



# 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 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018  
AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING**

**PRESENT** Councillor J. Marlow (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs G. K. Chagger, Mrs. C. Worthington, D. Brede, M. Course,  
D. Nash, M. Pearson, S. Rockall

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
P. Marks (Green Space Manager)  
Damian Lang (Parish Highway Warden)  
Liz Newbery (NBC Neighbourhood Warden)  
James Kitchener & Junior Anderson (Northampton Martial Arts Academy)  
5 Parishioners

		Action
<b>77</b>	<b><i>Notice to hold part of the Meeting in Private</i></b>	
77.1	The Chairman announced that a closed session would be held at the end of the meeting.	
<b>78</b>	<b><i>Apologies</i></b>	
78.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. J. Clements and S. Ward (on holiday) and Cllr. Burbidge (diocese meeting). Apologies were also received from Cllr. A. Kilbride (NCC & NBC) and Cllr. C. Malpas (NBC) due to NBC Council meeting, and from Michelle Aveyard (Bellinge Community House).	
<b>79</b>	<b><i>Minutes</i></b>	
79.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 (Folio Nos. 030/2018 – 034/2018) were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>80</b>	<b><i>Declarations of Interest</i></b>	
80.1	There were none.	
<b>81</b>	<b><i>Public Forum</i></b>	
81.1	Local resident Steve Bishop offered to design a completely new website free of charge for the Parish Council. He was thanked most sincerely for this very kind offer and asked to liaise with the Clerk regarding this. Unfortunately the council is tied in to a contract with the present provider until the end of the year.	
81.2	James Kitchener and PCSO Junior Anderson spoke to the council with regard to the summer activity programmes they had been running over the past 5 years. Their aim was to provide 5 – 12 year olds with opportunities to participate in a range of	

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<b>81</b>	<b>Public Forum (Continued)</b>																																														
81.2	sport, educational and fun activities during the school summer holidays. Some of these sessions would take place on the playing fields at Great Billing and they were looking for funding assistance from the Parish Council. After discussion it was RESOLVED that a sum of £500 should be granted.																																														
81.3	Mr Peter Stevenson said he was becoming increasingly concerned with regard to the neglected state of the piece of green space adjacent to Ashmead. After discussion Cllr. Rockall volunteered to ascertain if NBC had any plans for this area and to also investigate suitable ways forward.	SR																																													
<b>82</b>	<b>Reports from Outside Agencies</b>																																														
82.1	Damian Lang, Parish Highway Warden, reported that many potholes within the parish had been repaired very satisfactorily and that a lot of overhanging branches and shrubbery had been cut back. He is continuing to follow up on reported items.																																														
82.2	Liz Newbery, Neighbourhood Warden, said she was pleased to report that the number of complaints in the area had fallen over the past month, and the clean-up in Ecton Brook went very well.																																														
<b>83</b>	<b>Planning</b>																																														
83.1	<b>N/2018/0845</b> – The Spires Academy, Station Close, Great Billing – Variation of Condition 1 of Planning Permission N/2016/1264 (Variation of Condition 1 of Planning Permission N/2000/0981 to allow the use of the building as a free school) to allow the Spires Academy to occupy the building for longer than the consented period for a further 12 months until 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2020. No comments or objections.																																														
83.2	The following determination had been received from NBC: <b>N/2018/0667 and N/2018/0677</b> – 18 Pound Lane, Great Billing – Listed Building application for a single storey rear extension. <b>REFUSED.</b>																																														
<b>84</b>	<b>Finance</b>																																														
84.1	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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81.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to Budget for the period to 30.06.18 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																			
81.3	A copy of the schedule showing the Accounts and reconciled bank account balances for the first quarter to 30.06.18 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																			
81.4	RESOLVED that two new litter bins be purchased from Broxap for installation on Bellinge Field – one to be placed adjacent to the football area and the other at the top of the field.	GSM																		
<b>82</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>																			
82.1	A draft of the new Records Retention Policy had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be adopted without amendment.																			
82.2	Billing Fayre. A debriefing session regarding the Fayre had taken place immediately prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the day had been a great success no doubt helped by the wonderful weather. The donkey rides were very popular and it was agreed to book them again for next year; as was the crockery smashing stall and old crockery will be collected throughout the year. Steve Bishop said he had contacts with cricket, rugby and football and it was agreed that this would be discussed in the planning meetings prior to next year's events. The date for the 2019 Fayre will be Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> June.																			
82.3	<p>Cllr. Brede reported on the stakeholder meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July regarding the proposed local Government reorganisation of Northamptonshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ORS assured everyone that this is not a foregone conclusion though the MPs and Councils appeared to be in favour of, or resigned to, the 'two state' solution for Northamptonshire. This was appreciated as the vast majority were in favour of separating Northampton from the other unitaries for a variety of reasons.</li> <li>➤ Envisaged savings are around £12M which appears trivial considering the expenditure of all the authorities involved, the expected transition costs and quoted £22M redundancy.</li> <li>➤ There was also talk of 'a clean slate' for the new authorities – however, this may not include the £1M - £1.4M debts of NCC.</li> <li>➤ The equalisation of council tax would badly hit SNC residents.</li> <li>➤ It was felt, for example, that residents in, say, Brackley do not appreciate problems that residents in Northampton may have, and vice-versa.</li> </ul>																			

