

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 10TH AUGUST 2009, IN THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

PRESENT Councillor M. Clasper (Acting Chairman)
Councillors Mrs D. Nichol, Mrs S. Shaw, P. Gable, D. Hughes,
J. Marlow, Rev. S. Palmer, P. Stevenson, Fr. D. Walne

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)
PCSO Russell Crayford, PCSO Mark Foster,
Cllr. David Mackintosh (NBC) and one elector

		Action
176	Apologies	
176.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. S. Rockall (holiday), Cllr. S. Ward (business commitment) and Cllrs. Mrs E. Palethorpe and D. Palethorpe (NBC) (family illness).	
177	Minutes	
177.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 th July 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.	
178	Declarations of Interest	
178.1	None declared	
179	Public Forum	
179.1	PCSO Russell Crayford said there was really nothing to report and introduced PCSO Mark Foster. He said that the SCTE team are now up to full strength	
179.2	Concern was expressed with regard to an increase in dog fouling and fly tipping, particularly in Little Billing. This problem has escalated since the redeployment of the Neighbourhood Wardens as they have too large an area to cover. In response to this and a query regarding parking on pavements, PCSO Crayford reported that unfortunately the PCSO's did not have the authority to hand out fixed penalty notices and could only issue warnings. RESOLVED the Clerk write to NBC expressing our concerns regarding the neighbourhood wardens and also to ask if authority could be given to the PCSO's to issue fixed penalty notices.	Clerk
179.3	Cllr. David Mackintosh introduced himself as the new councillor for Ecton Brook, taking over from Cllr. Jamie Lane.	
180	Ongoing Matters	
180.1	Little Billing Village Green. The Clerk reported that she was delighted to announce that the application for village green status has now been accepted and formally recorded in the Village Green Register. Clarification on whether the green will continue to be maintained by NBC or whether they wish the Parish Council to do this is now needed. Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Rockall.	Clerk/ SR

		Action																																							
180	Ongoing Matters (Continued)																																								
180.2	Possible provision of a children's playground at Little Billing was held over to the next meeting.																																								
180.3	Burial Grounds. Cllr. J. Marlow reported that one of the residents of Lady Winefrides Drive was in the process of getting hold of a copy of his deeds in order to clarify the size and position of the original plots. Held over to the next meeting.																																								
181	Finance																																								
181.2	The Clerk reported that the external audit of the accounts to the end of March 2009 had now been completed with no issues arising. The auditors had asked for the payment made to the retiring clerk to be moved from box 6 (Total other payments) to box 4 (Staff Costs) and a copy of the restated Year End Return had been forwarded to all members (see Appendix I). RESOLVED that this be approved.																																								
181.3	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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181.4	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget to the end of July 2009 together with the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that this be approved.																																								
182	Planning																																								
182.1	09/004/FULWNC – Gt Billing Treatment Works. Cllr. Clasper reported that he was due to attend a meeting in Cogenhoe on Thursday 6 th August but that this had been postponed as further information was awaited. All objections have been submitted. Held over to next meeting.																																								
182.2	The following determination had been received from NBC: N/2009/427 – 2 Home Farm Close, Little Billing – Proposed two storey side and single storey rear extensions. APPROVED subject to conditions.																																								
183	Other Matters																																								
183.1	The clock and weathervane for the pavilion are due to be delivered in two to three weeks time. As soon as they arrive GSM will obtain quotations for fitting. Held over to next meeting.	GSM																																							

		Action
183	<i>Other Matters (Continued)</i>	
183.2	Emergent Joint Core Strategy. Cllr Stephenson reported that the further information and questionnaire received by the Council were very involved and in his opinion sloppily done. It was agreed that he would only answer the questions that were relevant as it would take far too long to plough through the whole document. A public meeting is being held by Cogenhoe Parish Council on Wednesday 19 th August and Cllr. Stephenson said he would attend this and report back.	PS
183.3	Proposed Merger of Ecton Brook and Bellinge Schools. A response to BPC's letter of objection to this proposal had been received from Alan Fitz of NCC and the general feeling was that the decision had been made back in 2007 and that this merger would go ahead. It was agreed that the only option now was to attempt to limit the damage. The Clerk was asked to write to the LEA objecting to what was felt to be an unsatisfactory process.	Clerk
183.4	New bench at Little Billing. Due to the absence of Cllr. Clements, who was to ascertain if there were any objections from nearby residents to the proposed site of the new bench, this was held over to the next meeting.	
184.5	Overgrown tree at Knights Court. No response had been forthcoming from Acorn Services (Housing Association Management) and it was agreed that GSM would report this problem to Street Doctor to see if they would take on the job.	
185	<i>Leisure & Recreation</i>	
185.1	GSM's Report (see Appendix II).	
185.2	Great Billing Pocket Park. The GSM reported that he and Jim Snedker had now met with Rose Little who is Ruth Rolls replacement. She is extremely knowledgeable and her forte is wildlife surveys. She is also arranging a hedge-laying demonstration on the hedge between the pocket park and the borough land for anyone who wants to learn how it is done. It also means BPC will get their hedge done very cheaply.	
185.3	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr. Clasper reported that unfortunately they were unsuccessful in their application for a grant from COMMA. There will be further funding available in 2010 and the pocket park will be able to apply again at that time. Cllr. Gable reported that an extremely large bough fell from one of the Black Poplars situated on Parish Council land at the bottom of his garden. It demolished part of his fence and could have had serious consequences if it had hit anyone. He recommended pollarding of these Poplars, which are about 95ft high, as this will make them safe for approximately 35 years. Little Billing pocket park has approximately £5K in funding so far and it was agreed that Cllr Clasper and Cllr Gable should meet as soon as possible and that some of this money should be spent on ensuring that all dangerous trees are made safe as a matter of urgency.	MC/PG
185.4	The Leys. Dick Oram has excavated under the Horse Chestnut tree and in the ditch at the side of Standing Stones and unblocked the pipes. All of the water has now drained away and it would appear all problems have been resolved. Photographs have been taken for future reference.	

