

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 13th NOVEMBER 2017
AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING**

PRESENT Councillor J. Marlow (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs C. Worthington, D. Brede, J. Clements, P. Henesey,
D. Nash, N. Nickason, M. Pearson, S. Rockall, S. Ward

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
C. Campling (Retiring Green Space Manager)
P. Marks (New Green Space Manager)
Cllr. C. Malpas (NBC) – Part. Cllr. A. Kilbride (NCC & NBC)
Michelle Aveyard (BCH) - Part
Damian Lang (Highway Warden)
Two Parishioners

		Action
109	<i>Apologies</i>	
109.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs Chaggar (ill) and Cllr. Burbidge (previous engagement). Apologies were also received from Sarah Oakes (Neighbourhood Warden).	
110	<i>Minutes</i>	
110.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 th October 2017 (Folio Nos. 051/2017 – 055/2017) were approved and signed as a true record.	
111	<i>Declarations of Interest</i>	
111.1	There were none	
112	<i>Public Forum</i>	
112.1	Mr Bob Entwistle introduced himself. He advised that times of the health walks he conducts have changed and new posters for display are in hand with the GSM. He also wished to speak with regard to the Great Billing Conservation Area Review and Consultation. He was asked if he would kindly wait until later in the meeting when this item was on the agenda, when he would be allowed to speak.	
112.2	Mr Peter Stevenson expressed his dismay that the advertising hoarding was still outside the old Pearce Leather Works on the A4500. The Parish Council understands from the developer of the listed office building that NBC have taken this matter to court and it has been adjourned until March 2018. After discussion it was RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the owner of the small area of land on which the board has been placed, appealing to his better nature and advising him of the strength of feeling against this board not only from parishioners but from commuters into Northampton.	Clerk

		Action																																	
113	Reports from Outside Agencies, etc.																																		
113.1	Michelle Aveyard said she was pleased with the coverage regarding Bellinge and Northampton in Bloom in the Christmas newsletter, but disappointed with some of the wording regarding young people in the Little Billing Pocket Park article. She also advised that BCH were receiving some portable outside lights which they hope to have in place for the street nativity in December.																																		
113.2	Cllr. Andrew Kilbride advised that he had met with Stephen Mold, the Police Commissioner with regard to the escalating problems in Ecton Brook. He had also visited the area with NPH. Enterprise has been very lax recently and he understands the new contractors will go back to basics to improve the look of the whole area. He was pleased to advise that he has been successful in obtaining Christmas trees for both Ecton Brook and Bellinge.																																		
113.3	A report from Sarah Oakes, Neighbourhood Warden may be found in Appendix I.																																		
113.4	Damian Lang, Highway Warden reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The lights damaged by a vehicle in Great Billing Way have now been replaced. ➤ Potholes in Pound Lane, Elwes Way and Church Way have now been marked ready for repair. Cllr. Pearson asked if a request could be made for removal of fallen leaves as these were becoming extremely hazardous and in places were blocking drains.																																		
114	New Green Space Manager																																		
114.1	Chris Campling introduced Paul Marks to everyone present and said that he had fitted into his new role extremely well. He was already taking charge of everything involved in the post with little input from Chris himself. Paul said he would be available to speak to any members of the council whenever they wished. He was welcomed by all present.																																		
115	Planning																																		
115.1	N/2017/1220 – Former Ecton Brook Public house – Partial change of use to hot food takeaway (Class A5) and erection of fume extraction flue. N/2017/1321 – 20 Blueberry Rise, Ecton Brook – Front entrance porch. No comments or objections to either of the above.																																		
115.2	The following determination had been received from NBC: N/2017/1134 – 31 Codlin Close, Lt Billing – Ground floor side single storey extension to create an annexe – APPROVED.																																		
116	Finance																																		
116.1	The list of Accounts for Approval for Payment had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:																																		
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116.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget for the period to 31.10.17, including a statement of reconciled bank balances, had been circulated to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																																				
116.3	Cllr. Henesey gave a report regarding Ecton Brook, a precis of which may be found in Appendix I. He asked for funding of £60 to purchase a small quantity of suitable shrubs and plants for the flower beds created on the periphery of the car park in the centre of Ecton Brook, and suitable paint for the flower bed frames. RESOLVED this be approved. He had also intended to ask for funding for a Christmas tree but was delighted to hear this would be provided through Cllr. Kilbride.	Clerk																																																			
116.4	Request for additional funding for Bellinge Pre-School. Cllr. Nash said he understood that work had already been carried out on the outdoor area and paid for by the Pre-School. He further understood that Community Spaces were not prepared to reimburse this money. RESOLVED that the Chairman and Cllr. Nash would visit the Pre-School to discuss this matter with Anabela Da Silva and report back to the next meeting.	JM/DN																																																			
116.5	It had been suggested that the GSM's mobile be upgraded to a 4G model. RESOLVED the GSM would obtain quotations for a suitable replacement and this would be discussed at a future meeting.	PM																																																			
117	Other Matters																																																				
117.1	It had been reported in the local press that NCC were suggesting possible future cuts to funding for local libraries and Trading Standards. It was agreed that until definite proposals were put forward nothing could be done by the Parish Council.																																																				
117.2	Great Billing Conservation Area Review and Consultation. After discussion it was agreed that Great Billing Councillors, the Clerk and anyone else interested would attend a meeting regarding this on Tuesday 28 th November 2017 at 4.30 pm at the Chairman's home.	ALL																																																			

