



Newsletter no. 38

Summer 2023 Bulletin

# BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Discover more at: [www.billing-pc.gov.uk](http://www.billing-pc.gov.uk)

## Chairman's Report

2022 – 2023



During the last 12 months this Parish Council has been called upon to make decisions and recommendations on many varied projects ranging from planning applications, building subsidence claims, financial support of a local pre-school within a deprived area and volunteer group, support to the police in the fight against anti-social behaviour and criminal activities and the management of our many assets.

This has only been possible because of the professional knowledge and general life experience that you, my fellow councillors, support staff, volunteers and outside agencies possesses.

I must acknowledge this and wish to place on record my thanks to you all for the hard work that you have given.

As to our future plans, these include the refurbishment of walkways, the enhancement of wild flower meadows, replacement of old and unsafe fencing, protection work to prevent the erosion of the river bank in Little Billing Pocket Park and the continued maintenance of our Football Fields and Cricket Pitch, which I understand are the envy of all of the visiting teams.

The problems of dog fouling continue to be an ongoing source of concern, however, it is hoped that with the implementation of the Public Spaces Variation Order this should improve. This will now become a criminal offence not only if you fail to pick up after your dog, but also if you are not carrying the means in which to do so. But, as you are aware, our real concerns are in the current climate, where are the resources to enforce these laws coming from.

As with many problems I just feel these days that bureaucracy abounds and that things are being introduced that are not viable and there appears to be no one that can make a decision without inordinate delays and reams of correspondence.

I am, however, very pleased and confident that I can rely on your support and your "common sense" to make sure that we achieve the very best for our community.

Many Thanks

*John Marlow*

Chairman



# Billing Fayre

Billing Parish once again ushered in the warm weather with the return of its popular annual Parish Fayre, organised by Billing Parish Council, on 24th June.

With 22 stalls to visit, there was plenty for everyone to enjoy; from donkey rides to bouncy castles, crockery smash and the newest addition: a Virtual Reality Simulator.

A bar provided by the Elwes Arms, BBQ by the 55th Little Billing Scouts and live music from *Blast from The Past* supplemented the day's entertainment.

There was also meant to be an RSPCA Dog Show, however, due to the forecast of extreme heat, it was decided that this should not go ahead.

Billing Parish Council's Vice Chairman, Steve Rockall, said:

***"It was brilliant. It was our biggest fayre yet and we were blessed with brilliant weather. I would like to thank all the volunteers and stall holders who helped make the afternoon success".***



## Northants Litter Wombles

The Northants Litter Wombles (NLW's) was formed in January 2021 following the lockdown period during the Covid 19 pandemic.

People went walking for their daily exercise and began to notice how littered Northamptonshire had become. Nicola Elliott, our founder, started a Facebook group which has rapidly grown to some 3,500 members. Up to June 2023 we have collected a staggering **62,870 bags of litter**, improving the environment both for people and wildlife alike and saving the taxpayer over £3 million.

We strongly believe that everyone deserves to live, work, study and play in a place free of litter. It improves the well-being of all and helps to engender pride in local communities and improves the local economy as companies want to invest in the county and tourism blossoms. Unfortunately, our problem is caused by people who think it is acceptable to throw their litter out of car windows, drop their drink can or crisp packet or fly tip their rubbish in the hedgerows for someone else to clear up, including numerous bottles of urine discarded by lorry drivers onto the verges of our main roads.

Our group, named after the famous TV programme, is a group of ordinary people doing the extraordinary every day, who say "enough is enough" and take positive action to clean up our towns and countryside for the benefit of all. We pride ourselves on a 'can do' attitude.

We work through our 40 or so affiliated sub groups throughout Northamptonshire whether it be in the major towns, villages or hamlets. We also educate children and young adults through our school's programme 'Creating Litter Education and Awareness in Northamptonshire' (CLEAN). To this end, we provide schools and uniformed groups with a free 30 minute assembly/presentation



which is informative, engaging, interactive and challenging. By involving children in caring about the problem that litter causes, we aim to encourage and empower them to change their habits and those of the people around them. So far we have reached around 10,000 children across Northamptonshire and have more assemblies booked in. We also follow up with litter picking sessions to support and encourage the children. We use our limited funds to buy little purple Wombles jackets and pickers, which the children love to use!

