

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 8th JUNE 2009, IN THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

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

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)
PCSO Paul Watts and two electors

		Action
148	<i>Apologies</i>	
148.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. David Hughes (ill), John Marlow and Rev. Stephen Palmer (holiday) and also from Cllrs. Christopher Malpas (NBC) and David Palethorpe (NBC) and PC Richard Jewell.	
149	<i>New Councillor</i>	
149.1	The new member for Ecton Brook ward, Steve Ward, introduced himself. He has lived in Ecton Brook for 20 years, is a company director from an engineering background and having owned and run businesses for the last 18 years has gained a true appreciation of always striving to achieve value for money. He has over recent years become increasingly disenchanted with the deteriorating infrastructure that surrounds Ecton Brook and the general neglect from the Borough Council and he now hopes to do something positive to redress the balance through council membership. Cllr. Ward signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Undertaking of Compliance with the Model Code of Conduct.	
150	<i>Minutes</i>	
150.1	The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 th May 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.	
151	<i>Declarations of Interest</i>	
151.1	There were none.	
152	<i>Public Forum</i>	
152.1	PC Richard Jewell was unable to attend the meeting but had forwarded a brief update (see Appendix I). PCSO Paul Watts reported that there had been a nasty assault in Trussell Road and also that lead had been stolen from the roof of St Andrews Church, Great Billing on three occasions. Although this had been smart watered he was disappointed to note that no smart water notices had been erected.	
152.2	Keith Bonham reported a street light that had been repaired in Valley Road, Little Billing was virtually obscured by an adjacent tree. The Clerk and GSM were aware of this and had been advised by NBC that the tree was not their	

		Action
155	Planning (Continued)	
155.1	<p>(e) (Cont..)</p> <p>developments which, when added together with similar developments have significant impact on many factors affecting the parish, i.e. more traffic generally, increased traffic at peak times, particularly affecting safer routes to schools, and where overspill parking takes place.</p> <p>(f) 09/0041/FULWNC – Proposed change of use of land lying within operational wastewater treatment works to use for composting of green waste and biosolids – Great Billing Wastewater Treatment Works, Lower Ecton Lane (Planning Consultation received from WNDC). Concerns were expressed with regard to access, increased traffic, poor road surfaces and bad odours. RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the parish clerks of both Cogenhoe and Ecton to ascertain their responses and possible combined objections.</p>	Clerk
156	Other Matters	
156.1	A request had been received from Little Billing Residents Association asking for funding of £200 for their proposed Big Lunch on 19 th July. RESOLVED that a donation for this amount be made under Section 137 subject to a bank account being opened in their name. Clerk to be advised when this has been done together with name of payee.	RC
156.2	Emergency Planning. Cllr. Clements is to attend the Emergency Planning Meeting to be held on 7 th July at the Council Offices in Daventry. RESOLVED that Clerk should contact NCC to ascertain what plans it had and how these would affect BPC. RC to provide email address.	Clerk RC
156.3	Cllr Stevenson asked the council to consider the purchase of an additional moveable CCTV camera in order to view areas not now covered. RESOLVED that quotation would be obtained and further discussion would take place at the next meeting.	GSM
156.4	<p>A review of the fees currently charged for those using the playing fields and pavilion had been carried out. RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bizzy Bears – charge to be increased to £10 per session. • Dance Group, Yoga, WI – to remain as at present • Occasional Users (i.e birthday parties) – to remain at £10 per hour • Cricket – currently £35 per match played (no charge if game not started due to inclement weather). To remain the same for this season with possible increase for 2010 season based on other charges around the county with similar facilities. Occasional evening cricket - £35 if the pavilion is used, £15 if only outside toilets are used and pavilion remains locked. • Overstone Senior Side. To be increased to £250 per season. • Billing United FC – now have numerous teams and pitches/training areas used every weekend and several evenings each week for the majority of the year. Suggested increased to £100 per age group/team to cover all usage – representatives from BPC and BUFC to meet on Monday 15th June to agree new charges. 	
156.5	Clock/Weathervane. Measurements of turret supplied to manufacturer and awaiting quotation. Held over to next meeting.	

