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BILLINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

Present:- Cllr M Davies, Cllr A Lake, Cllr R Thorneley, Cllr K Crudgington,
Cllr M Reeve and Cllr P Payne.

Others Present: - 7 members of the Public and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to accept Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. There were apologies for absence received from Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge.

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 November 9th 2021

The minutes had been circulated. After a tiny amendment, Cllr Crudgington proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Thorneley and carried, so the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of November 9th (not on the Agenda)

Regarding the Speed Watch, it was confirmed that data from the exercise is uploaded onto the website.

The Chairman reported that a grant application for a defibrillator has been completed and sent to the National Lottery Community Fund. The sum of £2,500.00 has been requested. The big emphasis is the fact that there will be community benefits and it will be placed outside the Village Hall.

Regarding the drain problem in Bintree Road, Highways have carried out some work on this problem but it is still not completed, as they have not carried out the work requested 6 –8 months ago.

The refurbishment of the Village Sign has started but it needs to dry out some more, before more work can be carried out.

5. To discuss any correspondence received

Donation request from Support Our Military Veterans and Priscilla Bacon Norfolk Hospice
The Parish Council agreed to send a donation of £25.00 to both organisations.

6. To receive an update on the 1 million trees project

The Chairman reported that 30 sapling trees of 5 different species had been received. They will be planted on the Holkham area of the playing field and this will be done in March.

7. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments

Cllr Lake proposed the following financial transactions be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Reeve and carried:-

Clerk's net salary for December – February £541.00 HMRC tax for December – February £83.00
 Clerk's expenses for December to February £51.18
 Support Our Military Veterans (donation) £25.00
 Priscilla Bacon Hospice (donation) £25.00

8. To discuss help for the Rector to organise residents' meeting about the Church Repairs

The Chairman reported on his meeting with the Rector. The Rector would like to have a meeting in the Village Hall regarding the repairs. She will create an agenda for the meeting. The meeting can take place when the quote for the repairs has been received. The meeting will probably take place in April. The Parish Council will help to circulate the agenda to the residents. On 5th April an inspection of the wall will be carried out. There was some discussion regarding the bat problem.

9. To receive an update on the Community Speed Watch

Two speed watch sessions will take place on 15th and 30th March. Refresher training has been carried out but the group is still desperate for more volunteers. The 6 individuals who were trained can officially now train other volunteers. Cllr Crudgington would like to carry out a Mail Drop to try to recruit some more volunteers. At the moment there is a slight I.T. problem regarding the data from the Speed Watch but it will be sorted out soon and data will continue to be uploaded onto the website.

10. To receive the Holl Lane Waste Problem Update

Some waste has been removed so the land is a little bit better but it is still far from looking good. The Chairman had contacted Serco again because there is rubbish on the Public Byway.

11. To discuss current role of the Parish Council on Churchyard Maintenance

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council cannot, legally, pay any money to the Church to help towards structural matters. It can only pay for Churchyard maintenance. Several years ago the churchyard was badly overgrown and great effort went into dealing with this problem and it was cleared and tidied up. This work involved many people. It is in the interest of the Parish Council to continue to pay for the Churchyard maintenance. The public have a right of access to the Church so it is in the public's interest for the Parish Council to continue with this payment for contractors to cover grass cutting and prevent overgrowth. What is needed is a self propelled pedestrian lawn mower, so a plea for one to be donated will be put on the website.

12. To discuss any ideas for celebration for the Queen's Jubilee in June

Breckland Council will have a fund available for Parish Councils to obtain some money for this event. Ideas such as a party in the Village Hall and maybe a Street Party were discussed. The Clerk showed the Chairman some literature regarding buying Commemorative Mugs and he thought purchasing some would be a good idea. The Breckland fund would probably cover the cost of the mugs.

13. To receive items for next agenda

Co-option of a new Parish Councillor
Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year
Adoption of the Annual Accounts

Cllr Lake proposed Cllrs Crudgington and Payne arrange a meeting with Billingford Lakes representatives and report back at the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Reeve and carried.

14. To confirm date and time of next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is set for Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting. This meeting will be preceded at 7.00 p.m. by the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Matters Raised By The Public

Cllr Lake reported that he had received an email from a resident acknowledging the work he and Cllr Crudgington carry out on behalf of the Parish Council. However, the resident enquired what work the other Parish Councillors carried out. Residents can refer to the minutes of the meeting that are always put on the website and the notice board and the minutes reflect the work that the Parish Council undertakes..

There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

..... *M. Os Dava* *10/5/22*
Chairman Date

..... *E. Hubbard* *10/5/22*
Clerk Date