



# 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 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

**PRESENT** Councillor J. Marlow (Chairman)  
Councillors: Mrs G. Kaur Chagger, Mrs. S. Jordan, Mrs T. Smith,  
Mrs C. Worthington, D. Brede, R. Burbidge, J. Clements, M. Pearson,  
S. Rockall, S. Ward

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
Paul Marks (Green Space Manager)  
Damian Lang (Parish Highway Warden)  
3 Parishioners

		Action
<b>102</b>	<b><i>Apologies</i></b>	
102.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Jones who was unable to access the Zoom meeting. Apologies were also received from Cllr. C. Malpas (NBC).	
<b>103</b>	<b><i>Minutes</i></b>	
103.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Folio Nos. 040/2020 – 044/2020) were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>104</b>	<b><i>Declarations of Interest</i></b>	
104.1	There were none.	
<b>105</b>	<b><i>Public Forum</i></b>	
105.1	A parishioner spoke about his concern with regard to the recent devastation caused by the re-clearance of the site where there is an application to build a Care Home and houses. He felt this had been done with complete disregard for the wildlife. Cllr. Smith said she had spoken to Heather Webb, Head of Ecology at NBC and she had promised to speak to the Police Wildlife Protection Officer. It was believed this clearance had been done prior to a further Ecology Report being carried out, although this was denied by Mr Pearce when the Chairman telephoned him.	
<b>106</b>	<b><i>Report from Parish Highway Warden</i></b>	
106.1	Damian Lang said he had again chased up the work due on trees that should have been done by now and had reported a couple of non-working street lights. He was experiencing difficulty with regard to the lamp at the back of Oransay Close as both NBC and NCC deny ownership. Further pot holes had been reported but these do not meet the criteria for repair at present.	

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<b>107</b>	<b>Planning</b>																																								
107.1	<b>N/2020/1219</b> – New detached dwelling with off road parking to side on land adjacent to 24 Church Lane, Little Billing. Cllr. Clements had that day received photographs from a local resident that purported to show that a boundary fence had been moved to increase the size of the plot by 3-4 metres. He will visit the site to investigate. It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to the application on the grounds that the plot was too small, it would completely alter the street scene, and concerns were expressed with regard to pollution from the road with the proposed house being built to the edge of the road.	<b>Clerk</b>																																							
107.2	<b>N/2020/1225</b> – Development Land at Ashmead – Erection of 5 dwellings. The Parish Council's objections to this application had already been forwarded to the Planning Department.																																								
107.3	<b>N/2020/1263</b> – The Catholic Presbytery, 1 Elwes Way, Great Billing – Demolition of small existing single storey extension and construction of new two storey extension. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council had no grounds on which to object to this application and that this should be left to immediate neighbours should they feel the need to object.																																								
107.4	<b>N/2020/1269</b> – 2 Geldock Road, Little Billing – Garage conversion and construction of new garage. No comments or objections.																																								
107.5	<b>N/2020/1333</b> – 9 Whiteheart Close, Great Billing – Construction of timber storage unit in garden (Retrospective). No comments or objections.																																								
107.6	The following determinations had been received from NBC: <b>N/2020/0805</b> – 24 Penfold Drive, Great Billing – Self-contained annexe on footprint of approved double garage. <b>Approved.</b> <b>N/2020/1066</b> – 32 Penfold Lane, Great Billing – T1 Ash – Lightly reduce canopy by 1M from driveway entrance and balance crown to match. T2 Ash – Target weight reduce main stem growing towards property by approx. 3-4M and lightly reduce remainder of crown to balance. T3 Cedar – Thin crown by 15-20% of secondary growth. <b>Approved.</b>																																								
<b>108</b>	<b>Finance</b>																																								
108.1	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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106.2	The schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to budget for the period to 31.10.20 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																					
106.3	The Clerk reported that reconciled bank account balances as at 31.10.20 were:																																					
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107	Other Matters																																					
107.1	Suggested nominations for the Rose of Northamptonshire award. There was one candidate that came immediately to mind but it was known that she would prefer not to be put forward. Another candidate was suggested but it was feared he may also be against nomination and it was agreed that Cllr. Burbidge should first speak to him to gauge his feelings.	RB																																				
107.2	All members were urged to participate in the survey by West Northamptonshire Unitary authority regarding proposed Council Tax Support Schemes. The survey will be available until 13 <sup>th</sup> December. Full details about the scheme, the proposals and the questionnaire are available online at: <a href="https://futurenorthants.citizenspace.com/lctrs-west/2021-22">https://futurenorthants.citizenspace.com/lctrs-west/2021-22</a>	ALL																																				
107.3	The annual inspection had been carried out on the parish-owned playground and a copy of the report forwarded to all members. RESOLVED the report be accepted. The Council understand there are risks but they are all low or very low and these will be closely monitored in the future.																																					
107.4	Cllr. Clements had proposed the motion ‘That the village green in Little Billing be purchased by the Parish Council’ and this was seconded by Cllr. Brede. When voted upon this motion was not passed with only three in favour. However, after discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would take over the grass cutting for the village green and the situation monitored for twelve months. In the meantime the Clerk will investigate the status of village greens and ascertain if they can in fact be sold.	Clerk																																				