		Action
156	<i>Other Matters (Continued)</i>	
156.6	A complete review of BPC's insurance cover had been carried out together with an evaluation of all assets. RESOLVED that all recommendations made by the working party with regard to amended insurance cover be approved together with the increased premium of £3,592.72.	
156.7	RESOLVED that Henry Jones be allowed to use the playing fields for 20/20 cricket on some Wednesday evenings at a cost detailed in 156.4 above.	
157	<i>Leisure & Recreation</i>	
157.1	Report from Green Space Manager. See Appendix II. Agreed GSM should plant miniature water lily in trough to see if it will solve the problem with blanket weed.	
157.2	Green Space, Ashmead. Cllr Stephenson said he felt that no progress would be made with this matter for some time. Held over.	
157.3	Great Billing Pocket Park. The Giant Picnic held on 29 th May was a great success and it was hoped to have some photographs for inclusion in the next newsletter. The Chairman reminded everyone that Billing Fayre would be held on 20 th June and he hoped to see as many as possible.	
157.4	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr. Clasper reported that he had applied for a £7K grant from COMMA. Receipt had been confirmed and he was now awaiting the outcome.	
157.5	The Leys. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman reported that he had received a communication from local schoolchildren asking for a possible site for burial of a time capsule. He had suggested they purchase a tree and suitable plaque with the capsule buried below. • The GSM reported that Dick Oram had given him a quotation of £30 each for the sign written plaques and this was felt to be extremely reasonable. • The problem with the ditches and drainage is ongoing. Dick Oram is awaiting Laurence Padbury's return from holiday. 	
157.6	Pavilion. Shutter has now been installed and new door will be fitted on 11 th June. It has been decided to delay work on the kitchen until GSM store and workshop have been moved outside. It is proposed that two metal containers are obtained for this purpose – one with door and windows and one without. Quotation has been obtained for £1,000 and £800 respectively, delivered and installed. Cllr. Stephenson is to obtain an alternative quotation. The Clerk has written to NBC to ascertain if planning permission will be required.	PS
158	<i>Northants CALC</i>	
158.1	No report due to the absence of Cllr. Hughes.	
159	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i>	
159.1	Cllr. Clements asked for new bench in Little Billing to be situated overlooking the village green. As this land does not belong to BPC permission would have to be obtained from NBC (together with their permission for concrete to be laid for the fixing). GSM and RC are to liaise to take photographs of the site that will then be given to the Clerk to send to NBC with the application.	GSM/RC Clerk

		Action
159	<i>Councillors Reports (Continued)</i>	
159.2	Cllr Clasper reported that he had been asked if it was possible for a bench to be situated at the top of Fishers Close overlooking the lake. It was felt this was a good idea and will be discussed at a future meeting.	
159.3	Fr. Damien Walne advised that he would be happy to provide a candyfloss machine for Billing Fayre if required. The Chairman was pleased to accept.	
159.4	Cllr Gable expressed his concern regarding litter in Bellinge since the departure of Sue Parsons. Unfortunately the new wardens have to cover a far too large area. Members were asked to email the Clerk with specific areas of concern and she will then contact both the Borough and County Councils.	
159.5	Cllr Ward expressed concern that a burnt out car had been left in Ecton Brook for a week and also that the grass outside the back of Ecton Brook House has not been cut for nearly two years. He was asked to speak to the GSM who will advise him of the correct procedures for dealing with these problems.	
159.6	The Chairman asked the Clerk if she would check with Allianz Insurance to see if Little Billing Residents Association could be covered under BPC's insurance for their Big Lunch on 19 th July.	Clerk
160	<i>Closed Session</i>	
160.1	Not disclosed to the public	
161	<i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i>	
161.1	Informal meeting with Billing Utd FC to discuss suggested hire charges – Monday 15 th June 2009 at 7.30 pm at the Elwes Arms, Great Billing. Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 13 th July 2009 at 7.30 pm.	
161.2	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.25 pm.	

REPORT FROM RICHARD JEWELL –SCT ECTON BROOK AND BILLING – JUNE 2009

No major incidents or crime of note to report or comment upon during this period. Indeed, crime and anti social behaviour remains relatively low across the parish, especially when compared with neighbouring areas. An up to date precis can be found at <http://northants.crimemapper.co.uk/map/northampton-district/> Just click on the map and drag it across until the desired area is in the frame.

