



# 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 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020  
AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING**

**PRESENT** Councillor J. Marlow (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs S. Jordan, D. Brede, J. Clements, A. Jones, D. Nash,  
M. Pearson, S. Rockall, S. Ward

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
Paul Marks (Green Space Manager)  
Cllrs. A. Kilbride (NCC/NBC) and J. Hill (NBC)  
Liz Newbery (NBC Neighbourhood Warden)  
Damian Lang (Parish Highway Warden)  
9 Parishioners

		Action
<b>013</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
13.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs G. Kaur Chaggar and Mrs C. Worthington (both ill) and Rev. Richard Burbidge (other meeting).	
<b>014</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
14.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 (Folio Nos. 001/2020 – 005/2020) were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>015</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
15.1	None were declared.	
<b>016</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
16.1	Jane Copeland and Louise Craddock from Happy Day Child Care, based at Ecton Brook Primary School gave a short presentation. They are a registered charity and are looking to begin a Toddlers Group in addition to their present activities and are looking for funding to assist with the start-up costs, which they anticipate to be in the region of £1,200. They were advised that this request would be put on the agenda for the March meeting and in the meantime they were asked to forward a detailed costing to the Clerk.	
<b>017</b>	<b>Reports From Outside Agencies</b>	
17.1	Cllr. Kilbride introduced Cllr. James Hill who was in attendance to observe the meeting. Cllr. Kilbride advised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ He has been investigating the problem with parking on grass verges in Valley Road, Little Billing and various options are being looked at.</li> <li>➤ There has been a resurgence of problems on the footpath by Codlin Close and this is also being investigated.</li> </ul>	

		Action
<b>017</b>	<b>Reports From Outside Agencies (Continued)</b>	
17.1	➤ There is an issue with the builders of Dandelion Close as they would appear to have part built on some NCC owned land.	
17.2	Damian Lang advised that he had reported a raised drain cover in Fishponds Road, a blocked drain in Church Walk, various lights obscured by shrubbery and a never ending list of potholes.	
17.3	Liz Newbery reported that she has been overwhelmed with waste problems in Ecton Lane and Crow Lane, and also with vehicles dumped in the area which appeared to have been used for crime elsewhere. The Chairman thanked Liz for her assistance in solving the problem of waste blowing over The Causeway from an industrial unit.	
17.4.1	The following report had been received from the local SCT: Reported crimes in the Parish during January: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Theft from motor vehicle – Pound Lane – insecure car – cash taken.</li> <li>➤ Burglary – Fishers Close – forced garage.</li> <li>➤ Theft from motor vehicle – Station Road – smashed window.</li> <li>➤ Theft of motor vehicle – Valley Road – unknown means.</li> <li>➤ Criminal damage – Valley Road – kicked vehicle.</li> </ul>	
17.4.2	There has been a potential increase in antisocial behaviour around Bellinge Community House; however this is not reflected in reported incidents to the police. Ongoing multi agency work is taking place to address this issue.	
17.4.3	There have also been reports that persons from the Billing area are drinking screen wash due to the 'low' level of alcohol it contains. Most have been purchased from B & M at Weston Favell and the Store Manager has been visited by officers and advised that screen wash must not be sold to under-15's.	
<b>018</b>	<b>Planning</b>	
18.1.1	<b>N/2019/1318</b> – Former Ecton Brook Care Home, Ecton Brook Road – Demolition of existing building and erection of 19no new affordable homes (comprising 2no 1-bed maisonettes, 8no 2-bed houses and 9no 3-bed houses) together with associated parking and landscaping. Another meeting had been held with David Gauntlett of Key Partnership Homes and Councillors were happy with his assistance. It has been confirmed there will be no CIL with this development.	
18.1.2	<b>N/2020/0055</b> – Telecommunications 3 Network, Great Billing Way – Installation of 20M Monopole, 12no Antenna apertures, equipment cabinets, removal of existing 14.7M Monopole, 3no antennas, redundant equipment cabinets and development ancillary thereto. There has been several applications for updating of telephone equipment and confirmation has been received that there are no health and safety concerns.	
18.1.3	<b>N/2020/0066</b> – 58 Manorfield Close, Little Billing – Single storey flat roof extension. <b>No comments or objections.</b>	

