



# 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 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor J. Marlow (Chairman) Councillors: Mrs. G. Chaggar, Mrs T. Smith, Mrs C. Worthington, D. Brede, R. Burbidge, J. Clements, M. Pearson, S. Rockall
<b>Also Present:</b>	Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council), Mrs C. Goodridge (Incoming Clerk) Paul Marks (Green Space Manager) Cllr. A. Kilbride (NBC & NBC), Cllr. C. Malpas (NBC) Damian Lang (Parish Highway Warden) Liz Newbery (NBC Neighbourhood Warden) Anabela Da Silva (Bellinge Community Pre-School) 2 Parishioners

		Action
<b>25</b>	<b><i>Apologies</i></b>	
25.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Ward (work commitment) and also from Cllr. A. Jones who had failed in his attempt to join the meeting.	
<b>26</b>	<b><i>Minutes</i></b>	
26.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 (Folio Nos. 005/2021 – 008/2021) were approved and signed as a true record.	
<b>27</b>	<b><i>Declarations of Interest</i></b>	
27.1	None declared.	
<b>28</b>	<b><i>Public Forum</i></b>	
28.1	No-one wished to speak.	
<b>29</b>	<b><i>Reports from Outside Agencies</i></b>	
29.1	Cllr. Malpas confirmed that he would be stepping down as Councillor at the May election. He said he had been a Councillor for Billing for 18 years and during that time had seen it develop into, what he believed, was one of the best Parish Councils in the country. He had some wonderful memories and thanked the Council for the flowers sent to him and his wife that day. The Chairman thanked Christopher for all his support and leadership during a time of great change and wished him all the best for the future. He proposed that one of the new trees in Bellinge Field be dedicated to Cllr. Malpas as a thank you from the Council for all his help over the years. This was unanimously agreed and happily accepted by Cllr. Malpas.	
29.2	Liz Newbery, NBC Neighbourhood Warden, said she was pleased to report that they were now receiving court dates for various prosecutions within the Parish.	

