

# BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

**Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing**

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010, AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

**PRESENT** Councillor S. Rockall (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs E. Palethorpe, Mrs S. Shaw, M. Clasper,  
P. Gable, D Hughes, M. Pearson, G. Stevens, P. Stevenson

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)  
Two parishioners

		<b>Action</b>
<b>254</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
254.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs D. Nichol and J. Marlow (family commitments), Rev. S. Palmer and Fr. Damien Walne (both on sabbatical), S. Ward (abroad on business) and from D. Hughes for his lateness due to attending a Standards Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. Apologies were also received from Cllrs. C. Malpas and D. Palethorpe (both NBC) and D. Mackintosh (NCC).	
<b>255</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
255.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2010 were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>256</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
256.1	The Chairman declared an interest in Item 259.1 (2) due to his son and daughter-in-law living next door to the property in question.	
<b>257</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
257.1	Keith Bonham had been requested by a parishioner to ask if it was possible to provide a bench in Little Billing churchyard. He was advised that a request should be made in writing to the Clerk and this would then be put on the agenda for next month's meeting.	
257.2	Due to the non-interest of Little Billing Residents Association, Mr. Bonham asked if the Parish Council could progress the proposed children's playground on Little Billing Village Green. After discussion it was agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The village green would be left throughout the summer to ensure the Parish Council are able to maintain it to at least the same condition as The Leys.</li> <li>Due to the proposed development of the former Pearce's site and the expected influx of young families, all of Little Billing would be explored for possible alternative sites for the playground.</li> <li>Cllr Stevenson suggested that Playbuilder be involved as they have the knowledge and experience to guide the Parish Council in this project.</li> <li>Due to the first point above this item would be put on the agenda for discussion at the meeting to be held in September.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>

		<b>Action</b>
<b>257</b>	<b>Public Forum (Continued)</b>	
257.3	In answer to Cllr. Pearson's question, the Clerk reported that she had written to the Highways Department the previous week regarding the problem of motorists turning right from Fishponds Road into Great Billing Way and was awaiting a reply.	
<b>258</b>	<b>Ongoing Matters</b>	
258.1	Burial/Memorial Ground. The Clerk reported that the purchase of the land was in progress and an interim bill for legal fees had been received from the solicitor.	
258.2	Proposed new playground at the former Helicopter Park, Ecton Brook. The Clerk reported that an offer of an additional £1,000 from next year's Empowerment Scheme had been received from Cllr. David Mackintosh. The Council were delighted to accept this. Despite assistance from Cllr. Malpas a reply was still awaited from the Asset Department of NBC and the Clerk is to ask Cllr. Mackintosh if he could also attempt to speed this up.	<b>Clerk</b>
258.3	Request for new bus shelter, Fishponds Road. A reply had been received from NBC advising that no funds were available for new bus shelters. RESOLVED the Clerk should write to them again asking what happens to defunct bus shelters as there is one in Ecton Brook Road that is no longer used due to a change in bus routes.	<b>Clerk</b>
258.4	Lighting on footpath from Valley Road to Codlin Close, Little Billing. Due to illness site visit awaited from E.ON. Held over to next meeting.	
258.5	The work required at the playground in Great Billing has now been done as a matter of urgency, due to health and safety concerns.	
<b>259</b>	<b>Planning</b>	
259.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/2010/0112 – Old Convent, High Street, Great Billing – Erection of 2 detached houses with garages and associated external works and forming of two new openings within existing brick wall. No further comments to those already made regarding this development.</li> <li>2. N/20210/0134 – Land to rear of 4 Station Road, Great Billing. Proposed two storey detached new dwelling. This type of development would appear to becoming prolific and concern was expressed that access would be on a bend.</li> <li>3. N/2010/0135 – Newlands, Great Billing Park – Proposed two storey side and rear extension and garage to front. It was felt that aesthetically a pitched roof on the garage would be more in keeping with the property, otherwise no comments or objections.</li> <li>4. N/2010/0169 – 37 Vantage Meadow, Ecton Brook. Two storey rear/side extension. No comments or objections.</li> <li>5. WNJPU Emergent Joint Core Strategy. Cllr. Stevenson advised that the last consultation received was aimed specifically at individuals and the Clerk is to advise link to all members.</li> <li>6. The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the Licensing Department at NBC advising the Parish Council had no objection to the proposed on-sales drinks licence at the Eastern Balti, Fieldmill Square, Bellinge, but objecting to an off-sales drinks licence as this was more than adequately covered by the adjacent Co-op store and public house and could be open to abuse.</li> </ol>	<b>Clerk</b>

