

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 14TH DECEMBER 2009, AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

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

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)
PC Darren Hulatt and one parishioner.

		Action
228 228.1	Apologies Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. S. Ward (business commitment), Fr Damien Walne (diocese commitment), and from Cllrs. David Palethorpe and Christopher Malpas (both NBC).	
229 229.1	Minutes The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 th November were approved and signed as a true record.	
230 230.1	Declarations of Interest The Chairman declared an interest in 233.1 (1) due to previous contacts with the applicant.	
231 231.1	Public Forum PC Darren Hulatt introduced himself as a probationer and newcomer to the SCT. He is in his second week with them having served in the military for a number of years. He advised that there will be a mobile police station in the area during January.	
232 232.1	Ongoing Matters Little Billing Village Green: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk reported that she had written again to the Chair of Little Billing Residents Association asking if the Association was still active and if they still wished to be involved with the proposed children's playground. Held over to next meeting. New bench. The Clerk reported that Mr. John Davies of NBC had been in contact with her in response to her letter and it appeared that permission could be granted but official notification was awaited. Clerk to chase. Held over to next meeting. 	Clerk
232.2	Burial Grounds. Cllr. Marlow read out the contents of two letters received from the solicitors and explained how the land had remained without being built on. It has now been ascertained who owns the piece of land in question and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would spend an amount of up to a maximum of £1,000 to acquire it.	

		Action
232	<i>Ongoing Matters (Continued)</i>	
232.3	Overgrown tree at Knights Court. Cllr. Stephenson reported that although he had been assured that this work had been done, if it had, the wrong tree had been cut. He had now had confirmation that WRS Tree Works would be cutting back the correct tree(s) within the next two weeks.	
232.4	The Clerk had received a letter from David Kennedy, the Chief Executive of NBC, in response to her request that the GSM be allowed to perform tasks on NBC owned land within the parish. This advised her that the matter had been referred to their Director of Environment and Culture but as yet there had been no further contact. Clerk to chase.	Clerk
232.5	The Chairman went through the quotation received from E.ON regarding improved lighting at the entrance and footpaths to the pavilion at Gt. Billing. After much discussion it was RESOLVED that Public Lamp 46 would be completely replaced in a new position with a 42watt PLT (white light) at a total cost of £1,360.49 subject to this being capable of being replaced with a higher wattage should this be deemed necessary. Additional replacement head lanterns for Public Lamps 47 and 48 would go ahead should Lamp 46 prove satisfactory.	GSM/ Clerk
232.6	Concern was expressed that similar lighting improvements/additions were necessary at the footpath from Valley Road to Codlin Close through Little Billing pocket path. RESOLVED that this item be added to the agenda for the next parish council meeting.	Clerk
232.7	The GSM had received a quotation of £25 from K. Worley to remove the defunct notice by the old Pearce building on the A4500. RESOLVED that this work should go ahead without delay.	GSM
233	<i>Planning</i>	
233.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. N/2009/0900 – 28 Standing Stones, Great Billing. Alterations to existing garage. No comments or objections. 2. N/2009/0945 – 4 Geldock Road, Little Billing. Proposed side garage/car port extension and new boundary fence. The council had several concerns regarding this application and the Clerk is to write to the Planning Department. 3. Emergent Joint Core Strategy. Nothing to report. 	Clerk
233.2	The following determinations had been received from NBC: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. N/2009/0785 – 21 Codlin Close, Little Billing. Proposed new garage (as amended by revised plans received 3 November 2009). APPROVED subject to conditions. 2. N/2009/0790 – Old Convent, 29 High Street, Great Billing – Create door from boiler room into garden through existing window. Create internal doorway from kitchen to utility room. Replace 2 plastic windows with wooden windows of similar design. Alteration to roof of approved garage including insertion of solar panels to rear. APPROVED (Listed Building) subject to conditions. 	
234	<i>Finance</i>	
234.1	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget to the 30 th November 2009, together with the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that this be approved.	

