



# BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020

**PRESENT** Councillor J. Marlow (Chairman)  
Councillors: Mrs C. Worthington, R. Burbidge, J. Clements, M. Pearson,  
S. Rockall

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
Paul Marks (Green Space Manager)  
Cllr. A. Kilbride (NBC/NCC)  
Mrs Thea Smith  
Damian Lang (Parish Highway Warden) (Part)  
3 Parishioners

		Action
<b>89</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
89.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs Jordan (unwell) and Cllr. Jones who was unable to access the Zoom meeting. Belated apologies were also received from Cllrs. Mrs Kaur Chagger and D. Brede.	
<b>90</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
90.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 (Folio Nos. 034/2020 – 039/2020) were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>91</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
91.1	There were none.	
<b>92</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
92.1	Peter Stevenson asked when the new Willow tree would be planted and was told that as soon as there had been a frost the tree could be lifted and delivered from the nursery, as will the new commemorative Rowan trees. He also said he was pleased to note that there would appear to be a big improvement in the work carried out by IdVerde.	
92.2	Julia Watson said she would like to record her thanks to the Clerk for her assistance in getting the hedge cut back in Fishponds Road.	
<b>93</b>	<b>Co-option to the Casual Vacancy in Little Billing Ward.</b>	
93.1	Mrs Thea Smith was co-opted to the vacancy of Councillor for Little Billing Ward (unanimously endorsed by the council). She duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Undertaking of Compliance with the Code of Conduct, and was warmly welcomed to the Council.	

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<p><b>94</b></p> <p>94.1</p> <p>94.2</p>	<p><b>Reports from Outside Agencies</b></p> <p>Cllr. Andy Kilbride apologised for missing a couple of PC meetings due to a clash with NBC meetings, and reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ He complained about the poor cutting of Little Billing Village Green and also other areas and it does appear that there has been a marked improvement.</li> <li>➤ He went around Ecton Brook with the Executive of NPH and shrubbery etc. was cut back immediately afterwards. He also visited with IdVerde who admitted things were far short of the required standard. Hopefully things will now improve.</li> <li>➤ He had also complained about the standard of the surface dressing carried out on Great Billing Way and he has been assured that remedial work will be carried out.</li> <li>➤ There has been a lot of objections to many of the proposed sites for electric charging points in residential areas, including that in Station Road, Great Billing, as it is felt they are in the wrong place. This will be looked at by Jason Smithers, along with the subject of electric scooters.</li> <li>➤ The proposal for cycling lanes in Billing Road has been squashed.</li> <li>➤ He spoke to Pauline from Bellinge Community House and she has a meeting with the trustees on 1<sup>st</sup> November to discuss when BCH will re-open. He would like to provide a Christmas tree for Bellinge again this year but he understands that Ecton Brook will have a nativity scene rather than a tree this year.</li> <li>➤ He had a meeting with Cllr. Hackett with regard to the Helicopter Park as it is still hoped to provide new play equipment there.</li> <li>➤ The damaged tree at the entrance to Little Billing Pocket Park has now been felled.</li> </ul> <p>Damian Lang, Parish Highway Warden said he had been pushing for tree work to be carried out that should have been done by now. He had also reported repairs that were required to the anti-skid by the traffic lights at the top of Great Billing Way, a pothole by the roundabout, also on Great Billing Way, and a non-operational lamp in Oransay Close.</p>	
<p><b>95</b></p> <p>95.1</p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>N/2020/0805</b> – 24 Penfold Drive, Great Billing – Self Contained annexe on footprint of approved double garage – AMENDED. <b>This application has been ‘called in’.</b></p> <p><b>N/2020/0865</b> – 9 Whiteheart Close, Great Billing – Change of use from domestic storage garage (Use Class C3) to Hair Dressing Salon (Use Class A1).</p> <p><b>N/2020/1066</b> – 32 Penfold Lane, Gt Billing – T1 Ash – Reduce canopy by 1M from driveway entrance and balance crown to match. T2 Ash – Target weight reduce main stem growing towards property by 3-4M and lightly reduce remainder of crown to balance. T3 Cedar – Thin crown by 15-20% of secondary growth.</p> <p><b>N/2020/1168</b> – 34 Oransay Close, Great Billing – Demolition of existing wall and erection of new brick boundary wall and timber gate.</p> <p><b>N/2020/1190</b> – 53 Fishers Close, Lt Billing – Two storey side extension.</p> <p><b>No comments or objections to any of the above.</b></p>	