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<b>018</b>	<b>Planning (Continued)</b>																																					
18.1.4	<b>N/2020/0057</b> – Old School House, 2 Station Road, Great Billing – Removal of existing side single storey extension and construction of new single storey side extension. Two storey rear extension, replacement front porch, new sliding metal front gates to driveway and 1no 1200 x 1200 window to match existing to north elevation of master bedroom (resubmission of N/2019/0777). <b>No comments or objections.</b>																																					
18.1.5	<b>N/2020/0069</b> – Telecom Base Station, Wellingborough Road – Prior notification of telecommunications installation. <b>No comments or objections.</b>																																					
18.2	The following determinations had been received from NBC: <b>N/2019/0851</b> – Former Pearce Leather Works, Wellingborough Road – Alterations and extension to existing building and conversion to 20no flats including 3no offices as part of live-work units, provision of bin store areas and car parking. <b>APPROVED.</b> <b>N/2019/1391</b> – 14 Lady Winefrides Walk, Great Billing – Single storey modular timber granny annexe. <b>APPROVED.</b> <b>N/2019/1523</b> – The Spires Academy, Station Close, Great Billing – Variation of Condition 1 of Planning Permission N/2018/0845 to extend temporary period) to allow the Spires Academy to occupy the building for another three months to 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2020. <b>APPROVED.</b>																																					
<b>19</b>	<b>Finance</b>																																					
19.1	The list of Accounts for Approval for Payment had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:																																					
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19.2	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget for the period to 31.01.20 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																					
19.3	The Clerk reported reconciled bank account balances for the period to 31.01.20 of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NatWest Current Account                      £13,074.04</li> <li>➤ NatWest Reserve Account                      £235,586.70</li> </ul>																																					
<b>20</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>																																					
20.1	Liz Newbery advised that nothing had as yet been definitely confirmed with regard to a trip to the Safety Centre at Milton Keynes by Year 5 students at Ecton Brook school. She had, however, ascertained that a coach would cost £495 and entry fees																																					

		Action
<b>20</b>	<b><i>Other Matters (Continued)</i></b>	
20.1	to the centre £450, making a total of £945. Cllr. Kilbride said he had some funding available and would be prepared to meet 50% of the total cost. RESOLVED the Parish Council would fund the remaining 50%.	
20.2	A quotation had finally been obtained for installing an additional light on the driveway to the playing fields. This would entail running electricity from the lamp at the top of the drive and the total cost would be £2,782.20 excluding VAT. Permission had already been obtained from the owner for a light to be installed on the wall of his garage and it was agreed that a discussion should take place with him to ascertain if he would be willing for a new lamp to run off of his electricity supply, for which the Parish Council would recompense him. Held over.	<b>GSM/ Chair</b>
20.3	Objectives Meeting. A good meeting was held on 27 <sup>th</sup> January and objectives were raised for each ward. Minutes of this meeting will be available shortly.	
20.4	An invitation had been received from Andrew Lewer MP for members of the Parish Council to visit the House of Commons on a date to be arranged. This visit would include a private tour and a meeting with Mr Lewer. The Council were delighted to accept his kind invitation and it was RESOLVED that a coach be booked for the event.	<b>Chair/ Clerk</b>
20.5	The 2020 Billing Fayre will be held on Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2020. The Clerk is to book the donkeys, band and St. John Ambulance. Some stalls have already been booked and Weston Favell Library will be attending. Cllr Rockall asked if a request for funding from the Parish Council could be put on the March meeting agenda.	<b>Clerk Clerk</b>
20.6	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. It was agreed that as the church had made arrangements to celebrate this event the Parish Council would join in with these. Cllr. Brede commented that he felt VJ Day should also be celebrated.	
20.7	Elections will take place on 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (postponed from last year). To clarify everything for the Councillors the Clerk had emailed detailed instructions, timings etc. to everyone, together with a copy of the nomination pack. She will be available to assist anyone who may need it.	<b>ALL</b>
<b>21</b>	<b><i>Updates</i></b>	
21.1	Possible asset transfers from NBC. The Chairman and the Clerk had attended a meeting that morning at The Guildhall with Edwina Crowley, who has now taken over responsibility for this matter. It appeared to be a very productive meeting and she will be writing to us confirming the points covered and advising of the next steps.	
21.2	Public Meeting regarding crime. Paul Golly has moved on and the new Crime Prevention Officer is Kate Bailey. She has advised that they do not work on Saturdays and would prefer such a meeting to be held on a Tuesday or Thursday evening. It was agreed that it would be better to leave arranging this event until better weather and lighter evenings prevail. Held over for the time being.	
21.3	Parking issues – High Street. The conservation people had intimated that they would not be happy for an historic post box to be moved. It had also been confirmed that Highways would prefer bollards to be installed as a solution. Agreed that this issue should be dealt with as part of the Objectives meetings.	

