

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 21st June 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at Billingford Village Hall

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

Other Members Present:- 17 members of the Public and Cllr Gordon Bambridge

Matters raised under time allocated to the Public

Major Reeve wanted to draw the attention of the Parish Council to the advert at the establishment of the late Mr Todd and asked the Parish Council to take the necessary steps to have it removed. The Clerk said she would let the authorities know and Cllr Skinn thought it was an issue for the Planning Officer at Breckland. Mr Warren thought that Mr Skinn should chair the meeting. Mr Davies said the application does not differ from the previous applications and there are enforcements that have not been dealt with yet. The Parish Council should make sure that public access and rights of way are kept open. A gate and barbed wire blocks access to land that should be accessible. Apparently an article had appeared in a newspaper stating that the Parish Council supported the application but this was incorrect information as the meeting had not taken place. Cllr Mary Reeve read out a statement stating why she did not support the application. The reason she stated were increase in traffic, noise pollution, light pollution and security. Another resident spoke about vehicles being used on public footpaths. Several members present stated they had concerns similar to Cllr Reeve about the application and serious thought should be given by the Parish Council where the application is concerned. A resident asked what the benefits of the scheme were and Cllr Skinn responded by saying that if people look at the way it is developed then there are job benefits and village plan gain, plus an economic benefit. A resident queried this statement, saying he did not see any evidence of economic gain. Mrs Susan Bulbrooke mentioned that when the gravel pits were there, there was a noisy pump and sound and noise does travel, so there could be noise nuisance. Mr Davies also made some comments about the gravel pits in that previous owners of the land were required to landscape the land surrounding the lakes and they had to remain including a sand bank left for sand martins. The late Mr Todd bulldozed all this landscaping. Mr Warren stated that it seemed to him that the Parish Council had the idea that the villagers want this application but the villagers actually do not want it. Two residents spoke about their concern over quad bikes being used on some land. Cllr Bambridge informed those present that comments can be submitted on the website. Breckland employ Capita to carry out some planning work and the Planning Department will make the decision on the application. The point was made that this is a new application and it has to be considered against the Core Strategy and Local Planning Development. The application states there could be a shower block. There are a whole raft of planning conditions that will need to be met and if the planning conditions are broken, then there is reason for enforcement. A resident from the parish of Swanton Morley was present and he was in favour of the application. He explained that the best way to control what happens on the land is to grant permission and then make sure the conditions are enforced.

That concludes the comments from the Public.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Janice Tortice, and Cllr Mike Roythorne and these were accepted.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Lake declared a Personal Interest in item 3, Planning

3. To discuss the Planning Application

3PL/2016/0533/H Mrs Bridgette Hall, Wensum Valley Hotel, Golf & Country Club, a Hybrid Application comprising 1) Full consent for main entrance, visitor centre with associated parking, facility blocks and retrospective consent for track side bund mounds, electricity transformer housings, bird hides, fisherman's huts, track ways, landscape screening and 2) Outline consent for the uses indicated on the Masterplan including two areas for executive holiday lodges.

Cllr Harris saw the plans and she felt the project would be positive for the village. Cllr Lake felt that opinions in the village were divided where this application was concerned and this would always be the case. The Parish Council voted on the application and the result was that 3 Parish Councillors voted in favour, 1 voted against and 1 abstained from voting.

4. To confirm date for the next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is set for Tuesday 26th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m. The date had originally been set for July 12th.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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Chairman Date

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Clerk Date