

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday March 3rd 2020 at 7.30 p.m. at Billingford Village Hall

Present:- Cllr Arthur Lake, Cllr Michel Davies (Chairman), Cllr Philippa Payne,
Cllr Roger Thorneley, Cllr Val Wilson and Cllr Mary Reeve

Other Members Present: - 7 members of the Public

Matters raised under time allocated to the Public.

Mr Lake questioned whether the meeting was 'legal' as the minutes of the November meeting had not been displayed on the Notice Board. He was informed that as long as the Public Notice is displayed for 3 days then the meeting is legal.

A resident spoke about the mess caused by the Saturday Auction and the Chairman assured him that the matter was in hand. Another resident asked if it is possible to get some 'No Parking Signs' put up. The Chairman told him that would not be possible. Mr Lake had spoken to the Police Force and had asked if a member of the Police could visit Billingford regarding this problem. There was some discussion as to whether holding the Auctions were actually financially beneficial to the Village Hall. The people who run the auction Hire the Village Hall each week for a set fee, no other money is received by the Village Hall. The income and commission from the sale is kept by the people running the Auction. There was a difference of opinion amongst those present as to whether the village did actually benefit from the auction. Because such a mess is created from the Auction the idea of reducing the number of Auctions a month was discussed but it was felt that definitely would not be beneficial.

Mrs Reeve asked what was happening on the 'Todd Land' and she was told no-one really knew. Mr Thorneley stated that about 3 years ago he and someone else were trying to put a case together for keeping the Footpath open but it is work in progress.

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence

Cllr Davies welcomed those present. Cllr Gordon Bambridge is still unwell so his apologies were minuted.

2. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda

There were no Interests declared.

3. To confirm minutes of the meetings held on 26th November 2019

At the meeting in November Cllr Lake raised an issue regarding the Trustees, saying he cannot see on the Charity Commission website any mention regarding fixed terms and Trustees. The Chairman distributed a letter from the Charity Commission dated 1998 and this letter was discussed. There was a strong debate over whether it is or is not possible for people to be re-appointed as Trustees and the discussion finished with disagreement. Consequently no-one proposed or seconded the signing of the Minutes, so they were left unsigned. This issue will have to be dealt with at the May meeting.

4. To discuss any matters from the minutes of 26th November (not on the agenda)

Cllr Lake said that 'for the first time in living memory NO grants were made from the Fuel Charity at Christmas 2019'. Mr Warren responded by saying cheques would be issued within the following week.

5. To discuss Correspondence received

Email from The Utility Supplier Ltd regarding the electric switch stating it is now finished.

Donation request from Norfolk Accident Rescue Service. Cllr Payne proposed a £50.00 donation be sent, seconded by Cllr Thorneley and carried.

Donation request from Priscilla Bacon Hospice. No donation will be sent.

Email from Steve Jackman regarding meeting the new websites accessibility regulations. Cllr Davies proposed he be asked to carry out the work at a cost of £45.00, seconded by Cllr Thorneley and carried. The Clerk will deal with this.

Email from Damian Lloyd regarding auctions and the playing field. Cllr Davies has spoken to the Village Hall Committee and when the weather conditions improve the damage will be dealt with, such as grass reseeding, etc. The Village Hall Committee intends to fence off the play equipment area.

6. To authorize financial payments

Cllr Davies proposed the following payments be made, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried.

Clerk's net salary for December to March £707.40 HMRC Tax December to March £124.60

Clerk's expenses for December to March £74.64

Open Space Society membership renewal £45.00 Norfolk Accident Rescue Service £50.00 I.C.O. £40.00 (£35.00 for d.d. payment). The Parish Council agreed the Clerk should set up a yearly direct debit payment, thus saving £5.00.

7. To receive a report from the Community Speedwatch organisers

Cllr Wilson reported that the Community Speedwatch organisers starting working again when the weather improved. Some more checking will take place soon and there are some new people now involved. Nine people are listed as being on the team but they do not all work regularly. Three more people are getting involved so all in all there are about twelve people in the team.

8. To discuss Actions on B1145 Traffic

The reply from the Highways Department was, in most part, unsatisfactory so Cllr Davies asked County Cllr Borrett to help organise a meeting with the necessary people and make it a Public Meeting, but at the moment no date has officially be set.

9. Update on SAM signs

The sign was sited in the village last month for a few weeks. There is general increase in the speed of the traffic so Cllr Payne felt more Police checks should be done. The actual speed done indicates whether the speed indicator is working and a car was driven through the village at a speed of 80 m.p.h. The sign will come to the village again soon and then it will be fixed to the top of Holl Lane on a post.

10. To discuss any Planning Issues

Visit to a meeting by Mr Matthew Philpot from Norfolk Rivers IDB.

To decide on which Authorities need to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss Flooding issues.

Cllr Davies explained that Mr Philpot had been invited by a resident to attend this Parish Council meeting but because he had not been invited by the Parish Council his attendance was cancelled. The Internal Drainage Board is just one authority but the Parish Council needs to look at the flooding issues as a whole, so a meeting will be arrange with the appropriate people who have the knowledge and the legal knowledge. Once the appropriate people have been contacted a Public Meeting will take place.

3PL/2020/0056/O The Annexe, Eastend Cottage, Bawdeswell Rd., single 2 bedroom bungalow. The Parish Council voted on this application and the result was 4 against and 2 abstained. The Clerk will inform Breckland of the result and the reasons for objecting are:- no planning envelope in Billingford, does not fit in with CP14, it would set a precedent for other developments, the access would not satisfy the Highways Department, so the Parish Council does not support it.

The Clerk was asked to send a letter to Breckland's Enforcement Officer regarding the buildings just to the west of Billingford Hall, on the site of the Billingford Lakes land. There is a collection of portacabins and a wooden hut with a veranda. The Parish Council wishes to know whether these buildings should still be there because in recent years action was taken to remove a larger building

11. To discuss the need for a Play Equipment inspection

The Clerk had obtained two quotes, and Cllr Davies proposed Playsafety is used, seconded by Cllr Payne and carried. Playsafety Ltd. carries out inspections in Norfolk in June and July so the Clerk will organise this.

12. To discuss the need to purchase a new Dog Bin

The bottom has fallen out of one of the dog bins so a new one needs to be purchased. The Clerk gave the Chairman 2 brochures so he will look at a few different bins and when he has chosen one, he will instruct the Clerk to purchase it.

13. To receive items for the next agenda:

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Adoption of end of year accounts

The Breckland Plan and the Breckland Forum Meeting

14. To confirm date and time of next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. The meeting will be followed at 8.00 p.m. by the Parish Meeting. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date

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Clerk

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Date