		Action
118	Updates	
118.1	Bellinge Field. It would appear that LGSS had confusion with regard to the advertising of this land transfer, which had been picked up by the Clerk and dealt with by Cllr. Kilbride. It is now hoped that finalisation of this transfer will be completed forthwith.	
118.2	Updating of Street Lights. Unfortunately, due to the Chairman being away, a meeting to discuss this had not taken place. It is hoped this will be done in the next couple of weeks.	Clerk/ JM/DB
119	Leisure & Recreation	
119.1	The GSM reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Everything is ship-shape across the parish. Grass cutting and necessary tree work have been carried out. ➤ There will be flailing and ditch clearance work on The Leys shortly. ➤ Although purchasers of trees on Celebration Avenue were advised that spring bulbs only could be planted around the base of the trees, it would appear that up to 16 trees have plants such as pansies, which would interfere with spraying. RESOLVED that, when due, spraying should take place as usual. ➤ He suggested that a tree on The Leys itself should be reserved for Anne and Dick Oram as a thank you for all their work in the area over the years. RESOLVED this should be done and the GSM is to choose a suitable tree for this. 	GSM
119.2	Lt Billing Pocket Park. The following report had been received from Michael Clasper: "There was a volunteering session at Little Billing Pocket Park on Saturday 11th November. Conditions underfoot were very wet and so all six volunteers concentrated on the Parish wide litter pick. Around six bags of rubbish were collected, along with an old office chair and four supermarket trolleys, two of which were retrieved from Billing Brook".	
120	Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere	
120.1	Cllr. Nash said he would like to thank the ladies from Great Billing who went down to Bellinge to assist with the litter pick the previous Saturday. He was delighted to announce it was the first time a mattress had not been discovered!	
120.2	Cllr. Ward expressed his concern at the difficulty in getting through to the police on 101. It does not encourage anyone to use this number. He was also concerned to note there would appear to be an illegal camp site at the end of Lakeside.	
120.3	Cllr. Pearson drew the Council's attention to a recent article in the local press advising that lottery funding had been made available for the clearing of water courses in Northampton. It is to be hoped this will include those in our parish, especially the ponds in Fishponds Road. Cllr. Kilbride will check.	AK
120.4	Cllr. Clements suggested that it may now be time for the parish vehicle to be sign written. The new GSM is to come up with a design for this which will be discussed at a future meeting.	GSM
120.5	Cllr. Rockall said it had been brought to his attention that part of the fence at the bottom of The Leys was missing. He was advised that this had been down for some time and had only become visible since the land had been cleared by the owner. The fence did not belong to the Parish Council.	

		Action
121	<i>Closed Session</i>	
121.1	The Clerk advised that Chris Campling had been to see her to ask if it would be possible for him to leave work earlier than planned, i.e. Friday 17 th November. The new GSM had fitted in superbly, picked everything up extremely quickly, and was now doing everything required himself. After discussion it was RESOLVED that this should be allowed with the proviso that he would be available at any time up to his due date of leaving should Paul require his assistance with anything. It was further RESOLVED that he would receive full pay for this 'gardening leave'.	
122	<i>Date of Next Meetings and Closure</i>	
122.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.40 pm Dates of next meetings: Budget Meeting – 7.00 pm Monday 27 th November 2017 in the Pavilion office. Gt Billing Conservation Meeting – 4.30 pm Tuesday 28 th November 2017 at 11 Cattle Hill. PC Meeting – 7.30 pm Monday 4 th December 2017 at the Bernard Weston Pavilion.	

APPENDIX I**Report from Sarah Oakes – Neighbourhood Warden**

Several Community Protection Warnings have been issued to various addresses across Bellinge since the last meeting. So far only two have progressed to Notice being served, as in most cases the Warning is a strong deterrent. These have all been served for waste/ rubbish issues, but can be used for a variety of offences.

I have had some reports of car repairs being carried out in Faracre Court and Pippin Lane, but as yet no firm evidence has been supplied. If anyone has any information, or can provide a statement to verify that work is being carried out, please contact me in the usual way. On the question of cars, please note that I can only remove untaxed or abandoned vehicles. I do not have powers to remove cars without insurance or MOT, and I am not able to access keeper information for cars that are causing obstructions/parking illegally.

There have been a number of attempted burglaries/ thefts in the past couple of months in the area of Fieldmill Road/Foskitt Court. I know that some residents have had visits from Police staff giving advice on home and personal safety. Those of us that work in the area are aware of particular residents that may be considered vulnerable, and are able to support if needed.

Dog fouling reports in and around Valley Road area has not resulted in anybody being caught so far. Dog fouling signs have been put up and I have increased monitoring in the area.

Staff and volunteers from BCH, girls from the youth group and I made our first ever Bug Hotel as part of the wider project to improve the area and engage more people in our efforts. This was a lovely project, and hopefully we will be able to develop more ideas over the Spring/ Summer.

Report from Cllr. Henesey regarding Ecton Brook

Fly tipping, littering and drug running within Ecton Brook remains a major problem. The purpose of the flower bed is to raise awareness in the Parish combined with a major blitz on litter and drug usage. To this end several different approaches have been put into place; the Police are to substantially increase their presence and include motorcycle patrols to police the pathways etc. and the Northampton Housing Association are to warn their tenants that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated and may lead to the loss of accommodation, Social Services are to target identified problem areas involving children etc. and the contractors will be instructed to pay particular attention to the area and keep it clean where possible.

In addition moves have been set in motion to provide some help and ambition for the youths who because they are bored and unemployed are creating criminal damage to property, threatening residents and intimidating many others. Towards this end an approach to Moulton College has resulted in possible placements for those interested in gardening/ also the local F.A. have asked local clubs to give a chance to those people interested in football and forming a football team. (Ecton Brook Athletic here we come). Northampton Sport and Wellbeing are also willing to help in organising local football or other activities, all of which should help to reduce the damage and give the youth of the area some ambition and responsibility.