		Action
<b>22</b>	<b><i>Leisure and Recreation</i></b>	
22.1	<p>The GSM reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There was surprisingly little damage after Storm Ciara at the weekend and no trees down.</li> <li>➤ Vandalism at Little Billing Pocket Park continues.</li> <li>➤ The totem at Bellinge has been vandalised and will have to be replaced.</li> <li>➤ The new playground at Ecton Brook has been damaged.</li> <li>➤ The daffodils are through in Bellinge Field and the bluebells just showing.</li> <li>➤ The new car park is now complete and I was delighted to note there is not one puddle after the heavy rain at the weekend.</li> </ul>	
22.2	<p>The following report had been received from Michael Clasper:  “A volunteering session took place at Little Billing Pocket Park on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 10 am to 12 noon. Five volunteers removed much of the remaining woodpile to the north of the orchard, and an area nearer the central footpath was lightly rotovated and planted with wild flower seeds. Invasive shrubs and trees were cut back at the northern end of the park, and the area adjacent to the container was cleared-up, following a recent fire set by vandals”.</p>	
<b>23</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b>	
23.1	<p>Cllr. Nash said he was very disappointed to report that the Youth Club for 9 to 11 year olds had been discontinued. He sincerely hoped the associated problems could be resolved as he felt it was something that was badly needed in the area.</p>	
23.2	<p>Cllr. Ward said that despite communication with Environmental Health at Northampton and Wellingborough no progress had been made with regard to the excessive noise of the crow scarers in the field adjacent to the Linear Park.</p>	
23.3	<p>Cllr. Pearson asked what had happened to the directional wooden sign in Church Walk as it was no longer readable. The GSM advised that someone had sprayed this with white paint and he has the matter in hand. Cllr. Pearson also asked if anything had been done with regard to the water spilling out onto the road from outside the Old Post Office. He was advised that the Clerk had asked Anglian Water to investigate; they attended the site and advised that the water was not theirs – it was natural spring water and as such was not their responsibility. It is hoped that this leak will cease once the water table level decreases and in the meantime the road will be gritted if ice is expected.</p>	<b>GSM</b>
23.4	<p>Cllr. Mrs Jordan reported that Coffee Mornings at Ecton Brook have restarted and two more litter picks have been arranged.</p>	
23.5	<p>The Chairman said he was pleased to advise that Steve Bishop has been made a Freeman of the City of London.</p>	
<b>24</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b>	
24.1	<p>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50 pm  Next Meeting – 7.30 pm Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Bernard Weston Pavilion.</p>	