

# 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 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009, AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

**PRESENT** Councillor S. Rockall (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs E. Palethorpe, Mrs S. Shaw, M. Clasper, R. Clements,  
D. Hughes, J. Marlow, M. Pearson, P. Stevenson, S. Ward

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)  
Insp. Daemon Johnson, and four parishioners.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>189</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
189.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs D. Nichol (family commitment) P. Gable and Rev. S. Palmer (holiday) and Fr. D. Walne (diocese commitment). Apologies were also received from Cllrs. C. Malpas, D. Palethorpe and D. Mackintosh (attending full NBC council meeting).	
<b>190</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
190.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>191</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
191.1	Inspector Johnson said he was pleased to report that there has been a continued reduction in crime in the area. In this last period there were 95 crimes compared to 122 in the same period last year. Motor cycle nuisance is still ongoing but it was hoped this would soon improve. A student constable will be coming into the area for the next six months.	
191.2	In answer to a question from the Chair regarding excessive and inconsiderate parking in the area during the recent Balloon Festival held at Billing Aquadrome, Insp. Johnson confirmed that the police no longer deal with fixed penalty notices for parking – this is now a matter for NBC. RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the new management at the Aquadrome asking for a meeting together with the police to discuss parking arrangements should this festival take place again next year.	<b>Clerk</b>
191.3	It was reported that the Ecton Brook public house was due to reopen and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the new publican advising that there was a very active Parish Council and inviting him/her to attend the next PC meeting to give a short presentation of their intentions for the pub in the future.	<b>Clerk</b>
191.4	No response had been received from the Housing Association Management with regard to the overgrown tree in Knights Court, Little Billing. RESOLVED that the clerk should write another letter saying that if no response was received within fourteen days the tree would be cut to 2 – 3ft in height and bill passed to them for payment.	<b>Clerk</b>

		Action																																										
<b>192</b>	<b>Little Billing Village Green</b>																																											
192.1	No reply had yet been received from NBC regarding permission for a playground or who would be responsible for maintenance. Held over to next meeting.																																											
<b>193</b>	<b>Burial Grounds</b>																																											
193.1	Cllr Marlow reported that he had now received an invoice for £350 plus VAT for the work done by the Solicitors, although they were prepared to do more work without charge, and it was RESOLVED that this be approved for payment. He has some very old documentation that may assist and this matter is ongoing.																																											
<b>194</b>	<b>Finance</b>																																											
194.1	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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194.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget to the end of August 2009 together with the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that this be approved.																																											
194.3	RESOLVED that a donation be made to Royal British Legion and two wreaths purchased for Remembrance Sunday in the sum of £350 (Section 137).																																											
194.4	Consideration was given to a funding request received from Billings Rhythmic Gymnastics Club and it was RESOLVED that £400 should be awarded to them. This would cover half the expenses of four gymnasts attending the Scottish Open next month and the purchase of five new sets of balls and ribbons.																																											
<b>195</b>	<b>Planning</b>																																											
195.1	09/0041/FULWNC – Great Billing Wastewater Treatment Works. Cllr Clasper reported that he had attended a presentation regarding this proposal and had been quite impressed. Anglian Water are confident that with covers now being used the malodours will improve and all traffic will use the A45. CLEAN also appear to be happy. The Clerk had received a letter that morning regarding the revised application and this will be forwarded to all members. On-going.																																											
195.2	Emergent Joint Core Strategy. Cllr Stevenson reported that he had now completed BPC's responses and this was passed to the Chairman for his perusal before sending to WND. Concern was once again expressed with regard to the lack of specific details and infrastructure. On-going.																																											