**Are you ready to play your part?** Could you help us with any expertise such as marketing, grant funding, conference hosting, social media, liaison with change makers, influencers or simply joining us on one of our group litter picks? If so we would love to hear from you. Please contact us via our website at [www.northantslitterwombles.co.uk](http://www.northantslitterwombles.co.uk). Thank you.  
**Sally Romain, Chair, NLW's.**



## A Welcome Visitor

A Muntjac Deer, which are also known as 'the barking deer' because of their dog-like calls, has been spotted in and around Great Billing. They are usually a solitary animal and are normally difficult to spot as they tend to only be active at night. They are notorious browsers, eating the shoots from shrubs as well as woodland herbs and brambles in parkland and, in this case, a garden.

They are the smallest of the deer family in the UK and only stand around half a metre tall at the shoulder (about the size of a Labrador), but have a stocky build. They tend to be a russet brown colour, but in the winter months turn to a dull grey.

The species was introduced to Woburn Park from China by John Russell Reeves in 1838, but, due to a number of deer escaping in the 1920s, they rapidly spread into the surrounding areas, including Northamptonshire.



## Silver Acorn

A Scout leader who lives within the parish has been awarded the 'Silver Acorn' – one of UK's highest scouting achievements – at this year's Day of Celebration and Achievement Awards held at Windsor Castle.

This special event at Windsor Castle, which dates back to 1934, recognises the outstanding achievements of adults and young people through a parade and service, by gift of the Monarch, and is the pinnacle highlight of the Scouting calendar.

Stephen William Graves received the prestigious accolade, which has been awarded for his contribution and distinguished service to scouting for over twenty years.

Steve is among many dedicated Scout leaders who have helped prepare excellent experiences for so many young people, providing many Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with skills for life.

It is richly deserved recognition of the work he has done and continues to do for Scouting.

If you would like to find out more about the Scouts within Billing Parish, please e-mail [steffhine@yahoo.com](mailto:steffhine@yahoo.com)



**from 18th – 20th August**

*A huge weekend of Craft Beers, Live Music & Food.*

### ARE YOU READY?

With thanks to Phipps NBC and LWC Drinks the Elwes Arms will be putting on their first beer festival and its set to be a cracker. Come and join us for a weekend of fun and laughs in your local.



## Who is your clerk?

### Do you know your parish clerk?

This is the person who works with your councillors to make sure that Billing Council provides the services you need in your local neighbourhood. They run the council meetings to which you are invited and is skilled in a range of disciplines to make sure the council runs properly and within the law. They'll be the ones writing to your local MP, liaising with the unitary council about changes to speed limits, car parking and potholes, applying for funding grants for local projects, researching complex planning issues, running the council's finances and managing community buildings and events. They're good in a crisis too!

Clerks are professionals and serve around 10,000 local councils in England and Wales. These councils emerged in 1894 to give a democratic voice to local people and they've changed enormously in that time, particularly during the last 20–30 years. They are real place shapers and, today, many manage and maintain parks, sports facilities, skateparks and recreation grounds, play areas, allotments, community and youth centres, car parks, public toilets, cemeteries, street cleaning, run events and much more. Most of all, clerks and councillors are advocates – the voice for their communities.

Whatever your local council is delivering for your community, your clerk will be at the heart of getting it done. They provide the services that we all notice the most in our neighbourhoods but, disappointingly, they're often not properly recognised for just how much they do.

**For more information about clerks and the work of your local council, please contact Carrie, Clerk to Billing Parish Council, on:**  
[clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk)



RAMBLERS

**WELLBEING  
WALKS**

## Billing Walks

Better wellbeing is just  
**a step away**

### Weekly walks

Meet:	Belling Community House, Fieldmill Road, NN3 9AQ		
On:	Mondays	At:	10:00am (Short Walk) 10:45am (Extended Walk)

-Short walk is 40 minutes  
-Extended walk is 1 hour

**Everyone is welcome!**



# Council Meeting Dates

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Bernard Weston Pavilion on the Playing Fields at Great Billing Pocket Park. Agendas and approved Minutes may be found on the website. Forthcoming meetings will be held on:

11th September 2023	8th January 2024
19th October 2023	12th February 2024
13th November 2023	11th March 2024
11th December 2023	8th April 2024




## Be Extraordinary – become a Billing Parish Councillor!

Are you passionate about where you live?  
Do you want to make a difference to local people's lives?  
Do you have an understanding and desire to represent the views of the whole community?

