



BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 11th DECEMBER 2023
AT BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING**

PRESENT

Cllr. J. Marlow (Chairman of Billing Parish Council)
Cllrs. Mrs C. Worthington, Mr D. Brede, Mr F. Brett, Mr J. Clements and Mr. S. Rockall.

Also Present:

Mrs. C. Goodridge (Clerk to Billing Parish Council)
Mr. P. Marks (Green Space Manager)
Mr. D. Lang (Highways Warden)
No Parishioners

Item no		Action
149	<i>Apologies for Absence</i> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs. G. Chaggar, Rev. R. Burbidge, Mr C. Shah and Mr S. Ward.	
150	<i>Minutes</i> The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 th November 2023 (Folio Nos. 058/2023 – 063/2023) were approved and signed as a true record.	
151	<i>To Receive Declarations of Interest Under the Council's Code of Conduct</i> None Received	
152	<i>To receive requests for dispensation</i> None received	
153	<i>Public Forum</i> None	
154	<i>Reports from Outside Agencies</i> Damian Lang, Parish Highway Warden reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of fly tips • Pot hole on Station Road has been repaired 	
155 a	<i>Planning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023/7656/TCA – 3 Elwes Way, Great Billing - T1 and T2 Sycamores - Reduce the crowns in height and spread by approximately 4 metres. T3 1 x Silver Birch to the Rear Boundary - Reduce in height and spread by approximately 3 metres. T4 1 x Over Extended Silver Birch Located Closest to the Driveway - Reduce in height by approximately 5 metres – NO objections 	

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155	Planning (continued)																																																																																													
b	The following determinations had been received from WNC: <ul style="list-style-type: none">None received																																																																																													
156	Finance																																																																																													
a	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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b	The schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to Budget up to 30.11.23 had been forwarded to all Members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																																																																													
c	The Clerk reported that reconciled bank account balances as at 30.11.23 were: <table><tr><td>Current Account</td><td>£16,978.40</td></tr><tr><td>Reserve Account</td><td>£ 366,386.63</td></tr></table>	Current Account	£16,978.40	Reserve Account	£ 366,386.63																																																																																									
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156	Finance (continued)	
d	RESOLVED that the cost of £2250.00 plus VAT to J F Tree Services to complete a Tree Risk Assessment Survey on all parish owned land be approved (in retrospect).	Clerk
e	RESOLVED that the cost of £850.00 plus VAT to KAMS Tree care to reduce Pocket Park Ash Tree by 3-4 meters be approved. GSM to arrange start date.	GSM
f	RESOLVED that the cost of £565.00 plus VAT to Garden Machines to supply a Stihl BR800 knapsack commercial leaf blower. GSM to order.	GSM
g	RESOLVED that the cost of £416.40 including vat to G M Lawrence Electrical Ltd to repair and replace lights from funds provided by Cllr. Kilbride be approved. The clerk will make payment.	Clerk
h	RESOLVED to proceed with the three-year account closedown and annual support and maintenance contract at a annual coat of £825.00 excluding vat to give a five percent saving be approved. Clerk to complete contract with Rialtas.	Clerk
157	Other Matters	
a	Remaining Funds RESOLVED that the remaining £583.60 funds given to the parish by Cllr. Kilbride be put towards the clock repair being completed by Smith of Derby. Clerk will arrange for the invoice to be sent so payment can be made at the earliest opportunity.	Clerk
b	Annual Play Inspection Report The annual inspection had been carried out on the parish-owned playground and a copy of the report forwarded to all members. It has highlighted that there is considerable damage to the wet pour flooring under the double set of swings and deem the equipment to be High Risk. The GSM has taken the swings off so it can no longer be used and has some wet pour flooring to relay in better weather conditions. The Council understand there are a number of other risks but they are all low or very low and these will be closely monitored as suggested. The GSM will look into costs for new play equipment.	GSM
c	No Mow May Throughout May, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) will be taking part in the National Campaign No Mow May. This means that certain designated green areas will be left to grow, encouraging biodiversity and giving nature a helping hand to bloom. Billing Parish have been asked if they would like to participate and have areas that are normally mowed by WNC left. After much discussion it was RESOLVED that Billing Parish Council will not participate with WNC however will participate by leaving certain areas of parish owned land to flower and grow.	
158	Updates	
a	Clerk update The Clerk reported that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget – Ongoing, Parish Magazine – have started to be delivered. Drop kerb – no response from the planning department as yet 	

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158	<p>Updates (continued)</p> <p>a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beacon - Still awaiting cost from Bullfinch for beacon including the Parish crest. • Beach marketing – Awaiting Steve Bishop to provide a meeting date to discuss his proposal. • CCLA – awaiting lee to confirm if he is able to attend January’s parish council meeting. • Asset of Community Value application for Bellinge Community House is in progress. • The three broken street lamps have now been repaired. <p>b</p> <p>Sporting Update</p> <p>A request to hire the cricket pitch every Saturday for training between April and September has been received; however, this would close out any club that wants to hold matches. The clerk advised she will approach Abington Phoenix to see if they still require the ground for matches but will give them a response deadline. If no response is received within given time frame, then the field hire will be given to the other hirer.</p> <p>An e-mail has been received from Billing United asking if it is possible for the pitches not to be used by another hirer for coaching purposes due to the deterioration of the pitch. The clerk has advised that she will discuss this further with Billing United.</p> <p>c</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour Bellinge MUGA</p> <p>The clerk advised that west Northants Council have confirmed that this is being locked as early as their work load allows and unlocked (the padlock being taken away).</p> <p>d</p> <p>Ecton Brook Linear Park</p> <p>No further update</p> <p>e</p> <p>Climate Emergency</p> <p>No further update</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
159	<p>Leisure & Recreation</p> <p>a</p> <p>GSM Update</p> <p>Paul Marks, Parish Green Space Manager reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual fire extinguisher inspection has been completed with two new extinguishers being required due to no longer being in date. • The Little Billing noticeboard has been installed • The Little Billing defibrillator and bleed kit has been installed <p>b</p> <p>Little Billing Pocket Park Update</p> <p>In his absence Michael Clasper, Little Billing Pocket Park Volunteer Group, had forwarded the following report:</p> <p>A volunteering session took place on 11th November. Three volunteers checked and oiled the tools and machinery, strimmed part of the orchard and recreation area and collected litter and fly tipped rubbish.</p>	

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159 c	<p><i>Leisure & Recreation (continued)</i></p> <p>Ecton Brook Residents Group</p> <p>In her absence Sally Jordan, Ecton Brook Residents Association, had forwarded the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual advent window trail started on 1st December. Children have 33 advent windows to find which each have a letter which makes a phrase. • Due to bad weather Father Christmas didn't complete his walk about however was stationed in a gazebo for the children to visit. • Carol singing will be taking place for the residents of Pennycress Place and Sotherby Rise on 19th December from 4pm. 	
160 a	<p><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></p> <p>Cllr. Rockall confirmed that he is unable to take part in the discussions regarding the Ecton Brook Hub due to a family connection with a staff member at WNC. He has advised that Cllr. Hill has been assured by WNC that a planning application for the Hub will be submitted and the possibility of funding by the way of Community Infrastructure Levy from the housing developer on the Ecton Brook care home site will be looked into.</p> <p>He also wanted to advise that the Elwes Arms may contact regarding assistance with a replacement battery for the defibrillator.</p>	
	b	
	c	
	d	
	e	
161	<p><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></p> <p>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.19 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th January 2024 at Bernard Weston Pavilion, Gt. Billing.</p>	