

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 12TH OCTOBER 2009, AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

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

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)
PCSO Russell Crayford, and two parishioners.

		Action
202 202.1	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs E. Palethorpe (holiday), R. Clements, M. Pearson (family commitment) and Fr. Damien Walne (diocese meeting).	
203 203.1	Minutes The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14 th September 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.	
204 204.1	Declarations of Interest There were none.	
205 205.1	Public Forum PCSO Russell Crayford reported that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour within the parish. This was particularly bad in Gallfield Court, around the village shops and in neighbouring Standens Barn. The police were keeping a spreadsheet from which it was hoped to build up a pattern of behaviour and that this could then go to a higher level. Their aim was to get hold of the ringleaders and serve ASBO's.	
206 206.1	Ongoing Matters Little Billing Village Green. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground. The Clerk had been in touch with the Legal Department of NBC regarding permission for the erection of a children's playground. She had been advised that should permission be granted the area of the playground <i>may</i> have to be de-designated as part of the village green. BPC have been asked to submit plans and details regarding proposed siting, size of area and type of equipment for the playground. It was suggested that possibly the best site would be near to the car parking area as this was the farthest away from nearby houses. RESOLVED that as Little Billing Residents Association had initiated the petition for this the Clerk should write to the Chair to seek their assistance. Maintenance. The GSM had acquired a quotation of £25 per cut from Park Landscapes for the grass cutting. This would be done at the same time as the playing fields, i.e. on a two weekly basis throughout the season and be in addition to the NBC cuts. RESOLVED that a budget of £300 be included in the budget for next year to cover this cost. 	Clerk

		Action																																																
206	Ongoing Matters (Continued)																																																	
206.1	Little Billing Village Green (Cont.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New bench. The Clerk is to contact Cllr. Clements to ascertain if he has obtained approval from nearby residents to the proposed siting of the new bench. 	Clerk																																																
206.2	Burial Grounds. Cllr. Marlow reported that he had acquired some very old documents from a local resident and a meeting had been arranged with the solicitor for Tuesday of next week. Held over to next meeting.																																																	
206.3	Overgrown tree, Knights Court. There had still been no response from the management company but it was felt this should be pursued as the council did not want to take any action that could be classed illegal. Cllr. Stevenson offered to look further into this matter. Held over to next meeting.	PS																																																
206.4	Billing Aquadrome. The Manager at Billing Aquadrome had responded very quickly to the Clerk's letter and a meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 14 th October. The Chair, Clerk and Insp. Daemon Johnson will be attending and a report of this meeting will be given at November's PC meeting.																																																	
206.5	Bus Shelter A4500 Great Billing. A reply had been received from Stagecoach regarding the problem reported last month and the Clerk is to forward a copy of the letter to Alan Berwick. RESOLVED that we should see if the situation improves over the next few months	Clerk																																																
206.6	Ecton Brook Public House. A letter had been sent inviting the licensee to attend a parish council meeting but no reply had been forthcoming.																																																	
206.7	Remembrance Sunday. RESOLVED that Bernard Weston should again be invited to represent BPC at the Great Billing service and that Cllr. Clasper would be the representative at Little Billing. Two wreaths have been ordered from Colonel John Royle and will be delivered to the pavilion prior to 8 th November.	Clerk																																																
207	Finance																																																	
207.1	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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	* Both of these items are to be paid on behalf of Great Billing Pocket Park from funds held by BPC (i.e. our grant to them of £1,000)																																																	

		Action
207	<i>Finance (Continued)</i>	
207.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget for the half year to the end of September 2009, together with the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that this be approved.	
207.3	Budget for 2010/11. An informal meeting of the working party to discuss budget proposals for the coming year was arranged for Monday 2 nd November 2009 at 7.30 pm at the Bernard Weston Pavilion.	
208	<i>Planning</i>	
208.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. N/2009/0721 – Brook Pharmacy, Ecton Brook Road – Single Storey Extension to Shop. No comments or objections. 2. 09/0041/FULWNC. Proposed change of use of land lying within operational waste water treatment works to use for composting of green waste and biosolids – Great Billing Wastewater Treatment Works, Lower Ecton Lane. The Clerk is to write to WNDC to ascertain the outcome of the recent meeting. 3. Emergent Joint Core Strategy for West Northants. Cllr. Stevenson has submitted comments but has heard nothing since. He is to forward a copy of his response to Danny Moody at NCALC in order that Danny may collate all parish councils' responses. 	Clerk PS
208.2	The following determination had been received from NBC: N/2009/613 – 9 Standing Stones, Great Billing – Proposed single storey side extension with conservatory – APPROVED subject to conditions.	
209	<i>Other Matters</i>	
209.1	As a result of the problems experienced at the nursery in Plymouth with mobile camera/phones Bizzy Bears had asked if they could use the telephone landline number at the pavilion as the use of mobile phones is to be banned. Whilst the council were very sympathetic it was felt that using the same line could entail the GSM answering calls for Bizzy Bears. They had no objection, however, to a second line being installed for the pre-school's own use, with all costs borne by them. It was suggested that this should be installed in the kitchen and that the telephone itself should be locked away when Bizzy Bears were not there. Clerk to advise Caroline Borrell.	Clerk
210	<i>Leisure & Recreation</i>	
210.1	GSM's Report (See Appendix I) RESOLVED that K. Worley's quotation of £230 for the repair of the stone planters (situated at the Great Billing village signs) be accepted.	GSM
210.2	Great Billing Pocket Park. A start had been made on the Management Plan in readiness for the Green Flag Award. Although there is a lot of work involved this will give a proper plan for the next 5 to 10 years. A map of the area will be required for the noticeboard. The next volunteers day is Wednesday 21st October. RESOLVED that K. Worley's quotation of £850 for the widening of the paths around the pocket park be accepted.	GSM
210.3	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr. Clasper reported that they were in the process of opening their own bank account. He was hoping that Rose Little would be visiting the pocket park in the next ten days. Cllr. Gable asked if the footpath would now become the responsibility of BPC as although it is in good condition at present it would be expensive to maintain. It was felt, however, that as this was a public footpath it would remain the responsibility of NBC.	

