



# 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 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018  
AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

**PRESENT** Councillor J. Marlow (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs G. K. Chaggar, D. Brede, R. Burbidge, J. Clements,  
D. Nash, M. Pearson, S. Rockall

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
P. Marks (Green Space Manager)  
Cllrs. A. Kilbride and P. Larratt (Both NBC)  
Damian Lang (Parish Highway Warden)  
Michelle Aveyard (Bellinge Community House)  
Liz Newbery (NBC Neighbourhood Warden)  
PCSO Steve Whiting  
4 Parishioners

		Action
<b>99</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
99.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs Worthington and M. Course (both ill).	
<b>100</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
100.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 (Folio Nos 040/2018 – 045/2018) were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>101</b>	<b>Local Governance Review – Cllr. Phil Larratt (NBC)</b>	
101.1	The Chairman introduced Cllr. Larratt and thanked him for attending the Parish Council meeting.	
101.2	Cllr. Larratt gave a brief overview regarding the proposed formation of two unitary authorities for Northamptonshire; one covering the west of the county, including Northampton itself, and the other covering the east of the county. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Decision forced by Government, would not be choice of NBC. Areas will be huge; Northampton will form over 40% of the population of the western unitary.</li> <li>➤ George Chandler, new Chief Executive at NBC was strategic lead for town and parish councils in Shropshire some 8/9 years ago so is experienced in the formation of unitary authorities.</li> <li>➤ Possible that a Town Council will be formed based around the existing borough – any boundary changes will be subject to the Boundary Commission, which will not happen until April 2020.</li> </ul>	

		Action
<b>101</b>	<b>Local Governance Review – Cllr. Phil Larratt (Continued)</b>	
101.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Looking to maximise the use of parish councils when unitary as this is the way for areas to have their own voice. Will be considering ideas from current parishes regarding expansion, merging, etc., and it is hoped that new parish councils may be formed within the current borough.</li> <li>➤ Imperative that assets of NBC are protected, including its history and ancient mayoralty. Opportunity for parish councils to register interest to take over ownership/responsibility for parks, open spaces and other assets within their area. There would be funding to assist with this. AK is to provide Clerk with contact at NBC.</li> <li>➤ Elections are to be postponed until 2020 and it is believed this will also apply to parish council elections, but this is yet to be confirmed.</li> <li>➤ Further updates will be advised to Clerks at their next Forum.</li> </ul>	<b>AK</b>
101.3	A Question and Answer session then followed. Cllr. Larratt was once again thanked for his attendance and he subsequently left the meeting.	
<b>102</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
102.1	There were none.	
<b>103</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
103.1	Fiona Diamond reported that a 'Love Where You Live' meeting will be held at Bellinge Community House on Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> December from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Refreshments will be provided and this is an opportunity for residents to find out what is happening in the Parish, to meet teams and share ideas.	
103.2	Representatives from Ecton Brook Residents Group reported that a successful litter pick in the ward had been held the previous week. A coffee morning will be held on 19 <sup>th</sup> October and on 14 <sup>th</sup> December the Christmas lights will be switched on. They were delighted that Ecton Brook received a Silver award in Northampton in Bloom.	
<b>104</b>	<b>Reports from Outside Agencies</b>	
104.1	Neighbourhood Warden, Liz Newbery advised that there will be a day of action in Ecton Brook on 18 <sup>th</sup> October. She said she was pleased to report that she is now qualified to pull people in for interview to further support the investigative process.	
104.2	PCSO Steve Whiting was warmly welcomed to the meeting. He said that due to shift changes he was pleased to be able to attend and hoped to do so on a regular basis in the future. Crime figures for the parish were much lower than in most other areas. Following the incident in Great Billing last week he was pleased to be able to leave his motorcycle and walk around the parish, a part of the job he particularly likes. It was suggested that the Parish Council sign up to 'Neighbourhood Alerts'.	
104.3	Damian Lang, Parish Highway Warden, reported that he continues to report all problems to NBC including overflowing dog bins, subway lighting, Fishers Close, pathway from Shepperton Close, etc.	

