



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 9th JUNE 2025
AT BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING**

PRESENT Cllr. Mr S. Rockall (Vice Chair of Billing Parish Council)
Cllrs. Mr D. Brede, Rev. Richard Burbidge, Mrs. G Chaggar, Mr. R. Chamberlin and
Mr. G. Gardner.

Also Present: Mrs. C. Goodridge (Clerk to Billing Parish Council)
Mr. P. Marks (Green Space Manager)
Mr. M. Deakes (WNC Councillor)
Steve Hoadley (PCSO Northants Police)
No Parishioners

Item no		Action
066	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs, Mr. F. Brett and Mr. J. Marlow. Apologies were also received from Mr. D. Lang (Highways Warden) and Cllr. Mr. S. Hays (WNC). No apologies received from Cllrs Patel or Ward.	
067	Minutes The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 th May 2025 (Folio Nos. 017/2025 to 024/2025) were approved and signed as true records.	
068	To Receive Declarations of Interest Under the Council's Code of Conduct None Received	
069	To receive requests for dispensation None received	
070	Public Forum No one in attendance to speak.	
071	Reports from Outside Agencies	
a	In the absence of Damian Lang, Parish Highway Warden the clerk confirmed he had reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three out of the six green traffic lights near The Academy which were not working. • Pothole on speed bump on Ecton Brook Road. 	
b	PCSO Hoadley reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two burglaries and four vehicle crimes had been reported in the Parish in May. • A fight between two men took place outside Ecton Brook Post Office last week. As there was report of knives being involved, armed police were deployed as a precaution. • Two people illegally riding motorbikes have been apprehended. 	

Item no		Action
071	Reports from Outside Agencies (continued)	
c	Cllrs. Deakes (WNC) didn't have a report however did want to ask the clerk if she received highway work notifications. She confirmed she does for works within both Great and Little Billing however not for Bellinge, Ecton Brook or the Wellingborough Road. He will discuss this with the Highways Department.	
072	Planning	
a	<p>To consider the following planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025/1851/TPO - 1 Kensington Gate, Penfold Drive, Great Billing - Two branches of tree overhanging the house roof require trimming back as debris from tree is falling on roof and causing blocked drains and squirrels gaining access to roof and attic space from overhang - No comments or objections • 2025/1860/TPO - 1 Kensington Gate, Penfold Drive, Great Billing - Norway Spruce examined by Cams Tree Care (Tree Surgeon) stated there is a lot of die back from the crown with lots of dead wood and the branches are yellowish and brown in colour. Tree is dying and recommended to apply for council permission to remove - No comments or objections • 2025/1920/TPO - 32 Valentine Way, Great Billing – T5 Lime: Reduce lower part of crown growing towards house (no. 32) and over neighbour's garden to East, back in line with rest of crown (approx. 1-1.5m). Crown lift where necessary to match height of lowest branches to West aspect. Thin crown by approximately 15-20%. Remove dead wood 25mm diameter and above - No comments or objections • 2025/2057/FULL - 21 Standing Stones, Great Billing - Detached 2 Bed annex building to rear garden – The clerk confirmed that both herself and Cllr. Marlow had been approached by several residents from Standing Stones. They advised that although they had no objections to the annex, they felt that should planning be granted that this would then be used for business use would be contrary to a covenant on the property deeds. It was RESOLVED that comments would be submitted outlining the residents' concerns. 	Clerk
b	<p>The following determinations had been received from WNC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025/1308/PA - 7 Chedworth Close, Ecton Brook - Prior Approval for enlargement by addition of additional storey as shown on Dwg No: 7/CC/25/01 – Refused 	
c	<p>Other planning queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WNN/2023/0488 - Beech House, 44 Penfold Lane, Great Billing – Number of Velux windows installed is more than shown on the approved plan. There are an additional three installed on the rear of the property and two at the front. Concerns have been raised this area will not be used as storage as suggested on the plan but two additional bedrooms. It was RESOLVED that this been highlighted to the planning department for investigation. • 20 High Street, Great Billing – It was highlighted by a resident to the GSM that the main house is being rented out as a holiday let, therefore the Studio may well being used by the owners to live in which is not in accordance with the approved use, as the studio is intended to be ancillary to the main dwelling It was RESOLVED that this been highlighted to the planning department for investigation. 	Clerk Clerk

