me a chance to practice my chain saw skills as we tidied up a couple of small trees that were either dead or invading neighbour's gardens.

Frustratingly the bus shelter along side Wellingborough Road has been attacked with both panes of glass being smashed. The glass guarantee has run out on this shelter and at £120 per pane we need to decide whether to replace with glass or wood.

Chris Campling
Green Space Manager