

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at Billingford Village Hall

Present:- Cllr Val Wilson, Cllr Arthur Lake, Cllr Andrew Skinn, Cllr Mary Reeve, Cllr Stephanie Harris and Cllr Philippa Payne. Councillor Gordon Bambridge was also present, as he had been invited to attend.

Members of the Public Present:- 8 members

Matters raised under time allocated to the Public.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding Paragraph 55 on the planning application. There have only been about 150 cases in about 10 years that have met the criteria of Paragraph 55. Those present had various views regarding whether or not this was or was not a good planning application. Cllr Bambridge reported that the application had been validated so Breckland therefore think it has some potential. There will need to be an environmental report carried out on flooding, as flooding was discussed. A document created by a resident, had been circulated to those present. The document outlined a variety of concerns, should the application go ahead. There was some discussion regarding the ditch that the applicant had dug out and there was a difference of opinion as to whether or not the flooding was caused by a blocked ditch or not. The public could not agree with the flooding issues. The Breckland Local Plan has no plans in it for new buildings in the village. The disposition of the flooding is a natural phenomenon. The water table in the parish goes up and down regularly. The road floods regularly and residents try to make sure the grips are maintained. A resident requested it be noted that some of the grips that feed into the 4 acres have been filled in. He thought it was a totally unsuitable site to put a house on. He said there are many residents that have had applications turned down because of the development envelope. The Breckland Local Plan permits 2 dwellings but the plan is very restrictive. Breckland is between 2 planning services at the moment. There could be minimal development but it would have to have local support. Planning permission is given on the land not on the people. Cllr Lake suggested the residents all send in their comments to Breckland individually.

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence

Cllr Lake, the Chairman, welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Melvyn Baldwin and these were accepted.

2. To declare any Interests re items on the agenda

No interests were declared.

3. To discuss and consider Planning Application Ref. 3PL/2017/1613/F

Mrs Clare Brahimi, Open Field accessed to the west of Bintree Road, Billingford.
Erection of a dwelling and garage.

This application had been discussed intensely under the period allocated to Public. The Chairman thought a survey regarding Flooding should be done as the Parish Council thought there had not been enough investigation done on this problem. Some of the Parish Councillors felt there were a lot of 'unknown areas' and they all felt there was not enough information available to allow the Parish Council to give an opinion. Cllr Harris did not agree with the entrance being put in the chosen place.

The Parish Council stated it did not wish to vote against the application, but it could not vote on the application at this meeting as it just did not have enough information to consider the application thoroughly. Where information on subjects is not available, this needs to be provided before any voting can take place, so it will have to be discussed at the next meeting. There does not seem to be a Hydrologist report available to be read. This needs to be available to be read.

The Clerk will inform Breckland that it has not been possible to vote on this application, that it will be put on the February agenda for discussion and she will ask Breckland if there is a Hydrologist report to be viewed and explain the concerns over flooding.

Cllr Bambridge will be sent these minutes and copied into any emails.

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Chairman

6/2/18
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Date

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Clerk

6/2/18
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Date