

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Billingford Village Hall

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

Other Members Present: - 10 members of the Public (including Mr Roger Thorneley, a
member of Worthing Parish) and Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge

Matters raised under time allocated to the Public

There was discussion regarding the minutes because the Clerk had referred to Lesley Head as a Parish Councillor, but in fact she had not signed the Declaration of Acceptance form, so she was not a Parish Councillor and the minutes will be amended. Mr Thorneley from Worthing spoke at great length as to how the Billingford Lakes planning application would affect that area. He stated detailed objections had been sent to Breckland and the application had been turned down twice before so Worthing residents could not understand why Breckland would accept it this time. The caravan site has had to be moved because of flood risk. It is now close to the Billingford football pitch. The 20 caravans will be very intrusive. He thought the residents will lose communities because of the caravan site and noise is a concern. He thought Richard Crisp's fishing business at Worthing Pitt will be destroyed by the caravan site. Water depths are also a concern as in parts it is very deep, so children drowning could be a concern.

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence

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

There were no Interests declared.

3. To co-opt onto the Parish Council a replacement for Mr Roythorne

Since the last meeting, Lesley Head had informed the Chairman that she no longer wished to take up the position of Parish Councillor. As she had never actually signed the Declaration of Acceptance form, she had not officially become a Parish Councillor so the position created by the departure of Janice Tortice still needed to still be filled. Two residents had applied to become Parish Councillors and there were two vacancies to be filled. Cllr Lake proposed Val Wilson and Philippa Payne be co-opted onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Skinn and carried. Both parties signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and were given the notice of interest forms to complete.

4. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on October 18th

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Skinn proposed that the minutes of October 18th be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Harris and carried, so the Chairman signed them as a true copy.

5. To discuss any matters from the minutes of October (not on the agenda)

There were no matters arising.

6. To discuss Correspondence

The only item of mail received was a donation appeal from Open Spaces. The Parish Council decided not to send a donation this time.

7. To discuss any Planning Issues

Breckland 3PL/2016/0533/H Billingford Lakes, Elmham Road, revised application documents & response to comments. The Parish Council voted on this application, the result being 3 Parish Councillors voted in favour and 3 voted against. One of the Parish Councillors that voted against wished for it to be recorded that she was concerned that if it was accepted, there would be an increase in noise, light and traffic in the village.

Cllr Bambridge asked whether the Parish Council intended to send a representative of the Parish Council to the meeting on February 6th. Cllr Skinn and Cllr Payne decided to go and Cllr Bambridge informed them that the time allocated for speaking is only three minutes. Therefore they could speak for one and a half minutes each, if they both wished to speak at the meeting.

Letter from Vattenfall regarding their proposed development and the outcome of their drop-ins. The company regarding the drop-ins as successful and will collate the feed-back and more meetings will take place in due course.

8. To discuss Highways Matters

Mr Matt Payne has spoken to the Senior Highways engineer regarding trying to set up a Speedwatch scheme and he has had a conversation with Mr Stebbings, who runs the scheme in Little Dunham. He has learnt that 10 volunteers are needed to be trained for the scheme. The Parish Council would like to have the 30 m.p.h. stretch extended to the bridge if possible. The Chairman has had conversations with North Elmham Parish Council and they would welcome this change. The Hoe & Worthing Parish Council would also very much support this idea. The Clerk will try to arrange a meeting between Highways and one or two members of the Parish Council to discuss the speeding problem. Regarding the Speedwatch idea, the Clerk will organise a notice going on the notice board to try to ascertain interest in this scheme. If not enough residents show interest, the possibility of joining North Elmham will be investigated. Regarding the SAM2 sign, Gressenhall Parish Council has submitted the bid and will hear in March whether they have been successful.

9. To authorize financial payments

The Parish Council agreed to pay the following necessary financial payments:-

Clerk's net salary Nov. – Jan. £424.13
Clerk's expenses for Nov. – Jan. £48.82

HMRC tax Nov. – Jan. Clerk's £106.00
Internal Audit £60.00

10. To set the Precept for 2017 -2018

After some discussion Cllr Reeve proposed the precept be set at £4,000.00, seconded by Cllr Skinn and carried.

11. To discuss the new website being prepared by Mr Jackman

The new website is in hand and the Clerk asked that the Parish Councillors all send her a brief personal history regarding themselves. Cllr Bambridge took a photo of the meeting in progress and this will be put on the website.

12. To discuss Speeding and traffic in the village

This item was discussed under item no. 8, Highways.

13. To receive items for the next agenda

No specific items were requested by anyone.

14. To set some future meeting dates

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday May 9th at 7.30 p.m. This meeting will be preceded at 7.00 p.m. by the Annual Parish Meeting.

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday July 25th at 7.30 p.m.

The last meeting date was set for Tuesday October 24th at 7.30 p.m.

15. To confirm date and time of next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is set for Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

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Chairman Date

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Clerk Date