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<b>260</b>	<b>Finance</b>																																																				
260.1	The list of accounts for payment had been circulated and it was RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:																																																				
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260.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget to 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2010 together with the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that this be approved.																																																				
<b>261</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>																																																				
261.1	Website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Hughes to provide Cllr Clasper with link to Standards Committee for inclusion on Parish Council website.</li> <li>• Cllrs who have not already done so were once again asked to provide Cllr. Clasper with photograph and short biography for inclusion on the website.</li> <li>• Clerk is to contact regular pavilion users to ask if they would like information regarding their club/activities included on the website.</li> <li>• GSM to contact local Scout group regarding same.</li> <li>• Cllr. Stevenson to assist Cllr. Hughes in setting up of his parish council email address.</li> </ul>	DH ALL Clerk GSM PS																																																			
261.2	On-line mapping service. Two alternative services had been looked at but it was felt the cost could not be justified and this was shelved for the time being.																																																				
261.3	New Standing Orders. Some initial work has been done on this but new publication has been ordered from NCALC. Held over to next meeting.																																																				
261.4	Two new policies, 'Training Statement of Intent' and 'Pensions Policy' had been prepared by the Clerk and circulated to all members. RESOLVED that these both be approved without amendment.																																																				
<b>262</b>	<b>Leisure &amp; Recreation</b>																																																				
262.1	GSM Report (see Appendix I). GSM reported that the new bench overlooking Little Billing village green is now in situ.																																																				

		<b>Action</b>
<b>262</b>	<b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation (Continued)</i></b>	
262.2	GSM reported that a few completed questionnaires were beginning to filter through and that he intended to have these available for completion at Billing Fayre. Cllr. Stevens proposed that the form be put on the website for completion online and it was RESOLVED that Cllr. Clasper should forward this to Roger Kingston.	<b>MC</b>
262.3	Great Billing Pocket Park. The Chairman reported that work on the new steps and new bark had taken place on the preceding Wednesday. More volunteers are required and it was hoped this situation would improve with the onset of better weather.	
262.4	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllrs. Clasper and Gable had a meeting with contractors and are awaiting their quotation. It is hoped to have a meeting with volunteers before the end of the month.	
262.5	New workshop/store area. The new container and fence are now in position and look far better and less obtrusive than envisaged. There are still a few jobs required to complete the fencing, the new CCTV camera will be fitted by Nova Security on Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March and electricity needs connecting.	
262.6	<p>The Leys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints had been received regarding the uprooting of trees and shrubs at the end of Standing Stones, which was the result of obtaining access for the digger working on the ha-ha and also regarding the depositing in the old orchard area of plant and vegetation rubbish excavated from the ha-ha area. The GSM is to go to look at both these sites and report back.</li> <li>• The clearing of the ditch is the first stage in hopefully completely renovating the old ha-ha and has revealed that roots from trees behind it have grown through the ha-ha. Steps will now have to be taken to ascertain what needs doing next and how much it will cost.</li> <li>• All diseased trees have now been cut down on The Leys and these will be replaced with new saplings.</li> <li>• Six new trees have been purchased by the Council for Celebration Avenue.</li> </ul>	<b>GSM</b>
262.7	Allotments. One enquiry had been received regarding the possibility of providing allotments within the parish. Unfortunately the Parish Council does not own any land that is suitable for this purpose and the parishioner involved has been directed to approach NBC regarding allotments owned by them. If it proves feasible the Parish Council are not averse to providing allotments and after a detailed discussion it was agreed that the SLCC publication covering allotments be purchased and this will then be looked at in more detail.	
262.8	Balloon Festival. The Chairman and Clerk, together with Inspector Daemon Johnson had attended a meeting at Billing Aquadrome on Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March regarding this event. Unfortunately this will not now be a stand alone event and will as last year share the weekend with a car convention. It is hoped that signage and the fact that pedestrians are to be charged £2 each entrance fee (on site parking will be £10 per car irrespective of how many occupants are in the car) will alleviate the parking problems experienced in 2009. Another meeting is to be held in early May at which time it is hoped more information will be available.	