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<b>95</b>	<b>Planning (Continued)</b>																																																										
95.2	<p>The following determinations had been received from NBC:</p> <p><b>N/2020/0921</b> – 10 Church Walk, Gt Billing – TPO201 T14 Cedar – Reduce by 2.5M and remove major deadwood. <b>APPROVED.</b></p> <p><b>N/2020/0929</b> – 4 Oak Tree Close, Lt Billing – Oak Tree – Reduce width wise only, crown lift by 5.5.M and removal of dead and defective growth. <b>APPROVED.</b></p> <p><b>N/2020/0932</b> – 8 Church Walk, Gt Billing – Reduce row of Beech trees by 5M and fell one Bay Tree. <b>APPROVED.</b></p>																																																										
<b>96</b>	<b>Finance</b>																																																										
96.1	<p>The list of Accounts for Approval for payment had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="274 723 1254 1312"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Power of Expenditure</th> <th>Incl. VAT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Small Business Payroll (Sept Salaries and monthly fee)</td> <td>LGA1972s112</td> <td>3,700.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SSE (Unmetered electricity street lights – Aug)</td> <td>PCA1957s.3</td> <td>258.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beach Marketing (Events Calendar Plug-In Website)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>102.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Footprint Recycling (Waste Collections Pavilion – Aug)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>73.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unicom (Telephone &amp; Broadband Pavilion – Sep)</td> <td>LGA1972s133</td> <td>49.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACA (Coverall/Fruit Picker/2 Masks/2 Barrier Tape)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>70.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Business Payroll (Shortfall on SO - Sept salaries)</td> <td>LGA1972s112</td> <td>1,443.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEST (GSM Pension Contributions – Sept)</td> <td>LGA1972s112</td> <td>323.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O2 (GSM Mobile – Sep)</td> <td>LGA1972s133</td> <td>27.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barclaycard Commercial (Sept Credit Card Statement)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>290.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martial Arts Academy (Grant for Summer Activities)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S F Harris (Clerk's expenses for quarter Jul – Sep)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>125.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minster Cleaning (Pavilion cleaning Sept)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>198.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D F Phipps (Mowing/Strimming The Leys/Celebration Ave)</td> <td>OSA1906ss9&amp;10</td> <td>1,428.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D F Phipps (Mowing/Strimming Bellinge Field – Sep)</td> <td>OSA1906ss9&amp;10</td> <td>672.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D F Phipps (Mow &amp; Strim GB Pocket Park – Sep)</td> <td>OSA1906ss9&amp;10</td> <td>600.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D F Phipps (Clearance work etc. Bellinge Field – Sep)</td> <td>OSA1906ss9&amp;10</td> <td>4,208.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SSE (Unmetered electricity – street lighting Sep)</td> <td>PCA1957s.3</td> <td>267.04</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Power of Expenditure	Incl. VAT	Small Business Payroll (Sept Salaries and monthly fee)	LGA1972s112	3,700.00	SSE (Unmetered electricity street lights – Aug)	PCA1957s.3	258.41	Beach Marketing (Events Calendar Plug-In Website)	LGA1972s111	102.70	Footprint Recycling (Waste Collections Pavilion – Aug)	LGA1972s111	73.62	Unicom (Telephone & Broadband Pavilion – Sep)	LGA1972s133	49.55	BACA (Coverall/Fruit Picker/2 Masks/2 Barrier Tape)	LGA1972s111	70.19	Small Business Payroll (Shortfall on SO - Sept salaries)	LGA1972s112	1,443.69	NEST (GSM Pension Contributions – Sept)	LGA1972s112	323.75	O2 (GSM Mobile – Sep)	LGA1972s133	27.11	Barclaycard Commercial (Sept Credit Card Statement)	LGA1972s111	290.21	Martial Arts Academy (Grant for Summer Activities)	LGA1972s111	500.00	S F Harris (Clerk's expenses for quarter Jul – Sep)	LGA1972s111	125.44	Minster Cleaning (Pavilion cleaning Sept)	LGA1972s111	198.00	D F Phipps (Mowing/Strimming The Leys/Celebration Ave)	OSA1906ss9&10	1,428.00	D F Phipps (Mowing/Strimming Bellinge Field – Sep)	OSA1906ss9&10	672.00	D F Phipps (Mow & Strim GB Pocket Park – Sep)	OSA1906ss9&10	600.00	D F Phipps (Clearance work etc. Bellinge Field – Sep)	OSA1906ss9&10	4,208.40	SSE (Unmetered electricity – street lighting Sep)	PCA1957s.3	267.04	
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96.2	The schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget for the half-year to 30.09.20 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																																										
96.3	A copy of the Accounts summary for the half-year to 30.09.20 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																																										
96.4	<p>The Clerk reported that reconciled bank account balances as at 30.09.20 were:</p> <table data-bbox="395 1637 986 1704"> <tbody> <tr> <td>NatWest Current Account</td> <td>£15,789.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NatWest Reserve Account</td> <td>£240,752.30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	NatWest Current Account	£15,789.21	NatWest Reserve Account	£240,752.30																																																						
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96.5	RESOLVED that £400 be forwarded to Royal British Legion as a donation and payment for two wreaths for Remembrance Sunday.																																																										
96.6	A meeting to discuss the budget for 2021/22 was arranged for Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7.30 pm. It is envisaged the meeting will be held via Zoom.																																																										
96.7	A copy of the Internal Control Procedure for the half-year to 30.09.20, carried out by Cllr. Rockall, had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																																										