		Action
185	<i>Leisure & Recreation (Continued)</i>	
185.5	Pavilion. As a matter of courtesy letters were sent to the residents of the two neighbouring properties advising them of the parish council's plans regarding container(s) to be sited on the playing fields. Although planning permission is not required vociferous objections have been received from both. In view of this alternative proposals are being looked at and the Clerk is to contact Rowena Simpson at NBC Planning to ask if she could visit the site to offer advice in order to avoid possible expensive litigation.	Clerk
186	<i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i>	
186.1	Copies of the 'Pilot Compact Project' prepared by Danny Moody and 'Working in Partnership for Northamptonshire – Draft for Consultation' had been forwarded to all members by Cllr. Hughes and he asked that everyone studied them. Copies of Model Compact Evaluation forms were passed to all present. Unfortunately these had only been received at the end of last week and were required to be returned by Friday 14 th August which did not allow much time.	
186.2	NCALC AGM. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the following resolution be submitted <i>"This meeting requests that the National Association take up with Central Government the erosion of local democracy with the creation of yet more unelected bodies (quangos) with far reaching powers, including taking planning decisions without due thought to the implications they may have on the local communities"</i> .	
187	<i>Councillors Reports not covered elsewhere</i>	
187.1	Cllr. Mrs Nichol reported that the husband of the former Parish Warden, Sue Parsons, had unfortunately died. The Clerk was asked to send a suitable message of sympathy to her.	Clerk
187.2	Cllr. Marlow informed members of three separate complaints he had received from parishioners: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Street lamps on pathway off Kingscroft Court not working. 2. Blocked drain in walkway under Great Billing Way causing flooding. 3. Bad state of roads in the parish with regard to potholes, which are particularly dangerous to cyclists. RESOLVED that with regard to points (1) and (2) GSM would report to Street Doctor and with regard to point (3) the Clerk would once again write to the Highways Department.	GSM Clerk
187.3	Cllr. Stephenson mentioned that the notice board by the old post office in Great Billing was looking very dilapidated. The GSM said it would have to be taken down to be renovated properly and that he would do this when the weather precluded him doing other work.	GSM
187.4	Cllr. Clasper reported that the recent litter pick had been very successful and the next one would be held on Saturday 21 st November. He also reported that he had attended the 'Big Lunch' in Little Billing on 19 th July which would also appear to have been successful but was unfortunately marred by several very heavy downpours.	
188	<i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i>	
188.1	Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 14 th September 2009 at 7.30 pm. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45 pm.	

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	42,455	Staff wages, etc and expenses
5	Loan Interest/ Capital repayments	10,339	10,340	Repayments made on borrowings during the year Incl. interest
6	Total other payments	72,776	73,948	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	54,804	Outstanding capital balances as at 31 st March 2009

Green Space Manager

Monthly Report

July/August 2009

Managed to hook with Ray with regards to siting the new bench at Little Billing. We selected a site looking on to the Village green from the Valley Road side of the street. Sue will follow up permissions, secure fixings etc with NBC.

Unfortunately the bus shelter on Wellingborough Road was vandalised where some idiot carved what I presume is his/her name (B Joyce & J Joyce) into the seat. I have reported the incident to the police (Crime No WB 12003/09) and hope they will follow it through. The carving is quite deep and will need planeing. Littlethorpe have offered us a spare plank for seating free of charge (I drove over to Leicester to pick it up) to allow for repairs. Steve managed to get the damaged seat planed which will be stained and put aside in case it happens again.

On a similar note one of three idiots playing in the park ripped one of hanging baskets off the pavilion wall (Crime No 12512/09) they then put up their hoods on leaving hoping they would not be recognised. A truly master plan as half an hour earlier they all walked into the park with their hoods down via the close up camera! I will pass the images on the SCT.

With the onset of the unpredictable weather I took to working in the pavilion. With the Bizzy Bear's on holiday I hired a wet suction machine and scrubbed all the floors. I stripped the main floor of old polish and put down four coats of new, looks good.

Not much chance of grass cutting will spend the next few days catching up.

Chris Campling
Green Space Manager

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....