The new bicycle for the SCT has been delivered to NEWLEC, and is soon to be delivered to the police workshops to be liveried up. As agreed, if the Parish have some "Supported by Billing Parish Council" stickers available of the type fitted to the first bicycle, then let me know and I'll have them fitted to the new cycle. Once the cycle arrives with the team I am also hoping to arrange for some publicity, so doubtless I'll soon be in touch for volunteers for a photo opportunity! I'm hoping to get the whole team together for the photo op, and if we can get some of the Parish councillors as well then not only would it be a nice piece of positive publicity, but it would also make a nice picture or poster for use locally. Once again, many thanks for the funding for this cycle - the team are very appreciative and we're looking forward very much to putting some miles on it this summer.

The 3 latest team priorities have been agreed, and will constitute our major objectives for the forthcoming 3 months. On this occasion we canvassed residents and stakeholders from across the Parish, with emphasis on the Ecton Brook and Great Billing side of the patch. The priorities are:

1) **Speeding across the SCT area.** This is a straightforward issue to address, and the team are planning some speed enforcement operations and some publicity to raise awareness of this activity.

2) **Damaged road surfaces.** PCSO Cayford and I are planning a full Environmental audit of the SCT area next week, and we will make a point of identifying any such damage and submitting a report to the County Council. I do not know what roads, if any, the Parish may be in any way responsible for - if there are any in the Parish portfolio, then I'd be grateful if someone could let me know and I will see that any roads requiring attention within the Parish remit are flagged up.

3) **Parking on pavements in Bellinge and Little Billing.** This is always a ticklish one, as many streets simply lack sufficient parking, and this parking on the pavement is an inevitable result. We don't wish to be heavy handed over this matter and will, where applicable, spread the word in the hope that a little common sense and thought will pay dividends. Where possible, we hope to educate offenders with either a quiet word in person or a flyer left on the vehicle. Persistent offenders will receive £30 fixed penalties, and risk having the vehicles towed away at the owner's expense. As a rough rule of thumb, we would ask people to leave sufficient room for a pushchair or buggy to freely pass by on the path.

One final matter, if I may - with the warmer weather the tendency is for people to leave windows, or even doors open in order to get a bit of air circulating at home. The team would simply ask that if you are at home and do this that you ensure your home is properly locked and secured at night. Sounds strange, but we have in the past had residents go to bed leaving easily accessible windows, or even doors open (having opened them in the heat of the day, and then forgotten about them) and then suffered with overnight burglaries. Almost 50% of burglaries on this side of town are a result of an insecure door or window, so a small piece of vigilance almost halves your chance of becoming a victim.

As always, if there are any questions the Parish would like to raise, or any matters they would wish to bring to the teams attention, then please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Green Space Manager**Monthly Report****May/June 2009**

Blanket weed in trough - may I suggest we plant a couple of miniature water lilies to add some life to the trough. I have a small barrel type pond at home and this spring I had blanket weed for the first time, however once the water lily came through the weed has if not disappeared is hidden.

I have spent a lot of time over the past few weeks working on the beds around the car park trying to create a more colourful welcome to the playing fields and park. With some of the timber left over I have built a planter (bolted to the pavilion wall) and has been planted up with a couple dahlias. Throughout the beds I have planted lupins, foxgloves, hebes, fuchsias, geraniums and dahlias that I hope will provide plenty of colour through the summer months. The hanging baskets have also been filled with fuchsias.

I was offered a load of self sown foxgloves from one of the gardens backing on to the playing field, some have gone in the shaded beds under the trees and the rest have gone out into the wooded areas around GB pocket park.

Over the past month or so we have had two sightings of a solitary monk jack (muntjac) deer visiting GB pocket park. I believe they have a liking for cherry leaves and we have dense groves in the park offering cover and lunch!

The planters at the top & bottom of the village have suffered frost damage in the top course of stone, splitting and loosening the stone and providing ammo for passing youngsters. I have taken away the loose stuff and we should have a quote for repairs at the next meeting.

My chain saw training was in use again dealing with a fallen tree on the leys, the machine made short work of what would have been a long drawn out task.

Chris Campling
Green Space Manager