

DRAFT Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

Councillors Present:- Cllr A Lake, Cllr S Wilson and Cllr A Cutcher

Other Members Present:- 3 Electors, Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed the other Parish Councillors to the meeting and the residents. There were apologies received from Cllr P Richardson and these were accepted. Although there were only three Parish Councillors present, the Parish Council did have a quorum for voting.

2. To declare any Interests re items on the Agenda.

There were no interests declared.

3. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Wilson proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Cutcher and carried. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the minutes.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of February (not on the Agenda).

There were no matters raised.

Matters Raised by The Public.

No matters were raised by the public.

5. To submit any required questions to Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge and County Cllr Bill Borrett.

Cllr Bambridge gave a brief update regarding what is happening in relation to Local Government and Norfolk Devolution including at Breckland District Council. He reported that Norfolk County Council wants a single unitary authority and Norwich City wants to be an urban unitary authority. Breckland and other district councils favour 3 Local Authorities. The 3 authority model would mean a lower population to councillor ratio and provide a more local governance. He does not believe any of the models will end up saving money. He said there will be rationalisation across the county and all of Breckland's assets will be 'shared' meaning a well run Council with a good asset base will find it no longer holds an advantage over less well run councils so council tax could be expected to rise in Breckland. There is a proposal for a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk which could also be expensive to run. Government has set a new target of 903 houses a year (about a 50% increase) to be built in the future across Breckland hence another call for sites is underway and some of the sites already submitted will be looked at again. The Western Link has been put on hold for the time being.

6. To discuss any necessary correspondence received.

There was nothing to discuss.

7. To discuss any Planning Issues.

3PL/2023/1058/F Land at Festival Road, change of use of land for the standing of 2 residential static caravans and 2 touring caravans to meet the accommodation needs of a local Gypsy/Traveller family to include ancillary works. To discuss the appeal hearing held on 18th February. There is a Court Case pending. There are breaches of conditions being done. The Court case is for being in breach of enforcement.'

The planning issue is a separate issue. Cllr Bambridge suggested that if there is no result by the May meeting, then the Parish Council should invite the Enforcement Person to come and speak at the Parish Council meeting.

The Burfield amended planning application has gone through. The Parish Council thinks that the land behind Old Bells Farm is up for sale again.

8. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments.

Cllr Lake proposed the following financial transactions be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Cutcher and carried.

Clerk's net salary for March	£250.24	Clerk's expenses for March	£51.98
HMRC tax for March	£3.20	Norfolk Parish Training & Support Subs.	£57.50
Mr A Cutcher (materials needed for the trees)	£53.99		
Mr K Crudgington (printing)	£55.01		

9. To discuss the Financial Update and raise any queries.

This document had been circulated. The Parish Councillors did not have any questions to ask regarding the figures.

10. To receive an update on the treatment plant idea.

It was suggested that this initiative be paused for a while due to time constraints but one resident in attendance agreed to work with Cllr Wilson & Mrs Wilson to engage with Harrison Civil Engineering regarding a village meeting. The company, Harrison Civil Engineering, will create the leaflets for distribution and a meeting will take place in the Village Hall.

It was noted that in the village of Brisley that some residents have had a replacement septic tank under this scheme and general feedback seems to be positive. Cllr Wilson said that once it is obvious residents in Billingford are interested in the idea then people can work together on this project and it would not need to be coordinated by the Parish Council.

11. Update on the correspondence sent to the Ombudsman and any received reply.

An update had been sent in by Mr Crudgington and this was read out to those present.

12. To receive an update regarding the planting of the trees from the Community grant.

The trees were planted on 19th February. Cllr Cutcher would like to thank Cllr Lake, Cllr Crudgington and two residents, Tom and Phil for their hard work. All of the thirty trees have buds on them.

13. To discuss the maintenance of the new trees.

An outside tap will need to be fitted to the village hall for watering. A nearby resident has offered the use of their outside tap but a more permanent solution is needed and Cllr Lake will deal with this.

14. To receive an update on the purchasing of grit bins situation.

This will be discussed at the May meeting.

15. To discuss the subject of Devolution.

This was discussed under item 5.

16. To receive an update on forthcoming events at the V. Hall and events that have taken place.

On April 12th there will be a Quiz Night in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m.

17. To receive an update on St. Peter's Church.

Three weeks ago, someone looked at the gutters and the repairs to the leaks have been done. Some land will be regraded down to save some money. There are several dates on the notice board for services. The next service is on 4th May. The owners of the land west of the grave have agreed the soil can be graded down to avoid the expense of repairing the collapsed wall. A new boundary fence has already been erected.

18. To receive an update on the work Highways have carried out in the village.

A couple of pot holes down Holl Lane have been dealt with. There will be a road closure in the village soon for some road works to take place. A new 30 mph sign has been erected on Bintree Rd to replace the one that was falling into the road.

19. To discuss the SAM2 sign and Community Speed Watch (if any reporting available).

The SAM2 sign was sited on the East side of the village recently. There was a 6% increase in traffic vs last year. The average speed was 38 m.p.h. and last time it was 35 m.p.h. Cllr Wilson mentioned that traffic coming in from the west was marginally lower when last sited there.

The Community Speed Watch will be active next week. No-one was caught when the last Community Speed Watch event took place.

20. To receive information on any progress on the idea of moving the 30-m.p.h. limit to the other side of the S bends near the Billingford Lakes.

There is no update on this and it will be put on hold for the moment.

21. To discuss any progress or ideas regarding 'narrow road' or 'access width limit' type signs for Bintree Road.

Cllr Cutcher will approach either Bill Borrett or Highways for an explanation of their reply to us and try to establish what types of signs we can consider installing and at what cost.

22. To discuss the Litter Pick success.

Nine people got involved with the litter pick. A great deal of rubbish was collected and it filled about sixteen bags. When the work was finished, refreshments were served in the Village Hall.

23. To finalise the Equinox walk, Saturday 5th April, 12.30 p.m. from the Village Hall to Bintree Oak Pub.

The walk will commence from the Village Hall at 12.30 p.m., returning possibly in daylight later in the day

24. To receive items for next agenda.

To adopt the end of year accounts.

To elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year.

To discuss the need for more Parish Councillor

25. To set date and time of the next Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The Chairman made the decision not to call an Annual Parish Meeting this year.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

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Chairman

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Date

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Clerk

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Date