		Action
<b>82</b>	<b><i>Other Matters (Continued)</i></b>	
82.3	➤ Due to tight timeframe for consultation it is recommended that all responses are completed electronically via the website. Paper copies are, however, available from libraries and the council offices.	
82.4	Reductions in winter gritting announced by the County Council. RESOLVED that Cllr. Kilbride is asked to protest at these cuts on behalf of the Parish Council.	
82.5	RESOLVED that a notice be installed at the entrance of the pavilion car park stating that it is a private car park and vehicles not associated with the hire of the pavilion are liable to be locked in overnight.	
<b>83</b>	<b><i>Updates</i></b>	
83.1	RESOLVED that a barrier to deter motor cyclists would be installed at the end of the pathway running alongside the old school site in Great Billing, subject to a suitable design and acceptable cost being obtained. It was noted that motor cycle nuisance is a real problem throughout the whole parish although the police off-road motor cyclists have been out on a fairly regular basis. Riders are removing number plates to avoid being traced but residents were asked to possibly photograph perpetrators or get as detailed description of the motor bikes as they can.	
83.2	Proposed barrier to prevent travellers accessing site adjacent to Ecton Brook School. Ongoing.	
<b>84</b>	<b><i>Leisure and Recreation</i></b>	
84.1	The GSM reported that work is proceeding well in Bellinge Field and he thanked the volunteers for all their hard work. He had installed the first bench at the top of the field. Unfortunately a wind got up when a bonfire was lit last month which blew the smoke about and although there would have to be another one in the future, this will not be done yet.	
84.2	Little Billing Pocket Park. The following reports had been received from Michael Clasper: "There was a volunteering session at Little Billing Pocket Park on Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Three volunteers trimmed the path edges, cleared litter and undergrowth adjacent to the picnic area, and strimmed the cleared area north of the Orchard. The next session will take place on Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> July". "There was a volunteering session at Little Billing Pocket Park on Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> July. Six volunteers picked and removed litter, strimmed the areas north of the orchard, adjacent to the picnic area, and the path edges. The next session is scheduled for Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> July".	
<b>85</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b>	
85.1	Cllr. Nash reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ He was sorry to report the sad death of Mr. Watson, Sports and Maths teacher at Bellinge Campus.</li> <li>➤ There was a water leak at Bellinge Community House. The leak itself has been stopped but there is still work to be done.</li> <li>➤ They now have a wooden Union flag!</li> </ul>	

		Action
<b>85</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere (Continued)</i></b>	
85.2	Cllr. Mrs Worthington said she had been approached by St. Andrews CE School governors to ask if they could place banner(s) in the parish advertising pupil vacancies for the new school year commencing this coming September. She was advised that planning permission would be required but also there did not appear to be anywhere that would be suitable.	
85.3	Cllr. Pearson enquired as to the ownership of the driveway to the playing fields at Great Billing. Cllr. Rockall will check with Land Registry. He also expressed concern again at the neglect of the ponds at Fishers Close. It would appear that one of the 'ponds' is not a pond at all; it was excavated for roadstone or sand and there is no water supply to it. Cllr. Brede is to walk the area and possibly take photographs.	SR DB
85.4	Cllr. Brede advised that there is hogweed along by the Washbrook, which has been reported.	
85.5	The Chairman read out a letter from Patrick Henesey which thanked everyone for their assistance during his time as Councillor.	
<b>86</b>	<b><i>Closed Session</i></b>	
86.1	The Clerk informed the Council of the problems that had arisen with regard to the Council's cessation of the Local Government Pension Scheme, the anticipated costs involved, and the proposal to alleviate this. This had already been discussed in full with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. After discussion the Clerk was given full authority to proceed with whatever steps were felt necessary.	
<b>87</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b>	
87.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20 pm. Next Meeting – 7.30 pm on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Bernard Weston Pavilion. <b>PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST.</b>	