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<b>29</b>	<b>Reports from Outside Agencies (Continued)</b>																
29.3	<p>Damian Lang, Parish Highway Warden, reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The damaged speed hump in Fishponds Road had been given a repair timescale of six months. However, due to damage to a wheel and tyre of a vehicle this has now been reduced to 28 days.</li> <li>➤ The rubbish reported on the path from Station Road to Pennycress Park, which should have been cleared two weeks ago, had finally been collected.</li> <li>➤ Two non-working street lights on Ecton Brook Road have been reported.</li> <li>➤ The pothole on the roundabout in Great Billing Way has been marked to be repaired.</li> <li>➤ The drain near 10 Church Walk has been reported as it is full to the grate with debris.</li> </ul>																
29.4	Cllr. Kilbride added his thanks and best wishes to Cllr. Malpas. He advised that painting at Helicopter Park was taking place and the new playground equipment should be going in this week. He also advised that he has awarded funds for plants to Ecton Brook Residents Association and to Bellinge.																
<b>30</b>	<b>Planning</b>																
30.1	<p><b>N/2021/0038</b> – 39 Valentine Way, Gt Billing – T1 Sycamore – Reduce away from neighbouring property and clean poor pruning cuts. T2 Sycamore – Option 1 to reduce tree by 1.5M or Option 2 to remove tree to ground level. T3 Ash – Reduce by 2-3M and remove large branch overhanging rear boundary.</p> <p><b>N/2021/0059</b> – 52 Valley Road, Lt Billing – Two storey rear extension and loft conversion.</p> <p><b>N/2021/0129</b> – 29 Russet Drive, Lt Billing – Variation of Condition 4 of Planning Permission N/2020/0166 (First floor side extension) to install window in rear elevation.</p> <p><b>N/2021/0162</b> – 20 Cumbrae Drive, Gt Billing – First floor extension and part garage conversion.</p> <p><b>N/2021/0181</b> – 64 Damson Dell, Lt Billing – Ground floor rear extension.</p> <p><b>No comments or objections to any of the above.</b></p>																
30.2	<p>The following determinations had been received from NBC:</p> <p><b>N/2021/0038</b> – 39 Valentine Way, Gt Billing – T1 Sycamore – Reduce away from neighbouring property and clean poor pruning cuts. T2 Sycamore – Option 1 to reduce tree by 1.5M or Option 2 to remove tree to ground level. T3 Ash – Reduce by 2-3M and remove large branch overhanging rear boundary. <b>Approved.</b></p> <p><b>N/2020/1633</b> – 56 Manorfield Close – Single Storey Rear Extension. <b>Approved.</b></p> <p><b>N/2021/0053</b> – First floor side extension. <b>Approved.</b></p>																
<b>31</b>	<b>Finance</b>																
31.1	<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="261 1865 1273 2045"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Power of Expenditure</th> <th>Incl. VAT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Small Business Payroll (Feb Salaries and monthly fee)</td> <td>LGA1972s112</td> <td>3,700.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>British Gas (Electricity Pavilion – 05 Jan to 02 Feb)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>469.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northants CALC ('Off To A Flying Start' – Cllr. Thea Smith)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>44.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Footprint Recycling (Waste Collections Pavilion – Dec)</td> <td>LGA1972s111</td> <td>117.60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Power of Expenditure	Incl. VAT	Small Business Payroll (Feb Salaries and monthly fee)	LGA1972s112	3,700.00	British Gas (Electricity Pavilion – 05 Jan to 02 Feb)	LGA1972s111	469.41	Northants CALC ('Off To A Flying Start' – Cllr. Thea Smith)	LGA1972s111	44.00	Footprint Recycling (Waste Collections Pavilion – Dec)	LGA1972s111	117.60	
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31.2	The schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to Budget for the period to 28.02.21 had been forwarded to all Members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																											
31.3	The Clerk reported that reconciled bank account balances as at 28.02.21 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Current Account                      £19,284.51</li> <li>➤ Reserve Account                        £290,763.57</li> </ul>																																											
31.4	A request for assistance with funding had been received from Bellinge Community Pre-School. Anabela Da Silva explained that reductions in Preschool funding and the general impact of the pandemic had had a devastating effect on their finances. After discussion it was RESOLVED that a sum of £5,000 should be awarded to assist.	Clerk																																										
31.5	Two Parish owned concrete lamp posts in Valley Road, Little Billing had been damaged which necessitated replacement. A quotation of £860.00 each, plus VAT had been received from Aylesbury Mains. RESOLVED this work should go ahead. In addition to this cost an amount of approximately £500 each would be incurred for DNO works.																																											
31.6	Fundraising had taken place at the Elwes Arms over the last few years which had resulted in the purchase of two defibrillators – one for Bellinge and the other for Ecton Brook. Prior to the pandemic an amount of £780 had already been raised for the purchase of a defibrillator to be installed in the old red telephone box in Great Billing. Naturally no fundraising had been able to take place over the past year and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would provide the shortfall in the purchase price, which is anticipated to be a maximum of £750.																																											
<b>32</b>	<b>Other Matters</b>																																											
32.1	Bellinge Field. A copy of a letter received from Mr & Mrs Paver and neighbours of Whiteheart Close had been forwarded to all members, together with notes which it was proposed should form the basis of a reply. This was agreed. The Chairman reported, however, that the bottom of the field was completely waterlogged and he proposed that Northampton Drainage Co be asked to investigate and advise what needs to be done to solve this problem, and to provide a quotation for the work involved.																																											

