

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at Billingford Village Hall

Present:- Cllr A Lake, Cllr Skinn, Cllr S Harris, Cllr M Baldwin, Cllr V Wilson, Cllr P Payne
and Cllr Mary Reeve

Others Present: - 18 members of the Public and Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge

Matters raised under time allocated to the Public

A resident stated that last spring an alternative proposal was discussed regarding the Fuel Allotment Scheme and he wanted to know what progress had been made. The Fuel Allotment Trustees had met with Mr Graham Tuttle, it was a positive meeting, and he went away with some questions, but Mr Tuttle has now resigned. Answers to the questions have not yet been given. There was some discussion regarding who the Trustees are. The resident discussing the matter felt the Parish Council Chairman was not giving all the facts and he is concerned as to what is happening regarding the £50,000 that is the Fuel Charity money.

A Speedwatch volunteer stressed the point that more volunteers are desperately needed.

There was some discussion regarding the poor Broadband speed in the village and the residents wished to know if anything could be done to get better Broadband. A resident stated that he had been told that Fibre Optic will be in the village eventually.

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence to be received.

2. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda

Cllr Payne declared a Personal Interest under item 6. Planning Issues.

3. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on October 24th 2017 and 16th January 2018

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Baldwin proposed that the minutes of October 24th be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Skinn and carried, so the Chairman signed them as a true copy. Cllr Harris proposed that the minutes of January 16th be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Lake and carried, so the Chairman signed them as a true copy.

4. To discuss any matters from the minutes of October and January (not on the agenda)

There were no matters arising.

5. To discuss Correspondence received

The only mail received was a newsletter from the Open Spaces Society and a donation appeal from the Society. The Parish Council decided not to send a donation on this occasion.

6. To discuss any Planning Issues

3PL/2017/1379/LB and 3PL/2017/1378/HOU, Billingford Hall, Elmham Road, Mr M Payne, closure of the existing road access to the site & creation of a new road access arrangement into the site. The Parish Council did not have any objections to this application. It was decided upon since the last meeting and the comments had been logged on Breckland's website.

3PL/2017/1613/F Mrs C Brahimi, open field accessed to the w. of Bintree Rd., erection of dwelling & garage. The Chairman of the Parish Council allowed the Public to speak during the discussion of this application. A resident spoke about the application because they felt it was tenuous and had some inaccuracies. Problems with water, ditches and flooding were discussed. He said there were no dimensions available on the website and he felt the ecology report was not accurate. He felt it would be a shame to lose the meadow, which is such a lovely piece of land. The applicant was asked questions regarding flooding and the drainage report. There were concerns as there is nothing on the website about foul water management. The applicant reassured the resident that there was no risk of contamination. However, Mr Lake stated that when he went for a walk to look at the site he thought there was a strong 'smell'. Cllr Bambridge was asked about Breckland's modified rules for building on a flood plain. He said it is possible for houses to be built on a flood plain. He did not think there were any rules regarding this. A resident thought this was a real concern and wished for the Parish Council to write to Breckland about the matter, Cllr Skinn felt access and drainage were two factors that needed to be considered, when dealing with this application. He wondered how it affected upstream and downstream. The applicant stated she has confidence in the hydrology report and whether she builds or not, there will still be a problem but if measures are put in place it would improve it. 70 metres of a drain running from a gateway up to the North corner will be better than the present grips.

Highways visited the site today and they are on the case to sort out flooding problems and they saw what the problems are. The applicant wants the house to be perfectly fine for everyone and she felt everyone should work together and look at their drains. To date, seven surveys have been carried out. The actual build itself will have no run offs and the track will be permeable. The channels running to the front of the property and across it will improve other people's properties. On or off the site there will be no more of an effect than there is now and there will be an improvement. She thanked everyone for their involvement.

A Parish Councillor felt there are too many issues unanswered and another felt the brief is not clear because information is not adequate. The Parish Council voted 5 against and 2 abstained from voting.