**Then you could be just what we are looking for!**

If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, please submit a personal statement along with your CV to the clerk, explaining why you would like to become a councillor and what you will bring to the role. Please ensure that you provide your full name, postal address and email address.

**Carrie Goodridge** – Clerk to Billing Parish Council – Bernard Weston Pavilion, Off Penfold Lane, Great Billing Northampton, NN3 9EF  
Email: [clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk) – Tel: 01604 785447



## You now need photo ID to vote at a Polling Station

**This can include your:**

- Passport
- PASS ID Card
- Driving Licence
- Certain travel cards

To see the full list or to check if your photo ID will be accepted, visit:  
[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/VoterID](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/VoterID)

You do not require Photo ID if you vote by post.  
Request a postal vote application form by emailing:  
[electoralservices@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@westnorthants.gov.uk)

**Don't have Photo ID? Apply for free Voter ID:**



Scan our QR code or search for 'Voter ID' at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



## Your Billing Parish Councillors

Find our more at: [www.billing-pc.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.billing-pc.gov.uk/councillors)

		Name	Email	Phone
West Northants Council	Billing & Rectory Farm	James Hill	<a href="mailto:james.hill@westnorthants.gov.uk">james.hill@westnorthants.gov.uk</a>	07869 119 789
		Keith Holland-Delamere	<a href="mailto:keith.holland-delamere@westnorthants.gov.uk">keith.holland-delamere@westnorthants.gov.uk</a>	07599 220 762
		Paul Clark	<a href="mailto:paul.clark@westnorthants.gov.uk">paul.clark@westnorthants.gov.uk</a>	—
	Riverside Park	Andrew Kilbride	<a href="mailto:andrew.kilbride@westnorthants.gov.uk">andrew.kilbride@westnorthants.gov.uk</a>	07714 958 443
		Penelope Flavell	<a href="mailto:penelope.flavell@westnorthants.gov.uk">penelope.flavell@westnorthants.gov.uk</a>	07754 542 233
		Stephen Hibbert	<a href="mailto:stephen.hibbert@westnorthants.gov.uk">stephen.hibbert@westnorthants.gov.uk</a>	07866 021 229
Billing Parish Council	Ecton Brook Ward	Rev. Richard Burbridge	<a href="mailto:rburbridge@billing-pc.gov.uk">rburbridge@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	01604 555 186
		Steve Rockall	<a href="mailto:srockall@billing-pc.gov.uk">srockall@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	07713 077 133
		Stephen Ward	<a href="mailto:sward@billing-pc.gov.uk">sward@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	07710 835 596
	Great Billing Ward	John Marlow	<a href="mailto:jmarlow@billing-pc.gov.uk">jmarlow@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	01604 404 678
		Micheal Pearson	<a href="mailto:mpearson@billing-pc.gov.uk">mpearson@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	01604 407118
		Cheryl Worthington	<a href="mailto:cworthington@billing-pc.gov.uk">cworthington@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	01604 408 613
	Little Billing Ward	David Brede	<a href="mailto:dbrede@billing-pc.gov.uk">dbrede@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	07930 960 241
		John Clements	<a href="mailto:jclements@billing-pc.gov.uk">jclements@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	07764 158 516
		Frank Brett	<a href="mailto:fbrett@billing-pc.gov.uk">fbrett@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	01604 403 525
	Middle Ward (Bellinge)	Gurcharan Kaur Chaggar	<a href="mailto:gchaggar@billing-pc.gov.uk">gchaggar@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	07986 905 963
		Chintu Shah	<a href="mailto:cshah@billing-pc.gov.uk">cshah@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	07789 864 541
	Parish Highway Warden	Damian Lang	<a href="mailto:highwaywarden@billing-pc.gov.uk">highwaywarden@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	—
	Clerk to the Council	Mrs Carrie Goodridge	<a href="mailto:clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk">clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	01604 785447/07395 318 860
		The Bernard Weston Pavilion, Off Penfold Drive, Great Billing, Northampton, NN3 9EF		
	Green Space Manager	Paul Marks	<a href="mailto:greenspacemanager@billing-pc.gov.uk">greenspacemanager@billing-pc.gov.uk</a>	01604 785447/07725 856 784