		Action
<b>32</b>	<b><i>Other Matters (Continued)</i></b>	
32.2	NCC Highways have proposed the painting of double yellow lines in part of High Street, Great Billing in an attempt to prevent parking on the pavement. Those proposed near and in Cattle Hill have caused a lot of dissent with residents and presumably they have lodged their objections with the relevant department. A meeting was held to discuss plans to make the water trough safe following the accident just before Christmas when a visitor to the village fell into it. It was agreed with Highways that heritage-style railings would be erected around the trough and a bollard(s) installed in front.	
32.3	It had come to the notice of the Parish Council that motor vehicles had on occasion driven down the pathway from Lady Winefrides Walk to St. Andrews Church. One of the offenders was the grave digger for the Catholic graveyard and he has now been given a key to the gate at the end of Church Walk. RESOLVED that a sign prohibiting vehicular access be installed at the Lady Windefrides end of the pathway. Should this not prove effective the installation of a bollard would be considered.	<b>GSM</b>
32.4	Election. The postponed elections will take place on Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May with a closing date for nominations of 8 <sup>th</sup> April. The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the Nomination Pack to all members and she will forward detailed instructions in the next day or so. She also offered to hand deliver all completed forms to The Guildhall for those who would like her to do so.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>33</b>	<b><i>Updates</i></b>	
33.1	Bellinge Community House. Information received from the Parish Council's Solicitors regarding the transfer of Bellinge Community House to the Parish Council, which included a Planned 10 year Maintenance Schedule produced by NBC and a copy of the EPC carried out in 2011 (giving a G rating) have raised serious concerns. It was proposed that a full survey of both the Community House and the attached Community Centre be carried out as soon as possible in order to protect the Parish Council and to protect the finances of the parishioners. A quotation had been obtained for this to be carried out by David Cosby Chartered Surveyors at a cost of £950. RESOLVED this should be done as a matter of urgency.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>34</b>	<b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation</i></b>	
34.1	The GSM reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Twenty new commemorative Rowan trees have now been planted in Bellinge Field, with a further ten due to be planted as soon as they are delivered at the end of this week or next. The intention is that a further 30 trees will be planted at the end of the year.</li> <li>➤ Additional trees that are also being planted are two Willows for Fishponds Road, and two Walnut trees for The Leys – one to replace that that died last year.</li> <li>➤ He is also planting 'Midwinter Fire' Dogwood in Bellinge Field.</li> </ul>	
34.2	Cllr. Rockall suggested that the GSM should write an article for inclusion on the Parish Council website regarding the number of trees the Parish Council has planted in the Parish over the last few years.	
34.3	It was proposed that the path in GB Pocket Park be widened by about 2ft with a turning circle at the top. It is something that is needed but it will also eliminate the dog bin man churning up the grass with his vehicle. RESOLVED this first of three stages should be implemented as soon as possible.	

		Action
<b>35</b>	<b><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></b>	
35.1	Cllr. Clements asked if there was anything that could be done with regard to litter and rubbish in someone's garden. Liz Newbery replied that it depended on whether it was deemed an environmental issue or not but she would check the garden in question.	
35.2	Cllr. Mrs Worthington said that she understood from adjacent homeowners that since the police attended GB Pocket Park there had been no further incidents of anti-social behaviour in the evenings. She also reported that a car, with apparently no tax or MOT, had been left in High Street, Great Billing. Although reported to the police it had not been moved as yet.	
35.3	Cllr Mrs Smith reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It was her first day back at work that day after having Covid 19.</li> <li>➤ There would appear to still be a problem with cars being parked in Wildacre Drive and people climbing over into the Academy grounds to play football. The GSM confirmed that this had been reported to PCSO Steve Whiting.</li> <li>➤ She had performed a litter pick and was dismayed by the state of the NBC land prior to the bridge to LB Pocket Park.</li> <li>➤ She was also appalled at the amount of rubbish that had been left at the corner of Fishponds Road and Champion Court. Liz Newbery confirmed this has been investigated and NBC will be taking enforcement action.</li> </ul>	
35.4	Cllr. Brede stated that he believed a letter should be sent to the MP asking him to speak to the Prime Minister with regard to the shortfall in funding for organisations such as Bellinge Community Pre-School. Cllr. Kilbride offered to speak to Andrew Lewer MP.	<b>AK</b>
35.5	Cllr. Burbidge reported that church services were still being held online but it was hoped to hold an open air service on Easter Sunday, but unfortunately singing is still not allowed.	
<b>36</b>	<b><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></b>	
36.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.00 pm. Due to the forthcoming elections there will be NO Parish Council meeting in April and the May meeting will be postponed for one week. Next Meetings, which it is envisaged will once again be held via Zoom: Annual Parish Meeting – 7.00 pm on Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 pm on Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	