

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th August at 7.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

Councillors Present:- Cllr A Lake, Cllr K Crudgington and Cllr A Cutcher

Other Members Present:- Dist. Cllr G Bambridge, 1 Elector and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to accept apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Payne and Cllr P Richardson and these were accepted. Cllr Bill Borrett also sent apologies for absence.

2. To co-opt onto the Parish Council Mr Stephen Wilson

Cllr Crudgington proposed Mr Wilson be co-opted onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Cutcher and carried.

3. Clerk to receive signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office form from Mr Wilson.

The Clerk received the signed form from Mr Wilson.

4. To declare any Interests re items on the Agenda

Cllr Lake and Cllr Crudgington declared a Personal Interest in item 11 on the agenda, as they both are on the Village Hall Events Committee.

5. To confirm and accept the minutes of February 21st ^{and} the Annual meeting held on 9th June 2023

The Parish Council agreed to accept the minutes as true and accurate records of the meetings. An explanation was put on the bottom of the February minutes as to why they were not adopted in June.

6. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of June (not on the Agenda)

There were no matters arising.

Matters Raised by The Public

There were no matters raised by the elector present nor by Cllr Bambridge.

7. To discuss increasing the number of Parish Council meetings to bi-monthly and to hold the Annual Parish Meeting separately to the Parish Council Meeting

Cllr Cutcher proposed the Parish Council meetings become bi-monthly starting immediately with the annual cycle running from February and that the Annual Parish meeting be held as a stand-alone meeting in May, seconded by Cllr Crudgington and carried.

8. To discuss any correspondence received

The Clerk had received the RoSPA Play Safety Report. This will be circulated and discussed at the next meeting.

9. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments

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

Clerk's net salary July and August	£354.47	HMRC tax July and August	£29.20
Clerk's expenses for July and August	£37.86		
Playsafety Ltd	£90.00	Norfolk Parish Training & Support	£52.00
E.A.C.H. Donation	£25.00	Age Concern Norfolk Ltd. Donation	£25.00

10. To discuss the Financial Update and raise any queries

No one had any questions regarding the document which had been circulated.

A change of signatory bank mandate form will need to be filled in, as changes are necessary and this will be dealt with soon.

Some discussion took place between Cllr Bambridge and Cllr Crudgington regarding the facts surrounding the precept and Cllr Crudgington became clearer on how it is calculated.

11. To request a contribution from the Parish Council to fund raffle prizes for the Christmas Craft Fair to be held at the Village Hall

The Parish Council agreed to donate £100.00 to the Village Hall Events Committee so some raffle prizes can be bought.

12. To receive an update on forthcoming events at the Village Hall

On Sunday 20th August there will be a Table Top Sale happening in the Village Hall. On Sunday 24th September there will be the Harvest Festival. The Church has declined to have a Service for this. Home grown produce will be auctioned off to boost funds. There will be a scare crow competition. Members of the Village Hall Committee have approached many shops and organisations regarding prizes for both the Harvest Festival and Xmas Craft Fair, which will take place on November 25th.

The boiler has been serviced and will survive for anything between the next 6 months to 3 years before it will need to be replaced. The emergency lighting has failed and the hand driers in the toilets have failed. Awaiting quotes for replacements. There are no conditions of hire, so this will be dealt with. The Parish Council wished to thank the Village Hall Committee for the work they have done in the Village Hall.

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

On 1st August Cllr Crudgington had a meeting and the main objective is to get the Church reopened. The Church architect discussed 3 objectives. There is concern that there is subsidence in the south west corner. and is the Church safe to enter. The windows need dealing with and a professional clean-up company needs to be involved. The water tank next to the South porch needs to be removed where the rain water is coming down and the round allowed to dry out. Having a water butt adjacent to the School House was suggested, so that people could water the flowers/attend relatives' graves. It was also suggested that the Porch be kept locked, whilst the wetness dries out. An estimate will be sought for the necessary work. There will be a boarding up and replacement of windows. It could cost £1,600.00 for a commercial clean up. A quote will also be sought for repairs to the window frames and door of the School House. Grants are being applied for and it is hoped that some

grants can be obtained. These particular grants cannot be obtained for the fallen wall and are to be used for the fabric of the church building. The anonymous donation will however remain ringfenced towards the repair of the wall. Discussions have taken place concerning other possible private donations and fundraising events and these will remain so, at this time, unless otherwise advised. The Church definitely does need to be cleaned inside. Within a year it might be possible to open up the Church. Cllr Crudginton has spent a lot of time with Ginnie Edgcombe, Alice Richardson and Rev'd Sally Kimmis on this project and wishes to thank them for their hard work and efforts. There was a suggestion from Mrs Crudginton that perhaps the School House could be turned into a small museum. It could then be opened when events were taking place in the Village Hall. The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Crudginton and Mrs Crudginton for all their hard work and efforts in village matters.

14. To discuss any Planning Issues

3PL/2022/0273/VAR Burfield, Bintree Rd. Variation of condition 2 on p.p. 3PL/2017/1613/F regarding passing bay (variation of cond's) – application withdrawn

15. To receive an update on the New Town Proposal

There was a CANT meeting recently with Jerome Mayhew M.P. for Broadland Constituency, which lies very close to the proposed New Town near Foulsham. Cllr Cutcher spoke about the meeting and gave a summary. Mr Mayhew came out firmly against the plan saying it was inappropriate for this area and said he would be prepared to go into print to confirm this, but at the time of our Parish Council meeting had not yet done so. He could not understand why this location had been chosen in the first place and was informed it was driven by the availability of the land rather than being a good planning, business or environmental choice. Cllr Bambridge stated he had spoken to about a thousand people about the idea of a New Town and only one person was in favour of it. Breckland Council are still assessing the comments they have received. There will be a meeting in the future that Parish Councillors and residents can attend. It may be possible that eventually an application may be put in for the development.

16. To receive an update on the land sold behind Festival Road

The Parish Council is still waiting for an update on the situation.

17. To discuss the Road Narrow Signs for North Elmham Road

Cllr Borrett offered to fund them originally. He had offered £500.00 but the cost was £600.00 to £700.00 so the offer did not cover all the cost. Cllr Borrett then offered the £700.0. The Clerk received an email from N.C.C. and the email stated the price is now an extra £350.00, which brings the price to £1,050.00. An email will be sent to Cllr Borrett about the situation.

18. To discuss the SAM2 sign and Community Speed Watch

Cllr Wilson offered to take over the subject of the SAM2 sign and the Community Speed Watch Team. The Parish Council is close to losing the Speed Watch equipment as it is not used as much as it should be used.

19. To receive an update on the Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping Signs and possible siting of them

The siting of them was discussed and it was decided that because fly tipping happens on Bintree Road, that a good suggestion was that it is put near the speed limit sign, going out of the village. The dog fouling sign could go on the playing field.

20. To discuss an Autumn/Winter Village Litter Pick

This idea will be discussed at the next meeting.

21. To receive items for next agenda

To discuss a Carol Concert for this year

To receive an update on the bank signatory situation

To discuss the RoSPA Report

To discuss the hedge down Holl Lane, which has birds' nests in it

To discuss the Restricted By Way Sign, which has toppled over

To discuss an Autumn/Winter Village Litter Pick

22. To set date and time of next Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 23rd October at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

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Chairman

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Date 23/10/23

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Clerk

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Date 23.10.2023