		Action																																							
234	Finance (Continued)																																								
234.2	The list of accounts for payment had been circulated and it was RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:																																								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>Power of Expenditure</u></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>D.F.Phipps (Ditching work/move dog bin/mow wild flower meadow)</td> <td>PHA 1936 s260 & OSA1906s9&10</td> <td>862.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ESPO (3-seat bench with extendable legs)</td> <td>PCA1957s1</td> <td>287.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playground Supplies (Repair of wet pour beneath swings)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>230.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garden Machines (Nton) Ltd (Stihl S/S Bristle Brush)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>218.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Royal British Legion (2 x Wreaths & Donation Poppy Appeal)</td> <td>LGA1972s137</td> <td>350.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post Office (12 months tax disc GSM vehicle)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>185.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garden Machines (Nton) Ltd (New bag for Billy Goat)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>111.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Co-op Motors (MOT test GSM vehicle)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>54.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barclaycard Commercial (monthly credit card)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>242.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk (2 mths telephone calls/3 mths mileage)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>58.63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Business Payroll (Salaries and monthly fee)</td> <td>LGA1972s112</td> <td>3000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NCC (GSM Pension – November)</td> <td>LGA1972s112</td> <td>464.22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Power of Expenditure</u>		D.F.Phipps (Ditching work/move dog bin/mow wild flower meadow)	PHA 1936 s260 & OSA1906s9&10	862.50	ESPO (3-seat bench with extendable legs)	PCA1957s1	287.50	Playground Supplies (Repair of wet pour beneath swings)	LGA1972s111	230.00	Garden Machines (Nton) Ltd (Stihl S/S Bristle Brush)	LGA1972s111	218.01	Royal British Legion (2 x Wreaths & Donation Poppy Appeal)	LGA1972s137	350.00	Post Office (12 months tax disc GSM vehicle)	LGA1972s111	185.00	Garden Machines (Nton) Ltd (New bag for Billy Goat)	LGA1972s111	111.64	Co-op Motors (MOT test GSM vehicle)	LGA1972s111	54.00	Barclaycard Commercial (monthly credit card)	LGA1972s111	242.55	Clerk (2 mths telephone calls/3 mths mileage)	LGA1972s111	58.63	Small Business Payroll (Salaries and monthly fee)	LGA1972s112	3000.00	NCC (GSM Pension – November)	LGA1972s112	464.22	
	<u>Power of Expenditure</u>																																								
D.F.Phipps (Ditching work/move dog bin/mow wild flower meadow)	PHA 1936 s260 & OSA1906s9&10	862.50																																							
ESPO (3-seat bench with extendable legs)	PCA1957s1	287.50																																							
Playground Supplies (Repair of wet pour beneath swings)	LGA1972s111	230.00																																							
Garden Machines (Nton) Ltd (Stihl S/S Bristle Brush)	LGA1972s111	218.01																																							
Royal British Legion (2 x Wreaths & Donation Poppy Appeal)	LGA1972s137	350.00																																							
Post Office (12 months tax disc GSM vehicle)	LGA1972s111	185.00																																							
Garden Machines (Nton) Ltd (New bag for Billy Goat)	LGA1972s111	111.64																																							
Co-op Motors (MOT test GSM vehicle)	LGA1972s111	54.00																																							
Barclaycard Commercial (monthly credit card)	LGA1972s111	242.55																																							
Clerk (2 mths telephone calls/3 mths mileage)	LGA1972s111	58.63																																							
Small Business Payroll (Salaries and monthly fee)	LGA1972s112	3000.00																																							
NCC (GSM Pension – November)	LGA1972s112	464.22																																							
234.3	The Clerk requested permission to purchase a new shredder. She had been using her own machine since commencing the post but this had now broken. Cllr. Stephenson had kindly investigated suitable shredders and it was RESOLVED that a Fellowes MS0450 Crosscut Shredder, at a cost of £140.69, be purchased from Don Ruffles Ltd.																																								
235	Other Matters																																								
235.1	Website. The Chairman, Clerk and Cllr. Clasper had a meeting with Roger Kingston of Northants Residents Alliance on 17 th November to discuss the website. Mr. Kingston had done an excellent job very quickly and the new website has now gone live. There are a few initial teething problems which are in the process of being amended and members were urged to log onto the website and advise if there was anything they were not happy with. It was agreed that with the help of Mr. Kingston the Clerk should write to Ray Clements in order that the parish council can take over sole responsibility for the server. It was also agreed that the only links on the website would be those within the parish or with other parish councils.																																								
235.2	Proposed new playground to replace the old 'Helicopter Park' in Ecton Brook. Awaiting permission from the Asset Department at NBC. Held over to next meeting.																																								
235.3	Cllr. Clasper had received a request from an 80 year old parishioner for a bus shelter to be provided in Fishponds Road, Little Billing (around the corner from Fieldmill Road). This is a very well used bus stop and very exposed. As this is on NBC land it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to them to ascertain if they would be prepared to provide a shelter at this spot.	Clerk																																							
235.4	Litter Pick 21.11.09. Cllr. Clasper reported that this had once again proved to be a very successful venture with 25 volunteers taking part across the four wards. Grateful thanks were extended to Keith Bonham for his kind assistance with his trailer in removing items, including a sodden mattress, from the brook in Little Billing. The next litter pick will be held in the Spring – date to be advised. It was reported that there were now up to five Tesco trolleys in the brook. GSM is to advise the Environmental Agency.	GSM																																							