		<b>Action</b>
<b>263</b>	<b><i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i></b>	
263.1	<p>Cllr. Hughes reported that the next meeting will be the Special General Meeting to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March at Higham Ferrers Town Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of Northants CALC. Committee members will become directors which will give NCALC and its members extra safeguards in law, i.e. it resolves the grey area of financial liability should NCALC go into liquidation. There will be no changes in service levels for members and when membership is renewed this year £1 of the subscription will purchase a share in NCALC Ltd.</li> <li>• Charter for Councils. NCALC are attempting to achieve a good working partnership between Local Councils and Principal Councils in Northamptonshire.</li> </ul>	
263.2	Cllr. Hughes advised that he had DVD's that covered the work of the Standards Committee and it was agreed that copies be distributed to all members.	
<b>264</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b>	
264.1	Cllr. Clasper reminded everyone that the next litter pick will be held on Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> April meeting at 10.00 am at the usual points in each ward.	
264.2	The Chairman reported that Bizzy Bears had asked if they could display a banner promoting the pre-school at the entrance to the drive to the pavilion. This was part of a nationwide promotion. Agreed this could be done but the GSM to emphasise that this must only be in place for a very short time.	<b>GSM</b>
264.3	The Chairman had also received a communication from Billings Rhythmic Gymnastics Club asking for a further grant to the club and also enquiring if the Parish Council would be interested in purchasing their sound equipment. RESOLVED that as the Parish Council had made a grant to the club in September 2009 it was not in a position to make another grant at this time. The Clerk is to write to them expressing an interest in the purchase of the sound equipment, ascertaining details of the equipment and the cost involved.	<b>Clerk</b>
264.4	Cllr Stevenson expressed concern that once development of the old Pearce's site was completed there would be pedestrian access from Fishponds Road to the Wellingborough Road. Cllr. Pearson said he was certain this would not be the case but he would attempt to obtain further information. This item to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.	
<b>265</b>	<b><i>Closed Session</i></b>	
265.1	The new Contract and Job Specification for the GSM, together with Disciplinary Procedure and Disciplinary Rules, which had already been circulated to all members was approved without amendment. Cllr. Stevens was thanked for all his hard work in preparing these documents.	
265.2	RESOLVED that the Clerk and the GSM would be aligned to SCP27 backdated to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2009.	
<b>266</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b>	
266.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.20 pm. Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 7.30 pm Special Parish Council Meeting to review effectiveness of internal controls – Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010 at 7.30 pm at the Bernard Weston Pavilion.	

**Green Space Manager  
Monthly Report**

**February 2010**

With the help of a passing councillor I have re-fitted the notice board in Great Billing by the Elwes' family memorial, it now looks like new and I have received plenty of positive comments.

Unfortunately we were struck by a couple of mindless idiots who pulled up about a dozen rowan trees and thirty or so hawthorn and threw them all around the pocket park. I managed to find them all and replanted in roughly the same place. I planted without the labels so they are not so much a target.

With the weather being so bad I took the opportunity to decorate one of the changing rooms whilst the Bizzy Bears were on half term.

Once the snow had cleared and the ground de-frosted we managed to put Ted's memorial bench at the top of the playing field by the ha-ha wall.

With the help of a couple of volunteers we cleared out all the bird boxes ready for this years nesting time. We had to carry out a few repairs and improved the drainage on a couple that were damp but by and large they stood up to the winter quite well. More of the boxes had been used than I thought as we removed old nests from most of the boxes. Fingers crossed that this year the box with the camera will be used.

A lot of the areas around the pavilion have suffered with the constant thawing snow and continuous wet weather the path at the top of ha-ha suffered more than most and was like a bog. Again with the help of volunteers we cut out and laid new log steps and filled with chippings that should solve the problem.

At last we have made progress with the new compound and maintenance area. I can see me being very busy for the next couple of weeks!

Chris Campling  
Green Space Manager