



BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.00 pm
ON MONDAY 13th MAY 2019,
AT THE BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING**

PRESENT

J. A. Marlow (Chairman of Billing Parish Council)
Mr J. Clements, Rev. R. Burbidge, Mr. D. Nash, Mr. A. Jones,
Mrs S. Jordan, Mr S. Rockall, and Mr. S. Ward (all Members of
Billing Parish Council)
Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to Billing Parish Council)
Mr. P. Marks (Green Space Manager)
Two Parishioners

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs G. K. Chaggar (family illness), Mrs C. Worthington (holiday), Mr. D. Brede and M. Pearson (other commitments), (all members of Billing Parish Council).

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 14th May 2018 (Folio Nos. 01/2018/APM – 08/2018/APM) were approved and signed as a true record.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. J. A. Marlow gave his Annual Report, a copy of which can be found in Appendix I.

4 CHARITIES REPORT

Rev. R. Burbidge had provided a copy of the Annual Report of the Great Billing Pension Charity (see Appendix II) which he briefly explained to the meeting. He said he would be delighted to receive nominations for recipients of the grant as it can be a struggle to know who to make gifts to.

5 OTHER REPORTS

A letter had been received from Pauline Woodhouse of Bellinge Community House thanking the Parish Council for the additional grant of £2,000 which will assist with delivering services and inviting Councillors to visit at any time.

6 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and participation and declared the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

APPENDIX 1

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have always believed that for anything to succeed you need people who not only believe in what they are doing, but also want to take ownership. In our Parish Council I am grateful that we have many such individuals who are determined, as promised, to 'make our Parish a great place to live, work and play'.

Bellinge Ward, particularly around the area of the shops and the Deer's Leap Public House, looks a picture and special thanks must go to Dennis Nash, John Porter and Fiona Dymond for all their hard work, not only in the garden area but also within the Community House.

Since coming on board as a Councillor, Sally Jordan has worked tirelessly to improve community involvement and the image of Ecton Brook. The regular Residents Group meetings and coffee mornings ensure that the community's concerns are heard and acted upon.

Little Billing Ward is as usual quietly managed by John Clements and David Brede, and Great Billing Ward just seems to manage itself.

Paul Marks, our Green Space Manager has now been with us for eighteen months and his enthusiasm and commitment throughout the whole parish, together with his wood carvings, have been noted and applauded by many.

Dick and Anne Oram are our longstanding contractors responsible for the majority of the grass mowing and heavy duty work. They treat our green spaces as if they were their own, much to the delight of the many visitors from the parish and adjoining areas.

I must thank all the volunteers and outside agencies – in particular our local Neighbourhood Warden, Liz Newbery, who has made vast inroads into problems within the parish; Damian Lang, our Parish Highway Warden, who continually pesters the authorities regarding the state of our roads; Cllr. Andy Kilbride who continues to support our community and is always on hand should the need arise. At the time of writing Andy has been successful in obtaining funds to build a much needed play area in Ecton Brook field.

Our grateful thanks must also go to local resident Steve Bishop for his extremely kind offer of a completely new Parish Council website. This is now up and running and although it still requires some additions and 'tweaking' it is looking good and is a vast improvement on the old site. See www.billingparish.co.uk

During the past twelve months we have been in negotiation with Northampton Borough Council regarding assets within the parish, i.e. land in Ecton Brook and Little Billing, and the Community House in Bellinge, being transferred to Parish Council ownership prior to the anticipated introduction of the Unitary Authority. Initially there was talk of monetary assistance but now it would appear that not only will the Parish Council be expected to pay

a nominal fee for each asset but to fund both parties' legal fees and all future maintenance costs. Needless to say deliberations are ongoing.

Work continues on Bellinge Field with the aim of opening up this area and joining it with the Old Orchard and The Leys. Our volunteer team meet on site every Wednesday morning from 9.00 am to 12 noon and anyone with free time would be most welcome. Visitor numbers have increased considerably and the general feeling is that people no longer feel threatened. I would recommend everyone to visit and see for themselves.

The return of the old red telephone box in Great Billing village ready to house a defibrillator has pleased many conservationists. I did hear that apparently two youngsters were overheard openly discussing exactly what it was only to conclude that they would ask their grandparents!

In conclusion, special thanks to Sue Harris our Parish Clerk whose recent submission of accounts to the auditor was returned with a comment of 'pristine', which I feel says it all. Here's to another good year.

John Marlow
Chairman
Billing Parish Council

APPENDIX II

GREAT BILLING PENSION CHARITY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2018

Trustees of the Charity are the Rector and Churchwardens of St. Andrew's Church, Great Billing and two representatives appointed by Billing Parish Council. Those serving as Trustees in 2018 were:

The Revd Richard Burbidge (Rector)
Mr Tim Bedward (Church Warden)
Mr Dominic Banham-Hall (Church Warden)
Mrs Cheryl Worthington (Parish Council)
Mr John Marlow (Parish Council)

Mr Frank Brett continues to act as treasurer.

The Charity continues to have as its object 'the relief either generally or individually of persons resident in the Parish of Billing who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress by making grants of money or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship and distress of such persons. Preference is to be given to poor widows over the age of 60'.

The Charity's funds are invested entirely in the COIF Charities Investment Fund, a Common Investment Fund, set up under the Charity Commission Scheme, and subsequently under section 24 of the Charities Act 2004. Dividends for the year are as reported in the Receipts and Payments account, and form the amount available to the Trustees for grant- making.

Given the modest levels of the Charity's income, its practice for many years now has been to make a small grant to a number of qualifying persons just before Christmas. In 2018 nine such persons received grants of £80 each. One person returned their grant, feeling that there must be more worthy recipients than themselves.

The Trustees would be very pleased to receive nominations for grant recipients from Parish Councillors or parishioners as it can be a struggle to know who to make gifts to.



Richard Burbidge
Chairman of the Trustees
2nd May 2019

GREAT BILLING PENSION CHARITY**Receipts and Payments Account 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018**

Balance at 1 st January 2018		£467.48
Receipts:		
Dividends from Charity Commissioners Year End 31.12.2018	£709.20	
Donations Returned (Note 3)	<u>£160.00</u>	£869.20
LESS:		
Payments in Year to 31.12.18 (Note 1)	£800.00	
Account Charges (Note 2)	<u>£ 0.00</u>	
		<u>£800.00</u>
Balance at Year End 31 st December 2018		£536.68
		<u>£536.68</u>

*Note 1 10 Payments of £80 were authorised during the year
1st January to 31st December 2018.*

Note 2 Account Charges. No charges were made during 2018.

*Note 3 These donations were for the period 1/1/2017-31/12/2017
and should have been added to the brought forward figure.
However the Treasurer was not aware until some months after
the statement had been produced in March 2017. Reporting
of such matters has now been rectified.*

Represented by - National Westminster Bank Account 08159866	£536.68
Cash	<u>0.00</u>
Balance @ 31 st December 2017	<u>£536.68</u>

The above statement has been prepared from the books and accounts of the Charity.
This statement has been approved by the Trustees as an accurate reflection of the accounts.
F.A.Brett

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

R. Burbidge

C. R. Worthington

28-Feb-19