

DRAFT

BILLINGFORD PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Billingford Parish meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall.

Present:- Mrs Stephanie Harris, Mrs Mary Reeve, Major William Reeve, Mr Arthur Lake, Mrs Carolyn Lake, Mr Mike Davies, Mr Andrew Skinn, Mrs Susan Bulbrooke, Miss Dawn Roper, Mrs Valerie Wilson, Mr Ian Warren, Mrs Philippa Payne, Mr Colin MacKay, Mrs Annabelle MacKay, Master Payne, Mr Melvyn Baldwin and Cllr Gordon Bambridge

1. Welcome and to accept Apologies for Absence

Mr Lake, the Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed those present to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence received.

2. To confirm minutes of Meeting of Parish held on 24th May 2016

The minutes had been circulated and read. Mr Skinn proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting, seconded by Mrs Harris and Mr Lake signed them.

3. To report on any matters arising from the minutes

There were some queries regarding the Fuel Allotment money and Mr Skinn stated that the Rector had requested that he wanted the money to be used for the purpose for which the charity was originally established.

4. To receive reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor

Cllr Bambridge spoke to the Parish Councillors present and urged them to check their Declaration of Interest forms and amend them if necessary. He mentioned that later in the week there was going to be a meeting at Breckland where people can go and challenge the Planners over issues. He said the Local Plan has more or less worked its way through Breckland. It will go into the Committee system in July. Amalgamation with South Holland is going well. Breckland council tax is still the lowest in the country. In the last year Cllr Bambridge had attended over 280 meetings. A resident reported to him that there is some land at the bottom of Festival Road which is owned by Breckland Council. There is no obstruction to stop vehicles going in there to fly tip. Mr Lake stated that a third of it is a car park. The land is about 1 – 2 acres in size. Cllr Bambridge offered to look into the situation.

5. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Mr Lake thanked the two Parish Councillors that retired during the year, Mrs Janice Tortice and Mayor Mike Roythorne, for their hard work and their replacements, Mrs Val Wilson and Mrs Philippa Payne. The Parish Council is working hard on the speeding problem in the village. Using a SAM2 speeding sign and Community Speed Watch is being looked into. There was a change of employee at Highways and when the Parish Council Clerk finds out who the replacement is, she will set up a meeting. Some work on the play area is being done.

6. To receive reports from organisations connected to the village i.e. Bingo group, etc.

A month ago a good Quiz took place. The Village Hall is the building which hosts the Parish Council meetings and it could benefit from some decoration. Auctions take place in the hall once a week. Bingo takes place once a fortnight on behalf of the Church. The village table tennis team has been successful. They have had some successful wins. The local football team plays on Woodbine but no-one actually lives in the village. Mr Davis asked that thanks be passed to Mr Kelvin Golding for his work regarding the village hall. There was some discussion as to why the football matches do not get played in the village.

7. To receive a report on the Billingford Fuel Allotment Charity

Mr Skinn reported that a new extended lease has been negotiated. The Committee has met 4 times this year. The registration of the land is in the hands of the solicitor. The deed is going to be modernized. There have been 2 pay outs to people that have applied. A set of criteria has to be met. £150.00 was paid out each time. The accounts have been audited and the accounts are healthy but legal fees will need to be paid to get the deed up to date. The accounts will soon go onto the Charity Commission's website and the village's website. There is just over £5,000 in the current account and the investment fund had £50,000 last year. At the request of a resident, the accounts will be posted on the new notice board. Mr Skinn is working on getting the deed modernised and creating a clear way forward.

8. To discuss briefly the draft Parish Council accounts

The Parish Council Clerk had distributed a financial statement to those present. She explained briefly the accounts, highlighting the income and expenditure. No-one had any questions to ask.

9. To discuss any future village plans

Mrs Harris is working on the playing field equipment and Cllr Wilson is working on the problem of speeding in the village. The accident that happened outside Mr & Mrs Lake's property was disgraceful as the driver was drunk so it was not a speeding issue. Cllr Bambridge was asked if Norfolk County Council could not do anything about the speeding problem. He said he would converse with Cllr Bill Borrett about the problem. He suggested the Police are spoken to at the Swaffham depot. He also suggested people attend the S.N.A.G. meetings which are held regularly at Breckland Council offices. The B1145 is considered a major rat run between Norwich and Kings Lynn. A member of the Police Force has been in the village and several speeders have been caught.

10. Any Other Business

Mr Warren distributed some documents to those present and there was some discussion regarding the Fuel Allotment Charity. It was set up when fuel was hard to come by but that is not the case anymore. A while ago the Norfolk Community Foundation was set up. There is a great deal of money at the organisation's disposal. Last year £2.4m was given to people and small businesses around the County. The Earl of Leicester is one of the Trustees. Someone from the organisation would be prepared to come to a meeting and give some advice. Mr Warren thought it would be a good idea to put the large amount of money held in the Fuel Allotment Charity account into the Norfolk Community Foundation business so it could be used for the village. Mr Skinn responded by stating that until the deed is modernised nothing more can be done. The discussion was in-depth regarding what the advantages of Norfolk Community Fund are and how it works. Mr Lake stated that the Trustees are acting on advice. The ownership of the land is critical and it needs to be sorted out and the advice given by the Solicitor needs to be followed.

11. To set the date and time for next year's Annual Parish meeting

The provisional date of the Parish meeting was set for Tuesday 15th May 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Mr Lake thanked everyone for attending. There being no other business to discuss, he declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman Date

Clerk Date