		Action
<b>108</b>	<b>Updates</b>	
108.1	Bellinge Community House. There had been no further updates with regard to the transfer of ownership of Bellinge Community House. However the Clerk advised that she had been in contact with Antony Russell at NBC and ascertained that the £18,000 grant (ring fenced for salaries at BCH) would be paid directly to BCH by the Parish Council as from the 2021/22 financial year. She had also asked for clarification on how much of the £18,000 for the current financial year had not been used due to the furlough scheme. Once this figure has been ascertained the balance could be returned to the Parish Council.	<b>SW</b>
108.2	Cllr. Ward advised that he had obtained a quotation for a 1M wide path to run from Ecton Brook school to the path leading to the underpass and Rectory Farm pocket park at a cost of approximately £10,000. However the Chairman had asked him to obtain quotations for a more robust and wider path, which have not been obtained as yet. He also advised that Cllr. Kilbride was providing a £500 grant for a rest area in the Linear Park.	
108.3	Further complaints had been received from residents of Pound Lane regarding parking in High Street, Great Billing. There appeared to be a large increase in vehicles belonging to residents at The Old Post Office. The Chairman had attempted to speak to Helen Howard at NCC but unfortunately she was not available. Held over to next meeting.	
<b>109</b>	<b>Leisure &amp; Recreation</b>	
109.1	The Green Space Manager reported that a lot of work had been carried out in Bellinge Field since the last meeting. The grass seed that had been sown is now coming through and is beginning to look really nice. A lot of compliments have been received. A small bonfire was held on 5 <sup>th</sup> November and no complaints were received. Most of the waste has been sorted; wood was burnt on the bonfire, metal disposed of together with 40 bags of litter. The remaining waste will be taken away this week.	
109.2	No report had been received with regard to Little Billing Pocket Park.	
<b>110</b>	<b>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</b>	
110.1	Cllr. Mrs Kaur Chagger said she would like to extend her thanks to Cllr. Kilbride for arranging the cutting back of trees and shrubbery in Bellinge.	
110.2	Cllr. Clements reported that someone had visited Valley Road with regard to the infestation of rats. He understands that residents have since been advised that there is nothing they can do, and advised that notices warning against feeding the swans should be put by the lake as this food source is attracting the rats. As such notices would have to be put on land that is part of the pocket park it would be the responsibility of the Parish Council to do so.	
110.3	Cllr. Mrs Smith asked if anything had been done with regard to the replacement notice boards in Little Billing Pocket. This would have to be checked with Michael Clasper.	

		Action
<b>110</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere (Continued)</i></b>	
110.4	<p>Cllr. Brede reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ He has still been unable to discover the source of the water for Billing Brook. He has now been advised to contact Anglian Water.</li> <li>➤ He attended the AGM of NCALC via Zoom. It is apparently possible that the 2021 elections may be postponed to October due to Covid 19 and they may be conducted by postal votes.</li> </ul>	
110.5	Cllr. Ward said he had been advised by Cllr. Kilbride that new play equipment will definitely be installed at the Helicopter Park. There has been an increase in litter, drinking and partaking of drugs in Ecton Brook. He felt that far more patrols by the local police were needed – a view endorsed by Cllr. Mrs Jordan.	
110.6	Cllr. Mrs Worthington asked if the GSM could cut back the vine that is hanging over the footpath just above the Elwes Arms as pedestrians are having to walk in the road.	
110.7	Cllr. Pearson said he had been contacted by a resident of the stretch of Elwes Way that runs from Manor Farm Road to Church Walk asking if street signs could be erected at either end. At present there are no signs and visitors do not realise that this is a continuation of Elwes Way. He had also been contacted by a resident of Valentine Way who was complaining about a coach that appears to be parked for long periods each day in the layby at the top of Penfold Lane on the A4500. He understood the Clerk had already reported this to Liz Newbery and the local SCT.	
110.8	<p>Cllr. Burbidge reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is a tree down in St. Andrews churchyard. It has been looked at but at present nothing has been done to remove it.</li> <li>➤ He thanked everyone who attended the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial in Great Billing. It was a much shorter service than usual but very well attended with everyone practicing good social distancing and most people wearing masks.</li> <li>➤ It is hoped that usual Christmas services, such as Christingle, will be held this year. It is possible that an outdoor Candlelight service will take place.</li> </ul>	
<b>111</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meetings and Closure</i></b>	
111.1	<p>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.00 pm</p> <p>Next meetings – both to be held via Zoom</p> <p>7.30 pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Meeting for Council to discuss and agree the budget for 2021/22</p> <p>7.30 pm Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Parish Council Meeting.</p>	