3PL/2017/1460/HOU Mr Graham Wade, Common View, Hall Lane, 2 storey extension and renovation to existing dwelling, planning permission has been received.

It seems Mr Hammond, at Blacksmith Cottage, Bintree Road, has built a garage on the opposite side to his property without obtaining planning permission. The Clerk was asked to contact Breckland about this,

7. To discuss Highways Matters

Mr Ben Rayner met with Cllrs Payne and Reeve recently. The point of the meeting was to discuss options for reducing traffic speed. There are more lorries coming through the village and when the road near the Dinosaur Park is bigger, that will stop some of the lorries. Signage will be put up to try to stop the lorries. Mr Rayner stated it would be complicated to try to get the 30 m.p.h. sign at the west of the village moved but he could get the village sign moved. He can organise a speed trap sign to go up. Some signs can be put up on the west of the village. It is doubtful if a 20 m.p.h. sign will go up as the criteria cannot be reached. There are sugar beet lorries going down the Bintree Road and the idea of writing to the farmers was discussed to see if there could be some co-operation.

Highways could put a reflective sign outside the property West View. It is a white painted sign that resembles a gate. There is already one on the east of the village. The property West View juts out a bit. Cllr Lake suggested Cllr Payne go and speak to him about the situation. It seems the Police are going to carry out night time police speed checks.

To discuss the Community Speedwatch progress

More volunteers are definitely needed and at the moment all the volunteers live at the same end of the village. It would be good to recruit some volunteers who live at the other end. Some of the volunteers attended the recent SNAP meeting and they found it informative. The Police offered to help carry out the Speedwatch during the dark evenings.

Although not the subject of Speedwatch, once this discussion had finished it was decided to carry out a village Litter Pick on Tuesday 27th February.

8. To discuss progress re recruiting a volunteer for the SAM2 sign when sited in the village

Cllr Payne and Cllr Reeve offered to become volunteers for the SAM2 sign.

9. To authorize financial payments

The Parish Council agreed to pay the following necessary financial payments:-

Clerk's net salary for November – February £565.44	HMRC Tax for November – February £141.40
Clerk's expenses for August – March £133.40	Information Comm. Office £35.00
Mazars LLP (external auditors) £540.00	

Since the last meeting a cheque for £323.91 had been issued to Gressenhall Parish Council, being the fifth cost of the SAM2 sign.

Mr Ian Warren had been asked if he was willing to carry out this year's Internal Audit and he had stated that he would carry out this task, so there was no need to find anyone else.

10. To discuss the play equipment for the playing field situation

Cllr Lake and Cllr Harris are still working on this project.

11. To discuss update on the idea of purchasing a small piece of land from N.C.C.

The Clerk had spoken to a member of NPS Property Consultants earlier that day and was informed the situation was 'stale mate' as Norfolk County Council still had not stated the price that was needed for the piece of land.

12. To discuss the new impending rules regarding Data Protection

The Clerk had distributed information regarding the new rules that will be implemented in May. The Parish Council will need a Data Protection Officer and Cllr Harris proposed the Clerk take on this role, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried. The Clerk accepted the position. She did state that it was essential that some members of the Parish Council attend a training course on the subject. She had already attended a course, but it was not advisable that only she had the knowledge as it would be the Parish Council that would be fined, not her, should a problem occur.

13. To discuss the website

Cllr Lake stated that he wished the website was able to display Village information and events. As the Parish Council still holds some funding for website work, he will speak to Mr Jackman regarding improving the website and find out about costs.

14. To receive items for the next agenda

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
Adoption of the end of year accounts
Creation of the Data Protection Committee
Adoption of the General Data Protection Policy
Amendment to the Standing Orders
Amendment to the Clerk's contract of employment

15. To set the remaining meeting dates

The dates for the remaining meetings are as follows:-

Tuesday May 15th
Tuesday July 31st
Tuesday October 23rd

16. To confirm date and time of next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is set for Tuesday 15th May 2018 at 7.30 p.m. This meeting will be preceded at 7.00 p.m. by the Annual Parish meeting. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

.....
Clerk

.....
Date