		<b>Action</b>
<b>195</b>	<b>Planning (Continued)</b>	
195.3	The following determinations had been received from NBC:  (a) N/2009/490 – 1 Standing Stones – Proposed first floor side extension and new balcony to rear. APPROVED subject to conditions. (b) N/2009/515 – Park Thatch, Great Billing Park – Proposed two storey garage/storeroom to side of property. APPROVED subject to conditions.	
<b>196</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>	
196.1	Fitting of new clock and weathervane for pavilion. The GSM reported that he had received a verbal quotation of £90 - £100 per day. RESOLVED that this should go ahead up to a maximum cost of £150. GSM to arrange.	<b>GSM</b>
196.2	Cllr. Clements is to obtain approval from nearby residents for the siting of this bench in Valley Road overlooking the new village green. Clerk to furnish him with a form for them to sign. Held over to next meeting.	<b>RC Clerk</b>
196.3	Public footpath running across Billing Aquadrome. Concern had been expressed that the entrances to the footpath were in the form of a kissing gate and were only suitable for pedestrians. Wheelchairs and pushchairs could not get through. RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the new management, with a copy being sent to the Rights of Way Officer asking for a meeting to discuss this and other concerns with them.	<b>Clerk</b>
196.4	War Memorial – Little Billing. Renovation work has now been completed by the stonemason Matthew Jeyes. He has recommended that the iron post be painted with hammerite or similar to prevent stains bleeding into the stone again. RESOLVED that the GSM would do this as soon as possible.	<b>GSM</b>
<b>197</b>	<b>Leisure &amp; Recreation</b>	
197.1	GSM's Report (See Appendix I)	
197.2	The Leys. A quotation had been received from D F Phipps to complete the drainage work. It was envisaged the work would take three men two days to complete at a cost of £400 per day if a tractor and trailer were required or £350 per day should tractor and trailer not be required. RESOLVED that this quotation be accepted and for the work to go ahead. The GSM reported that there was a dead tree and a dying Horse-Chestnut tree on the Leys and he was checking with Lee Wright at NBC to ascertain if these trees fell within the TPO area.	
197.3	Great Billing Pocket Park. The Chairman reported that volunteers had put in a full day of work and completed the ha-ha wall. This now required turf to be put on top and for the bench to be fixed into position. There is to be another volunteers day on Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September.	
197.4	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr Clasper reported that the first committee meeting had been held and that two volunteers had taken on the respective posts of secretary and treasurer. Cllr Gable was concerned about a couple of trees and it was hoped to achieve a lot of work in the area over the winter months.	
197.5	Revised Proposal - site of container adjacent to pavilion. A sketch of the proposed area had been circulated to all members (see Appendix II). An in depth discussion took place at which Mr. Milton and Mr. Cherry (residents of the	

		<b>Action</b>
<b>197</b> 197.5	<b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation (Continued)</i></b> Proposed placement of container adjacent to pavilion (Cont..) two adjacent houses) were given the opportunity to express their objections and concerns. Having taken everything into consideration it was RESOLVED that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Billing Parish Council would take over maintenance of both of the residents' fences on the playing field side.</li> <li>• The work would go ahead as per sketch</li> <li>• Should there be any major problems/incidents in the future the situation would be looked at again.</li> </ul>	
<b>198</b> 198.1	<b><i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i></b> It was proposed and agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr David Hughes be our nomination to the County Committee</li> <li>• Cllrs David Hughes and Michael Clasper be our appointed delegates at the forthcoming AGM.</li> </ul>	<b>DH/ MC</b>
<b>199</b> 199.1	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b> Cllr. Clements reported he had heard that the Little Billing village shop was closing. Should this be a permanent closure a new site may have to be found for the Parish Council noticeboard.	
<b>200</b> 200.1	<b><i>Correspondence Received</i></b> An email had been received from Alan Berwick expressing concern that since the broken glass in the bus shelter situated on the A4500 at Great Billing had been replaced with wood, it was not possible to see when the bus was coming, resulting in the bus not stopping. RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to the operators, Stagecoach, to ascertain how this problem could be resolved. Held over to next meeting.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>201</b> 201.1	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b> Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 7.30 pm. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.	

**Green Space Manager**  
**Monthly Report**  
**August/September 2009**

A lot of time this month has been taken up with grass cutting you can almost hear it growing! The upside is that the playing fields have never looked so good, the re-seeding carried out in the spring has been very effective and this week the field will be sprayed to control the plantains.

I managed to grind down the old bench supports in the village and drill bolt holes for the new bench. It is now in place and fits in with the look of the village very nicely, you wouldn't believe it used to be 1000 plastic bottles. Thanks to John & Steve for their help with muscle & equipment.

Wilby trees did a good job of removing the bough of the cherry tree threatening the overhead wiring, it has also improved the 'balance' of the crown and looks a much better tree.

I spent a couple of Wednesday's working with the volunteers to complete the ha-ha wall project. My chainsaw training came in useful again as we felled five small ash trees to finish off the project. We just need to re-turf the field side of the wall which we can take from the new compound once we commence groundwork.

Dick Oram cut the wild flower meadow, dried and removed the hay. I then followed up with cut with the new mower. It was well worth the effort as it tidied up the rough cut and looked really good. It didn't take as long as I thought and was done in a couple of hours. All being well I can keep on top of it which will benefit all the low growing early spring flowers.

Eventually managed to swap over the computer systems, the increase in speed is phenomenal.

Chris Campling  
Green Space Manager