Website address: - billingfordpc.info BILLINGFORD PARISH

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual meeting of Billingford Parish held on Monday June 3rd 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall.

Present:- Mr A Lake (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mr Keith Crudgington, Mrs Vicky Crudgington, Mr Andy Cutcher, Mr James Dawson, Mrs Mandy Dawson, Mr Steve Wilson, Miss Pennels, County Cllr Bill Borrett and Mrs Hubbard, Parish Council Clerk

**1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council and to receive apologies for absence.**

Mr Lake welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Patrick Richardson and Cllr Gordon Bambrdge.

**2. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on June 9th 2023.**

The minutes had been circulated. Mr Crudgington proposed the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Mr Cutcher and carried.

**3. To discuss any matters arising from these minutes (not on the agenda).**

There were no matters arising.

**4. To receive a report from the County Councillor of N.C.C.**

Cllr Bill Borrett was present and he had submitted a report. He reported that the Norwich Western Link was approved by the Government earlier in the year. The next stage is the planning application but a certificate is needed from Natural England. When the project is very large, like this one, a draft is given to prevent wasting money. At the end of February Natural England were going to give their agreement that the draft would be done but they were unable to meet the deadline. Then in early March they announced new criteria. The key issue is that if Natural Egland had managed the new guide lines, this would have been very useful. Natural England are not accountable to anyone so the Government is looking to see whether Natural England have exceeded their powers. They are now renegotiating with Norfolk County Council and in the meantime the application is going ahead, otherwise things would be out of date. Devolution means that there will be some extra money for Norfolk.

**5. To receive a report from the District Councillor of Breckland District Council.**

Cllr Bambridge had sent a report and it will be attached to the minutes. Cllr Borrett, who was present, explained that the next call for sites with Breckland is out. There is another round of consultation so people can give comments as from today on the sites offered. The idea of the New Town has dropped off the list at the moment. There is a Team dealing with the project at Swanton Morley, which is a project for 2,000 houses. The site is very large and is mainly grass. Next to the grass is the camp and it will need something doing to it otherwise it will become derelict. It will be difficult to stop the brown development being developed. If the 2,000 houses get built, 1.500 will be put on the top of the grass. It will create all sorts of problems. It is important that everyone have their opinions heard on this matter. There are 2 other possible sites, apart from this one. Residents should point out that the Swanton Morley site is the least suitable site out of the 3 sites.

**6. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.**

Mr Lake gave thanks to everyone around the table for all their hard work. A lot of hard work that happens is unseen and residents do not realise how hard the Parish Councillors do actually work. There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council, so if anyone wishes to join, please contact either the Clerk or any Parish Councillor for more information.

**7. To receive reports from organisations connected to the Village Hall.**

There is now a small dwindling Committee and a few events have been organized in the Village Hall and some were a waste of peoples’ time organizing, such as the Table Top Sale. Now that the Church is open again the Committee will try to get a Harvest Festival organized and a Carol Service in the Church itself. On 16th June there will be a Church Service to acknowledge the fact that the Church is now open. This is because of grants etc. and it is the first service for many years. Mr Lake will continue to organize the Quiz in the Village Hall but apart from that, without some volunteers, not much more will take place. A table tennis league did exist, but is almost stopped since Covid so the good table is not used. The table tennis table is not the property of the Village Hall, it is owned by two individual people.

**8. To receive a report, including accounts, on the Billingford Fuel Allotment Charity.**

Mr Dawson reported that two of the Trustees had come to the end of their term of office and had, therefore, resigned leaving only two serving Trustees in place. Two new Trustees are being sought. The charity is now banking with Lloyds and 17 grants were issued for winter fuel support. The income is generated from the land and grants will continue to be issued. A full committee of Trustees is needed before anything more can be done. The accounts will be finished in a couple of weeks’ time. Years ago, people received bags of coal and now cheques are now issued.

**9.To receive an update re St. Peter’s Church.**

Some more grants have become available but there may be some money coming from the Bishop. The grant is approved to carry out emergency repairs to the Porch. Those involved are waiting for the Diocese to give their planning consent. The flooring, roof and guttering will be mended. The Diocese and Norfolk Churches were impressed with what work had been done. £9,202 is ring fenced for the wall repairs. Some fund raising will need to be done so there can be some community projects taking place. It is hoped that because it is now open, it will generate some income. Plans are being drawn up to see if the wall will stop sliding. The new Archdeacon and the Bishop of Lynn are definitely on board with this. A resident has given an offer of help with the project. The notice board needs a little maintenance and it will be dealt with. Mr Lake, Mr Cutcher and Mr Fisher have been busy doing grass cutting and strimming.

**10. To discuss the Parish Council accounts, if required.**

Copies of the accounts were circulated. No-one present had any questions regarding them

**11. To discuss any future village plans.**

No future plans were discussed.

**12. To discuss any other business from those present**

There was no other business to discuss.

**13. To confirm date and time of next Annual meeting**

The next Annual Meeting of the Parish was set for Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7.00 p.m. As there was no further business to discuss Mr Lake thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

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Chairman Date