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<b>104</b>	<b>Reports from Outside Agencies (Continued)</b>																						
104.4	Michelle Aveyard had emailed a short report regarding Bellinge Community House, a copy of which had been forwarded to all councillors. At the Northampton in Bloom 2018 evening they were delighted to be successful in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Gold – Northampton in Bloom</li> <li>➤ East Midlands – ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ – Level 5 Outstanding</li> <li>➤ Champion of Champions</li> </ul> This was an amazing achievement and she extended her thanks to Paul Marks (Green Space Manager) and Cllr. Kilbride for all their help and support.																						
104.5	Michelle also advised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bellinge Community House AGM will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00 pm</li> <li>➤ The Living Nativity will be held in Fieldmill Square on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm.</li> </ul>																						
104.6	Cllr. Rockall commented that the plantings and hanging baskets in both Ecton Brook and Bellinge had not only improved the areas substantially, it appeared to have had an effect on reducing littering and fly tipping with residents taking more pride in where they lived, which was to be applauded.																						
104.7	Peter Stevenson said he did not feel that Veolia were doing as good a job as they should be.																						
<b>105</b>	<b>Planning</b>																						
105.1	<b>N/2018/1078</b> – 25 Gallfield Court, Bellinge – Two storey side extension. <b>N/2018/1193</b> – 21 Penfold Drive, Great Billing – 1 x Laurel – reduce to manageable height. 1 x Yew & 1 x Elder – remove to ground level. <b>N/2018/1254</b> – The Rectory, 25 Church Walk, Great Billing – Tree Works. <b>N/2018/1344</b> – 14 Fishers Close, Little Billing – Single storey side extension. <b>No comments or objections to any of the above.</b>																						
105.2	The following determinations had been received from NBC: <b>N/2018/1186</b> – 3 Elwes Way, Great Billing – Single storey conservatory to side elevation. <b>APPROVED.</b> <b>N/2018/1193</b> – 21 Penfold Drive, Great Billing – 1 x Laurel – reduce to manageable height. 1 x Yew & 1 x Elder – remove to ground level. <b>APPROVED.</b> <b>N/2018/1254</b> – The Rectory, 25 Church Walk, Great Billing – Tree Works. <b>APPROVED.</b>																						
<b>106</b>	<b>Finance</b>																						
106.1	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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106.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to Budget for the period to 30.09.18 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																														
106.3	A copy of the schedule showing the Accounts, together with reconciled bank account balances, for the half-year to 30.09.18 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																														
106.4	RESOLVED that a meeting to finalise the budget for 2019/20 take place at 7.00 pm on Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2018, i.e. immediately prior to the PC meeting. Drafts will be forwarded to members prior to this date. The clerk once again asked that details of any projects, together with approximate costings, that Councillors wished to be considered for inclusion in this budget should be forwarded to her by 22 <sup>nd</sup> October latest.	<b>ALL</b>																																													
<b>107</b>	<b>Updates</b>																																														
107.1	Purchase of mobile speed indicator device. The Clerk advised that approval for the Section 50 Licence had now been obtained. Decision on device to be purchased on-going.																																														
107.2	No decision had been taken as yet with regard to the installation of a barrier to prevent motorcycle nuisance adjacent to the old school site in Great Billing. On-going.																																														
107.3	Cllr. Kilbride advised that all suggestions regarding some sort of barrier to prevent traveller invasion at the site adjacent to Ecton Brook School had been refused and it would appear that nothing will be done at present. RESOLVED this item would be revisited if further problems evolve.																																														
107.4	Cllr. Brede reported that he was still awaiting notification from Cllr. Ward regarding the person to contact at NBC regarding the ponds at Fishers Close. He was advised that it was believed it may be Ben Lloyd. On-going.																																														

