

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

Councillors Present:- Cllr A Lake, Cllr S Wilson and Cllr A Cutcher

Other Members Present:- 1 Elector and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed the other Parish Councillors to the meeting and the resident. There were apologies received from Cllr K Crudginton and Cllr P Richardson and these were accepted. Although there were only three Parish Councillors present, the Parish Council did have a quorum for voting.

Mrs Mary Croft had sadly passed away recently. Mrs Croft had held the position of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council a while ago and had also served on the Billingford Fuel Allotment Charity Committee.

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 27th November.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Wilson proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Cutcher and carried. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the minutes.

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

There were no matters raised.

Matters Raised by The Public.

There were no matters raised that needed to be minuted.

5. To submit any required questions to Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge and County Cllr Bill Borrett.


As neither of the Councillors were present, the Parish Councillors were not able to submit to them any necessary questions. They had both, however, submitted reports for January, which were very comprehensive.

6. To discuss any necessary correspondence received.

Cllr Wilson and Mrs Wilson will be creating a leaflet which will be distributed to Billingford residents, informing them of the availability of the scheme, whereby a septic tank can be replaced with a treatment plant. There will be useful information on the leaflet, such as the company's website.

A letter from The Open Spaces Society requesting a donation, but the Parish Council decided not to donate.

A letter from Dereham Meeting Point asking for a donation. Cllr Wilson proposed a donation of £25.00 be sent, seconded by Cllr Cutcher and carried.



Cllr Crudgington had circulated a letter he proposes to send to The Ombudsman as a resident of Billingford. The Parish Council agreed with the contents of the letter, so he will be informed it has the Parish Council's approval.

7. To discuss any Planning Issues.

3PL/2024/0813/VAR Burfield, Bintree Road, Variation of condition 2 on pp

3PL/2017/1613/F – amended access, passing bay location and associated drainage.

Considered by the Planning Committee on 4th February. Cllr Cutcher and Cllr Crudgington attended the meeting at Breckland Council and in total there were 5 residents from the village in attendance, 4 of whom spoke. The Parish Councillors were just there to answer any questions. Everyone on the planning committee voted in favour of it and everyone there wishes for it to happen quickly, hopefully before the next winter. It should start soon (within 3 months) but no one was able to set a finish date.

3PL/2023/1058/F Land at Festival Road, change of use of land for the standing of 2 residential static caravans and 2 touring caravans to meet the accommodation needs of a local Gypsy/Traveller family to include ancillary works. Appeal hearing on 18th February: Cllr Crudgington will be in attendance, representing the Parish Council and Mrs Crudgington will be speaking at the meeting, as a resident.

8. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments.

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

Clerk's net salary for Dec. – Feb. £655.92	Clerk's expenses for Oct. – Feb. £125.19
HMRC tax for Dec. – Feb. £104.40	Broxap Ltd. Keys for notice board £54.00
Dereham Meeting Point £25.00	Westacre Farms – trees £950.00

Since the last meeting, two direct debits have been paid to SSE Energy, one for £44.51 and one for £43.05. A direct debit payment of £5.00 to CPRE. A payment was made to NGF Play Ltd for £25,011.90 for the play equipment installed and a credit for £4,242.55 was received from HMRC for VAT reclaimed. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for getting the VAT on the new play equipment refunded so quickly.

9. To discuss the Financial Update and raise any queries.

This document had been circulated. The Parish Councillors did not have any questions to ask regarding the figures.

10. To discuss the budget document and set the precept for 2025 – 2026.

The budget document had been discussed at the last meeting. Cllr Cutcher proposed the precept be set at £5,000.00. seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried.

11. To receive update on the possibility of joining CPRE Norfolk.

The membership form had been completed and send off since the last meeting. The cost will be paid for by direct debit and the Parish Council is now a member.

12. Update on the correspondence sent to the Ombudsman.

This was discussed under item no. 6.

13. To receive an update regarding the purchasing of the trees from the Community grant.

The location markers are in place, ready for the planting of 30 trees, when they are delivered. Volunteers will be required to plant the trees, which are due to be delivered week commencing 17th February.

14. To receive an update on the purchasing of grit bins situation.

The Clerk had received 2 brochures from Glasdon Ltd. and the Parish Councillors will study the bins that are available and also compare them to bins from another company. The purchasing of 2 grit bins will be decided, once the financial side of the project has been finalised.

15. To receive an update on forthcoming events at the V. Hall and events that have taken place.

The next quiz in the village hall will take place on Saturday 12th April at 7.30 p.m. The last quiz took place at the beginning of December and was not so well attended as other quizzes, with only 5 teams.

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

A good service was held yesterday with 31 people attending and a dog. Cllr Lake reported that he thought Alice Richardson delivered a brilliant service and everyone was included. There will be 3 more services throughout the year and they will be advertised.

17. To discuss the grass cutting situation in Billingford i.e, the churchyard and playing field.

The Parish Council decided to offer the contract to Groundscape, who also work for Bintree Parish Council. The price will be £960.00 and this price will be held for two years. The churchyard will continue to be cut by two volunteers.

18. To receive an update on the work Highways have carried out in the village.


Some work has been carried out in the village by Highways. The missing sign has finally been replaced but it had been missing for many months. Eventually some signs saying the road is unsuitable for HGVs will be placed on the B1145 road.

19. To discuss the SAM2 sign and Community Speed Watch (if any reporting available).

The SAM2 sign is still very problematic. Cllr Wilson will be picking it up from Mileham tomorrow and he will contact Westcotec Ltd. to discuss the problem with them. The internal battery is not working properly. There was a speed check in the village yesterday. The Community Speed Watch has not been done since last October and it is on hold until the weather improves.

20. To receive information on any progress on the idea of moving the 30-m.p.h. limit to the other side of the S bends near the Billingford Lakes.

There is no progress on this idea. Cllr Wilson will send to the Clerk some emails regarding the S bends and she will send them onto Cllr Borrett again.



21. To set a date for the village Litter Pick.

This will take place on Sunday 2nd March, starting at 10.30 a.m. from the Village Hall. The Clerk will arrange to collect 2 bags of equipment from Breckland Council on Thursday 27th February.

22. To receive items for next agenda.

To discuss the Litter Pick success

Maintenance of the new trees

To finalise the Equinox walk, Saturday 5th April, 12.30 p.m. from the Village Hall to Bintree Oak Pub

23. To set date and time of the next Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

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Chairman

1-4-2025
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Date

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Clerk

1st April 2025
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Date