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073	Finance																																																																																								
a	RESOLVED that the following list of payments from 1 st May to 31 st May 2025 be APPROVED:																																																																																								
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b	RESOLVED that the schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to Budget up to 31 st May 2025 be APPROVED.																																																																																								
c	RESOLVED that May 2025 bank reconciliation statements for the current, reserve and CCLA account be APPROVED and were duly signed by Cllr. Brede. The account balances as of 31 st May 2025 were:																																																																																								
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d	RESOLVED that the following works authorised by the clerk under the agreed Scheme of Delegation in May be APPROVED:																																																																																								
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e	It was RESOLVED that the additional 5.75 hours of overtime in May (in excess of pre-approved 10 hours) for the clerk be APPROVED. Clerk to advised Small Business Payroll.				Clerk																																																																																				
f	RESOLVED that the quotation provided by Bell Fencing Services for £1300.00 (no vat as not vat registered) to supply and install 25m of 1.2m high post and rail fencing between The Leys and Cherry Blossom Close APPROVED. The funds will be taken from The Leys earmarked reserves. GSM will arrange a start date.				GSM																																																																																				
g	RESOLVED that the quotation provided by Vegetation Management Training for £240.00 plus vat for the Green Space Manager to attend the Lantra Basic Tree Inspection course be APPROVED. The funds will be taken from Staff Training earmarked reserves. GSM will book the course.				GSM																																																																																				
h	RATIFIED APPROVAL to renew the parish telephone and broadband contract (24 months) at £37.99 plus vat with Clear Business, following news that Daisy Communications have been unable to connect the pavilion to their service.																																																																																								

Item no		Action
073	Finance (continues)	
i	RATIFIED APPROVAL to renew the parish insurance on a three-year discounted contract with Zurich Insurance at a cost of £3904.15 (no vat).	
074	Other Matters	
a	<p>Michael Pearson</p> <p>Following much discussion, it was APPROVED that a tree be dedicated to Micheel Pearson in recognition for his service to Billing Parish Council on The Leys. The plaque shall read “Michael Pearson. In recognition of his services as Billing Parish Councillor from 10th June 1991 – 1st May 2025. GSM to arrange.</p>	GSM
b	<p>Sally Jordan</p> <p>It was with great sadness that Cllr. Rockall announced the sad passing of Sally Jordan Chairperson of Ecton Brook Residents Group. He attended the remembrance service on 31st May, and the general discussion was that should a new community hub be built as previously implied by West Northants Council, that it should be dedicated to Sally. After a discussion around development on the old care home site which should have included a community hub as part of a section 106 agreement, Cllr. Deakes advised that he will pursue this with WNC.</p>	MD
c	<p>Bernard Weston Hire Fees</p> <p>A discussion took place about the groups that currently hire the space and the Parish Council’s ethos regarding its use. Due to the number of factors that need to be taken into consideration was RESOLVED that a working group including the clerk and Cllrs. Brede, Gardner and Rockall would complete a review of the current prices in line with outgoing costs and bring the findings to a future council meeting. Clerk to arrange a meeting date.</p>	Clerk DB GG SR
d	<p>Grant Application from Road Safety Community Fund</p> <p>Following a discussion about the safety concerns caused by illegal parking during school drop-off and pick-up times and the resulting damage to the verges along Little Billing Way, it was RESOLVED that no grant application (costs towards the installation of bollards) will be submitted until an on-site meeting has been held with Highways to explore any alternative solutions. Clerk to arrange this.</p>	Clerk
075	Updates	
a	<p>Clerk update</p> <p>The Clerk reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has attended the following meetings: - Larger Parish Council Teams Meeting, Good Neighbour meeting with WNC and Northants ACRE, Parish History and Catch up with Alan Burns and Sophie Ellidge WNC Parish Liaisons. • Has an appointment with Records Office next week to review minutes from 1950/60s to see if the ownership of the pump or tough was ever transferred to Billing Parish Council by the Water Board. • Sent off all required External Auditors documentation to PFK Little John. • The flower baskets have been installed. • Still no update from WNC regarding the repair of the hole on Little Billing Village Green, installation of a dog waste bin in or around the area of Little Billing Village Green or the overhanging trees on Orchard Hill by the alleyway. • Reported numerous issues to WNC (Highways & Trees) and Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH). • Started putting together some articles for the Summer Parish Magazine. Cllr. Rockall suggested putting in an article about flower baskets. • The £1000.00 grant has been transferred to Little Billing Pocket Park Volunteers Group. • The period of the Exercise of Public Rights has commenced. 	

