

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at Billingford Village Hall

Present:- Cllr Arthur Lake (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Skinn, Cllr Stephanie Harris, Cllr Melvyn Baldwin and Cllr Janice Tortice

Other Members Present:- 9 members of the Public and Dist. Cllr Bill Borrett

Matters raised under time allocated to the Public

Mr Warren queried why the minutes and the public notice advertising the meeting were not on the notice board. Cllr Lake explained that they had been put on, blew away, and then were put on again but once again blew away, due to the very windy weather. He was asked why the new notice board had not yet been put up and apologies for this fact. He promised it would go up soon. The question of renewing the old play equipment was discussed and the Clerk informed those present that grants are available for this purpose. Mr Lawrence asked about the situation regarding having allotments in the village as he would like one, There was some discussion regarding Breckland Council having gifted some land at the bottom of Festival Road for allotment. The Clerk was asked to email Cllr Mary Reeve to see if she could spread some light on the situation. The Local Plan was discussed and Cllr Borrett said that one of the proposals is to give Parish Councils more say on planning applications. What is proposed is that if there is no boundary and there is support for some development, then the Parish Council will be given the power to have more say on the matter. He suggested the Parish Councillors look at Breckland's planning policies.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mary Reeve and Cllr Mike Roythorne and these were accepted.

Apologies for absence were also received from Cllr Gordon Bambridge.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

There were no Interests declared.

3. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2015

All the Parish Councillors agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and agreed that the Chairman should sign them as a true copy.

4 To discuss any matters arising from the last minutes (not on the agenda)

There were no matters arising.

5. To discuss Correspondence

The only mail received was a letter of thanks for the donation from the Citizens Advice Bureau. Cllr Lake had received two telephone calls recently from residents, both making complaints. One complaint was regarding the constant depositing of dog fouling material in the village, but the Parish Council did not feel it could do very much about this, as dog bins are installed but not used by the offenders. The other complaint was regarding the large puddle on the field outside Cllr Lake's house. He has spoken to Highways and he was told that they will rod the pipe within a month. The pond overflows onto the road and Highways are aware of this.

6. To discuss any Planning Issues

Billingford Lakes – there are one or two things happening at the Lakes and a few things that are not happening. Breckland Council are aware of the situation. A tree came down and the road was blocked for a while and apologies were made by Bridget Hall who employed a tree surgeon. He took quite a while dealing with the problem.

7. To discuss any Highways issues

There had been a flooding issue, due to the amount of rain that had fallen, and Mr Harris had to contact Norfolk County Council. The Highways Dept. came out and looked at the problem but flooding keeps occurring.

8. To decide whether or not to pursue the idea of purchasing a SAM speed flashing sign

The deadline for submitting applications relating to the Parish Partnership with Norfolk County Council had passed, so Cllr Lake will inform Cllr Roythorne there is no point pursuing this idea.

9. To receive an update regarding the installation of the new notice board situation

Now that Cllr Skinn had returned from his holiday, he and Cllr Lake will organise the new notice board being put up within the next few weeks.

10. To authorize any necessary financial payments

The Parish Council agreed to authorize payment of the following transactions:-

G Hubbard (Jan.-Feb.) Expenses £36.92

11. To receive an update on the defibrillators

The Clerk tried to obtain a defibrillator for the parish but the stock held by the British Heart Foundation had been exhausted and there were none available. If the opportunity arises again, she will try again.

12. To receive an update on the Transparency Code funding available

The application was accepted and it was forwarded to the Panel. Cllr Skinn is awaiting confirmation that it will be accepted.

13. To discuss progress with the Website

NALC were instructed to develop the website that already exists. Cllr Skinn will submit a history of the parish to go on the website, along with some photographs.

14. To receive an update on the Fuel Allotment Charity Committee

Solicitors have been in contact with Cllr Skinn and the situation is going forward. Cllr Lake proposed Mr Andrew Cutcher becomes a Trustee of the Charity seconded by Cllr Skinn and carried. Cllr Lake will make contact with Mr Cutcher about this appointment.

15. To discuss the Local Development Plan

This was discussed under the Public Participation period. The Parish Council is in favour of the opportunity to be able to support small scale development where it thinks it is appropriate.

16. To report on the progress with litter picking

Cllr Baldwin cleared the playing field of litter over the Christmas period. Cllr Lake had cleared some litter from Hold Lane and he wondered whether the Main Road should be litter picked. He suggested that the Parish Councillors organise a litter pick along the Main Road on a weekend and this idea will be

pursued. Saturday 20th February at 10.00 a.m. was suggested and it was a date and time that others could attend.

17. To receive items for next agenda

No items were requested.

18. To confirm date for the next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is set for Tuesday 24th May 2016 at 7.30 p.m. This meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish meeting at 7.00 p.m.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

..... Date
Chairman

..... Date
Clerk