		Action
<b>107</b>	<b>Updates (Continued)</b>	
107.5	LGPS Cessation. The Clerk advised that cessation of membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme had now been completed. The final cost had been a cessation payment of £3,400 plus £500 for the valuation by the Actuary. This was higher than had been hoped for, but much less than the council had originally been led to believe.	
<b>108</b>	<b>Leisure and Recreation</b>	
108.1	The GSM reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A tremendous amount of work is taking place in Bellinge Field with the result that the whole area is being opened up. About 30ft of brambles has been removed and he assured everyone that only dead or dying trees and shrubs are being taken out.</li> <li>➤ The only way to dispose of all the green waste is by burning and he apologised to anyone who has in any way been affected by smoke – they do try to do this when there is no wind.</li> <li>➤ More and more people are using the field to walk through as since it has been opened up it is far less intimidating. Many favourable comments have been received.</li> <li>➤ He was able to retrieve about a third of the lead stolen from St. Andrews Church, together with wheelbarrows and wheelie bins, from where it had been hidden at the bottom of The Leys.</li> <li>➤ He now has the parts to complete the renovation of the old red telephone box and work will take place on this when the weather is next too inclement to be working outside.</li> <li>➤ It has been decided to plant a few more commemorative trees across the bottom of The Leys and to possibly erect concrete pillars behind as an added deterrent against traveller invasion.</li> </ul>	
108.2	The following report had been received from Michael Clasper: “There was a volunteering session at Little Billing Pocket Park on Saturday, 22nd September, from 10am until 12 noon as usual. Six helpers strimmed an area north of the orchard, and the verges and picnic area were mowed. Litter was picked and removed, and the footpaths were blown clean of grass trimmings and leaves. The fruit trees in the Orchard were also pruned, and the benches and picnic tables were cleaned with soapy water. Unfortunately one of the picnic table and bench sets has been extensively covered with graffiti, and the manufacturers have been contacted to find how best to remove this without compromising the recycled materials used in the manufacturing process. From October the volunteering sessions will revert to one a month, and the next is scheduled for October 13 <sup>th</sup> ”.	
<b>109</b>	<b>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</b>	
109.1	Cllr. Nash reiterated how delighted everyone was with the awards received in Bellinge.	
109.2	Cllr. Burbidge reported that there had been three separate incidents of lead thefts at St. Andrews Church which had resulted in internal damage. Interim repairs had been made but the church would have to be closed at a later date for proper repairs to be done. Costs to the church would be in the region of £50K.	

		<b>Action</b>
<b>109</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere (Continued)</i></b>	
109.3	Cllr. Clements asked if the Parish Council would consider clearing the footpath behind Home Farm Close, Little Billing (which used to be part of the old Billing Road). The Chairman is to view the area with Cllr. Clements.	<b>Chair/ JC</b>
109.4	Cllr. Brede reported that he had attended the NCALC AGM on 6 <sup>th</sup> October where the main topic of conversation was the proposed new unitary authorities.	
109.5	Cllr. Rockall reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ His wife is once again running in the London Marathon.</li> <li>➤ She will be holding afternoon teas at the Elwes Arms as a fundraiser towards the purchase of defibrillators.</li> <li>➤ He believed the Parish Council should express an interest in taking over responsibility for various open spaces within the parish, including the area adjacent to Little Billing pocket park, Ecton Brook Linear Park, the park at Oat Hill Drive and possibly Bellinge Community House.</li> <li>➤ He asked if anyone knew what the Environment Agency was doing in Ecton Brook the previous week, and was advised that it was as a result of a request from Ecton Brook Residents Group.</li> </ul>	
<b>110</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b>	
110.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.25 pm Dates of Next Meetings: Budget Meeting – 7.00 pm Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 Next PC Meeting – 7.30 pm Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 Both at the Bernard Weston Pavilion, Great Billing.	