



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 8th JUNE 2020
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT Councillor J. Marlow (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs S. Jordan, Mrs C. Worthington, D. Brede, R, Burbidge,
J. Clements, S. Rockall

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
Paul Marks (Green Space Manager)
Cllr. C. Malpas (NBC)
Damian Lang (Parish Highway Warden)
4 Parishioners

		Action
52	Apologies	
52.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. D. Nash (ill), A. Jones (problems with accessing Zoom) and S. Ward (work commitment). Retrospective apologies were received from Cllr. M. Pearson.	
53	Minutes	
53.1	The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18 th May 2020 (Folio Nos. 017/2020 – 024/2020) were approved and signed as a true record.	
54	Declarations of Interest	
54.1	None were declared.	
55	Public Forum	
55.1	No-one wished to speak.	
56	Reports from Outside Agencies	
56.1	Damian Lang, Parish Highway Warden reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The potholes that had been marked in Church Walk and on the speed humps by the MUGA have now been repaired. ➤ He has been pushing for overhanging trees that should have been cut back last year to be done. He has also reported road signs that are obscured by trees. He will continue to report until all work has been completed. 	
57	Planning	
57.1	N/2020/0510 – 12 Paddocks Way, Little Billing – Two storey rear extension and alterations. No comments or objections.	

		Action																																							
57	Planning (Continued)																																								
57.2	The following determination had been received from NBC: N/2020/0148 – Former Pearce Leather Works, Wellingborough Road – Variation of Conditions 2 and 24 of Planning Permission N/2019/0851 (Alterations and extension to existing building and conversion to 20 flats including 3 offices as part of live-work units, provision of bin store areas and car parking) to broaden the use of two of the offices to include use by the management company of the building). APPROVED.																																								
58	Finance																																								
58.1	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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58.2	The schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget for the period to 31/05/20 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																								
58.3	The Clerk reported reconciled bank account balances as at 31/05/20 of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NatWest Current Account £14,820.22 ➤ NatWest Reserve Account £275,743.64 																																								
58.4	The bricking up of the double doorway in the pavilion office at a cost of £475.00, previously agreed electronically, was ratified by the council.																																								
59	Other Matters																																								
59.1	A request had been received from a 13-year old parishioner for a skate park to be built within the parish preferably in Great Billing Pocket Park or The Leys. The Leys has a covenant that prevents any building and there is not sufficient space within the pocket park and it was also felt that noise would be detrimental to adjacent home owners. It is possible that should the Parish Council take over ownership of the playing fields at Ecton Brook in the future that this could be a suitable site. However it had been ascertained that cost for such a skate park would be in the region of £75,000 to £150,000 and external funding would be required to enable this. It had also been ascertained that the nearest skate park to the parish is situated in Lings Wood Park which is less than one mile away. Shelved for the time being. Clerk to respond.	Clerk																																							

		Action
59	<i>Other Matters (Continued)</i>	
59.2	Cllr. Brede had received a request for an information board to be placed on Little Billing Village Green. After discussion and hearing from Cllr. Clements that a straw poll indicated that more parishioners were against this idea than for it, it was RESOLVED that this should not go ahead.	
59.3	Cllr. Brede had also received a request for the Parish Council to replace the vandalised notice boards in Little Billing Pocket Park. The council would be amenable to this but felt that discussion should take place with Michael Clasper in the first instance as it was not clear if the boards were covered by the volunteers' insurance. Held over.	DB
59.4	There are two vacancies for Councillors – one in Little Billing Ward and the other in Middle (Bellinge) Ward. It was emphasised that applicants could live or work in any part of the parish, not just in the specific ward. Councillors were asked to actively work on attracting applicants for these vacancies. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk for further details.	ALL
60	<i>Updates</i>	
60.1	Although no further information had been received from NBC regarding the possible acquisition by Parish Councils of NBC owned assets, a recent Cabinet Meeting had approved the process. Cllr. Rockall gave a brief synopsis of the Cabinet Report and said he felt that some of the terms and conditions may deter the Parish Councils from taking on any of the assets. However, no decisions will be made until such time as more information and answers to our questions are received. Held over.	
61	<i>Leisure & Recreation</i>	
61.1	The GSM reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The mower has now been repaired and back in use. ➤ There have been problems with vandals lighting fires in the parish. An attempt was made to set fire to one of the heritage notice boards in Great Billing Pocket Park and an adjacent rubbish bin set alight. Green waste was set alight on Bellinge Field to which the Fire Brigade attended. All green waste has now been collected and a bonfire held that day to prevent this happening again. ➤ He has been doing some work at Little Billing Pocket Park as the volunteers are unable to meet at present. ➤ Bizzy Bears has now partially reopened with sessions being held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. 	
61.2	Cllr. Rockall commented that he was delighted to see so many visitors to the green spaces in the parish, both from local residents and people from outside the area. Very many congratulatory remarks had been made.	
62	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i>	
62.1	Cllr. Clements said that he was extremely disappointed with the standard of grass cutting by IdVerde within the parish, especially with regard to Lt Billing village green. He asked that this item be put onto the agenda for the July meeting.	Clerk

		Action
62	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere (Continued)</i>	
62.2	Cllr. Mrs Jordan said that she had been in contact with Veolia attempting to get more rubbish bins installed in Ecton Brook. She had filled two 50 ltr bags with rubbish from the area by the MUGA, and in Ecton Brook playing fields there are four dog poo bins but no rubbish bins, which causes a big problem when there are football matches there.	
62.3	Cllr. Brede said he completely endorsed Cllr. Clements's complaints regarding grass cutting and the village green in particular. He had also noticed the large increase in visitors to the green spaces in the parish. He had received complaints regarding speeding vehicles in Little Billing Way and Manorfield Road. The Clerk advised that she had received an email regarding this directly and would be asking the local police to carry out speed checks in the area. The parish speed camera would be moved to a location in Little Billing Way.	Clerk GSM
62.4	Cllr. Burbidge advised that the churches were still closed and services being held on line. It is hoped that the churches will be opened for a short time each week for private prayer and reflection. Normal church services appear to be long way off.	
62.5	Cllr. Rockall advised that John and Eileen Scott, who have supported Billing Fayre with their plant stall each year, were struggling to know how they were going to get rid of the plants they had that filled three greenhouses. He was delighted to announce that by a combination of using his front garden and the back of his car he had managed to sell them all and over £300 was realised for charity.	
63	<i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i>	
63.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35 pm. Date of next meeting – 7.30 pm on Monday 13 th July 2020. It is envisaged that this meeting will once again be held remotely via Zoom.	