		Action
236	<i>Leisure & Recreation</i>	
236.1	GSM Report (See Appendix I). In future these reports will be featured on the website together with photographs where appropriate.	
236.2	Great Billing Pocket Park. Jim Snedker has now produced what he hopes is the final draft of the Management Plan for Billing Parish Park. Copies were available for the members to peruse. Once it has been approved he will complete the application for the Green Flag Award. The Chairman said he felt that as a Management Plan/Health & Safety document it was well worth the cost involved. A course on tree lichen had been held at the Pocket Park, which was part of a survey being held throughout the UK, which was extremely interesting and the Chairman urged members to attend should this be repeated.	
236.3	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr. Clasper reported that Cllr. Gable is arranging an appointment with a colleague with regard to clearing some of the scrub before the end of next month and quotes are being obtained for a new notice board. Approximately 100 saplings had been planted but unfortunately several were uprooted by schoolchildren on their way to or from school. Some had been replanted but so far around five or six had been lost. It was hoped that there would be no more loss through vandalism.	
236.4	Pavilion – new workshop/store area. It did not appear that the new security fence would be ready before Christmas. The Chairman hopes to obtain a definite date for delivery in order that fitting can be co-ordinated with the delivery of the container.	
236.5	The Leys – Celebration Avenue. The GSM reported that he had received ten enquiries after details had featured in the Parish Bulletin but that only two trees had been purchased. After discussion it was agreed that the cost would not be reduced.	
237	<i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i>	
237.1	Cllr. Hughes reported that the AGM was very successful. There were 20 nominations for 18 seats and he was delighted to announce that he had been re-elected. Billing Parish Council's resolution had also been accepted without change – there is obviously a lot of antipathy towards quangos. The last NCALC meeting was largely taken up with the election of officers. Cllr. Hughes is the representative for ACRE, was elected to the court of the University of Northampton and is also on the Standards Board for NBC. A very busy year ahead!	
237.2	Cllr. Hughes and the Clerk attended a funding seminar held at NCALC on Saturday 14 th November which was very helpful and they have some extremely interesting websites to peruse.	
238	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i>	
238.1	Rev. Steven Palmer reported that the new disabled access at All Saints Church had now been completed. He also handed out flyers regarding the Living Nativity to be held in Fieldmill Square, Bellinge on Monday 21 st December at 5.00 pm. Cllr. Palmer will be on sabbatical from the beginning of January to the end of March 2010 and will therefore not be available for the next three council meetings. This was agreed and accepted.	
238.2	Cllr. Gary Stevens offered to become part of any committee/working party where he could be of assistance.	

		Action
238	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere (Continued)</i>	
238.3	Cllr. Stevenson expressed concern that the council appeared to have lost all contact with The Academy and felt that a relationship should be built up with them in the hope that some pride in the parish could be instilled into the school children. A lot of mindless vandalism and throwing of litter was taking place and it was hoped that by involving pupils in projects some of this might be alleviated. RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the Principal asking for a meeting to take place at the school between himself and two or three members of the council.	Clerk
238.4	It was reported that a new insurance schedule had been received. This now covers the new clock and weathervane on the pavilion at Great Billing at no extra cost.	
238.5	Cllr. Pearson reported that the Rotary Club had a number of small saplings, including rowan and silver birch trees, which they were prepared to give to any organisation in return for a suggested donation of £2.00 per tree to their designated charity, St. Christopher's Home. RESOLVED that Cllr. Pearson would ascertain if these were still available.	
239	<i>Closed Session</i> Not disclosed to the public	
240	<i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i>	
240.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.55 pm. Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 11 th January 2010 at 7.30 pm.	

APPENDIX I**Green Space Manager****Monthly Report****November 2009**

The run of mild weather throughout the end of October and November kept the grass growing and the playing fields and park had the last cut of the year mid November. The Billy goat worked overtime and kept the paths and driveway clear of slippery leaves. Even so the drive-way and asphalt car park and path looked decidedly 'unwelcome' with ground in mud & leaves and as the equipment budget was well under spent I invested in the brush attachment for the stihl motor which did a fabulous job in just a few hours.

The play area had to undergo some repairs to the 'wet pour' and prior to the annual inspection I spent time spraying the build up of moss and algae in the wet pour pores and a thorough sweep with the new attachment with very noticeable results. By the time we next meet the inspection should have been completed.

The truck had to go in for its first MOT and passed with no problems at all.

We spent a productive morning with the volunteers repairing the gaps in the ha-ha walk with hurdle fencing. The ha-ha replica project has now been completed as Ken & Adrian Worley became honorary volunteers for the morning and laid the turf on the top of the wall for free.

The annual fire extinguisher check was completed this month and at the same time I serviced the smoke detectors and fitted new batteries throughout.

I have spent a fair amount of time working on the requirements for the green flag application. It is time well spent as amongst others things it is bringing us up to date with health & safety, C.O.S.H.H and inspection documentation.

Both Great Billing and Little Billing took part in the tree o'clock world record attempt and managed to plant 252 trees.

Chris Campling
Green Space Manager