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<p><b>97</b> 97.1</p>	<p><b>Other Matters</b></p> <p>Cllr. Pearson expressed his concerns with regard to the two bonfires on Bellinge Field on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September and asked if alternative methods for disposing of the green waste could be found. A lengthy discussion followed when the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The purchase of an industrial chipper by the Parish Council was discounted because of (a) the cost of around £20,000 and the cost of training all individual users, (b) the council has nowhere to store such equipment, and (c) such an item is a prime target for theft.</li> <li>➤ The council will, however, consider the hire of a chipper and manpower which it is believed will be in the region of £450 per day.</li> <li>➤ That having a bonfire was NOT in itself illegal, but that Environmental Health guidelines should be adhered to.</li> <li>➤ Should a further bonfire be deemed necessary this will be done on 5<sup>th</sup> November and residents notified beforehand.</li> </ul> <p>It is unfortunate that in line with everyone else the Parish Council is only allowed to visit the tip six times per year. The Chairman stated that although the council received no complaints regarding the bonfire on 14<sup>th</sup> September, on the following day a light wind got up channelling the smoke downwards and he apologised most profusely to those affected, particularly the residents of Worcester Close.</p>	
<p><b>98</b> 98.1</p>	<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p>No updates were available.</p>	
<p><b>99</b> 99.1  99.2</p>	<p><b>Leisure &amp; Recreation</b></p> <p>The GSM reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A lot of work has been carried out in Bellinge Field in the last few weeks. It was hoped that the fly-tipped rubbish, which will cost £1,500 to remove, would have been dealt with before now. Unfortunately the grab-lorry weighs 16.5 ton and the rubbish itself 10 ton, and the ground is far too wet at the moment to accommodate this weight.</li> <li>➤ The willow tree and the new Rowan trees will be delivered as soon as there has been a frost.</li> <li>➤ There has been a big increase in anti-social behaviour at Great Billing Pocket Park and the playground. He has reluctantly taken the decision to lock the playground each evening when he goes home and this will mean that the playground will be locked over the weekends.</li> </ul> <p><b>Little Billing Pocket Park</b></p> <p>The following reports had been received from Michael Clasper:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A volunteering session was held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Social distancing was engaged as much as possible and four of the seven volunteers wore face masks. The grass in the picnic area was mowed and the footpath edges mowed and strimmed, and footpaths were swept and blown clean. A section of the main footpath was cleared of overgrowth, and litter was collected and removed. There will be only one volunteering session per month over the winter period, and the next one is scheduled for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October.</li> </ol>	

		Action
<b>99</b>	<b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation (Continued)</i></b>	
99.2	<p>Little Billing Pocket Park (Cont..)</p> <p>2. A volunteering session was held at Little Billing Pocket Park on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Social distancing was observed as much as possible and four of the seven volunteers wore face masks. A tree from the opposite bank of the Washbrook had fallen and was blocking the riverside footpath. This was cut and removed. Litter was also collected and removed.</p>	
<b>100</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b>	
100.1	Cllr. Rockall reported that the defibrillator had still not been installed in Ecton Brook. It is hoped this will be done forthwith.	
100.2	Cllr. Clements asked if there was any news with regard to the concrete lamp posts in Valley Road. The Clerk will chase yet again. He also asked that as the Parish Council has been advised that it must not prune the trees on LB village green if it would be possible to push NBC to do so.	
100.3	The Chairman advised that Kathy Forsythe, whose funeral was held last month, had been awarded the BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her work in the community and in dance. As these honours were delayed due to COVID 19 she was unfortunately unable to receive it personally but apparently knew about it before her death.	
100.4	Cllr. Pearson said he was a little concerned about a fence a neighbour had erected. Although he had been asked for his advice prior to it being erected it was higher than he had anticipated and also the reverse side was facing the road. As this was in the middle of the conservation area above one of the original estate stone walls he felt that David Trubshaw at NBC should be contacted for his comments.	
100.5	Cllr. Burbidge advised that the funeral of Andrea McAuliffe would take place on 16 <sup>th</sup> October. There was obviously a restriction on numbers who could attend but if anyone would like to line the roadway into the church (socially distancing) they could do so from 11.45 am.	
<b>101</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b>	
101.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm Next PC Meeting – 7.30 pm on Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2020. This meeting will once again be held remotely via Zoom.	