		Action
210	<i>Leisure & Recreation (Continued)</i>	
210.4	Pavilion. Although four enquiries had been sent out only two quotations had been received for the groundwork and paving. RESOLVED that the cheapest quotation from K. Worley for £2,350 be accepted. Three quotations had been received for the security fencing and it was RESOLVED that the cheapest quotation from P J Miller for £4,255 plus VAT be accepted. GSM to co-ordinate timing of the various works.	GSM
210.5	The Leys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GSM expressed concern regarding the state of a diseased horse-chestnut tree on the Leys. RESOLVED he should employ the services of a professional to look at it. • It was agreed that the dog bin at the top of The Leys be moved. RESOLVED that the GSM should purchase an earth anchor to enable him to do this. • The GSM suggested that the cherry trees in Celebration Avenue should be transplanted elsewhere and that the avenue should be kept purely as native Rowans. RESOLVED that this should be done. Cllr Gable suggested the best time to move the cherry trees would be in February. 	GSM GSM
211	<i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i>	
211.1	Cllr Hughes reported he had attended the meeting at Oundle on 19 th September when preparations for the AGM to be held on Wednesday 14 th October were discussed. An election for the County Committee will be held as there are 20 candidates. He was sincerely hoping he would be re-elected. All other issues raised have been covered in the update circulated by Danny Moody.	
212	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i>	
212.1	The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a briefing on the Electoral Review of NBC by the Boundary Committee at the Guildhall. It would appear that parish council boundaries will not change but it is possible that the boundaries of some wards may.	
212.2	Bellinge Community House AGM is to be held on 26 th October at 6.00 pm. Cllrs. Mrs D. Nichol and P. Gable will be attending on behalf of the Parish Council.	DN/PG
212.3	A Grant Funding Seminar has been arranged by NCALC on Saturday morning 14 th November. Cllr Hughes is to attend on BPC's behalf.	DH
212.4	The Chairman reported he had been approached by someone asking if appeal flyers could be delivered with the parish newsletter. A local boy, Matthew Herbert of Shepperton Close, who has just turned 16, has leukaemia and now needs a bone marrow transplant. The flyers are an appeal for as many people as possible to become donors. Councillors will deliver these with their allocation of newsletters – those who have already delivered theirs will advise the Chairman in order that the organisers know which addresses have not been covered.	All Cllrs
212.5	Cllr. Palmer expressed concern that overhanging trees were obscuring the lights at both ends of the drive to the playing fields. Cllr. Gable is to check on the legal requirements and advise the GSM.	PG
212.6	Cllr. Ward said there had been a lot of fly tipping within Ecton Brook. He had reported this to the fly tipping hotline who will be arranging removal.	

		Action
212	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere (Continued)</i>	
212.7	Cllr. Mrs Shaw reported that she had visited the call centre at John Dryden House where Street Doctor is located. They have apparently taken over other areas of work and there would not appear to be enough staff to respond quickly.	
212.8	It was agreed the GSM would expedite fitting of the clock and weathervane at the pavilion as they had now been delivered.	GSM
213	<i>Closed Session</i>	
213.1	Not disclosed to the public	
214	<i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i>	
214.1	Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 9 th November 2009 at 7.30 pm Informal Budget Meeting – Monday 2 nd November 2009 at 7.30 pm There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm.	

Green Space Manager
Monthly Report
September/October 2009

With September being so dry grass cutting was at a minimum this month so I took the opportunity to have the machine serviced. It now looks like leaf collection will move to the top of the list. I have also sprayed the parks paths.

With the shop at Valley closing we have lost a local amenity but we can safely say a vast majority of the rubbish we picked up along the pathways was mostly from the store as over the past few weeks I have hardly picked up anything.

I spent some time working on the quotes for the ground work & fencing which have mostly been returned in time for Monday's meeting.

I spent some time with the volunteers clearing up the outdoor re-cycling area; we managed to chip most of the brash and burnt what we couldn't. We will finish off next time we meet with more log flower beds for selective wild flowers & shrubs.

As I discovered the Leys was not in the Great Billing Tree Conservation area I undertook a survey on my own, which I hope will be useful. (Circulated)

Steve, Jim and I met over a couple of pints to start work putting together the necessary paperwork for the green flag award for the whole of the park. Looking at what we have to put together, even if we don't achieve the award, it looks to be a very useful exercise and the end result should be a solid management plan for the park and pocket park for the next 5 to 10 years.

Chris Campling
Green Space Manager