Item no		Action
075	<p>Updates (continued)</p> <p>a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Expenses and Member Interest Forms have been submitted to WNC. • Started to update the website with policy and financial documents and updated councillor information. <p>b Sporting Update The clerk advised that herself, Cllr. Rockall and the GSM had a meeting with Jamie Clark (Chair) and the Sam Pearce (Club Secretary) from Billing United. The following was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches - Goal mouths to be reseeded by the GSM • Line Marking - Billing United have a third party to initially mark out the two pitches for the new season. Once this has been done the GSM agreed to continue this weekly at an extra cost to the club. GSM to provide costs to the clerk. • New Metal foldaway goals – Agreed that should Billing United purchase new goals that they could store them at the back of the pavilion if they fit without causing any obstruction from the fire exit doors. • Friendlies - They can happen during the summer but during the week games must start after 5pm (except on the 2nd Wednesday of every month). During weekends games must be finished by 11.30am. <p>c Billing Fayre The GSM reported that pitch requests are still being received, and crockery is still required for the crockery smash. He also asked for volunteers who would be available to help on the day, Cllrs Chaggar, Chamberlin and Gardner advised that they will be available and agreed to attend the event. The Clerk advised that Mike Reader MP shall also be in attendance between 2.30pm - 3pm.</p>	
076	<p>Leisure & Recreation</p> <p>a GSM Update Paul Marks, Parish Green Space Manager reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fence in the Graden of Reflection has been completed. • On going mowing, stimming and hedge cutting. <p>b Little Billing Pocket Park Update In Michael Claspers, Little Billing Pocket Park Volunteer Groups, absence the clerk advised they had forwarded the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A volunteering session took place on 24th May. Due to the wet weather the removal of litter and fly tipped rubbish took priority. <p>c Ecton Brook Residents Group No report had been received following the sad news of Sally Jordan. The clerk asked the councillors if they knew who had/would be taking over as the chair of Ecton Brook Residents Group. Cllr. Deakes advised that he was unable to answer the question however he did have a contact for an administrator for the Facebook page. The Clerk asked Cllr. Deakes whether he could, with his contacts consent, share their details with her. If received she will contact them.</p> <p>d Bellinge Residents Group Cllr. Chaggar informed the meeting that Rachel Clarke is currently leading the group, but they're unable to meet due to lack of access to Bellinge Community House. The Clerk will contact Chloe Turner (WNC Community Safety & Engagement Team) to explore options with Community Spaces Northampton. With Rachel's consent, Cllr. Chaggar will share her contact details with the Clerk to keep her updated.</p>	Clerk

Item no		Action
077 a	<p><i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i></p> <p>Cllr. Gardner advised that the flower baskets that have been installed across the parish look great however the Victorian lampposts that have been used are looking tatty and in need of repainting. The clerk advised that she has tried to contact the company that completed this work previously, but it seems that the company no longer exists. She has sent a request for recommendations from other clerks via the Northampton branch of Society of Local Council Clerks but yet had no responses. Cllr. Rockall suggested that she contact Metcalf Commercial Decorators to see if this is a service that they offer.</p>	
078	<p><i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i></p> <p>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.37pm. The next meeting will be the held at 7.30 pm on Monday 14th July 2025 at Bernard Weston Pavilion, Gt. Billing.</p>	