

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council Annual meeting held on Monday 3rd June at 8.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

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

Other Members Present:- 2 Electors and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. To elect the Chairman of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Crudgington, proposed Cllr Lake for the position of Chairman, for the forthcoming year, seconded by Cllr Cutcher and carried. Cllr Lake accepted the position.

2. Clerk to receive signed Declaration of Acceptance form.

The Clerk received the form.

3. Welcome and to receive apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed those present and a warm welcome to County Cllr Bill Borrett. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Richardson and these were accepted. Apologies for absence were also received from Dist. Cllr G Bambridge.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting is required to be held between 1st and 31st May.

However, due to the availability of the presence of the Parish Councillors, this is the first opportunity there has been enough Parish Councillors present to be quorate, so the meeting had to be held this evening.

4. To declare any Interests re items on the Agenda.

There were no items declared.

5. To elect the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Cutcher proposed Cllr Crudgington for the position of Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried. Cllr Crudgington accepted the position.

6. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2024.

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.

7. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of April (not on the Agenda).


There were no matters to discuss.

Matters Raised by The Public.

There were no matters raised by the Public.

8. To discuss any necessary correspondence received.

The Clerk had received correspondence from George Freeman, M.P. regarding his desire to come and meet the Parish Councillors and hold a surgery. He said that owing to the calling of the election on July 4th, he would not be able to come and meet the Parish Councillors for a while.



9 To authorise any necessary Financial Payments.

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

Zurich Municipal Ins. £167.44 Recompense Cllr Crudgington for the paediatric pad for the defibrillator £131.58

Clerk's net salary for May £242.36 HMRC tax for May £1.00

Clerk's expenses for May £38.32 C Morton internal auditor £25.00

Billingford Village Hall cost of notice board repairs £135.00

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

No one had any questions regarding the document which had been circulated.

11. To receive an update on the bank signatory situation.

No information has yet been received regarding changing the signatories, despite the fact Barclays Bank have been sent the necessary paperwork.

12. To adopt the end of year accounts.

Cllr Wilson proposed the end of year accounts be adopted, seconded by Cllr Crudgington and carried.

13. To adopt the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, including the Certificate of Exemption, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements.

Cllr Wilson proposed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, including the Certificate of Exemption, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements be adopted, seconded by Cllr Crudgington and carried.

14. To discuss any Planning Issues.

3PL/2023/1058/F land at Festival Road, change of use of land, no decision has yet been determined by Breckland Council. There has been no change in circumstances and the owner is allowed to put materials on the site.

15. Update on the situation regarding the Parish Council's complaint to Breckland Council re the sale of land at Festival Road.

Breckland Council are not going to admit to any 'wrong doing'. They have acknowledged that the Parish Council has a justifiable complaint. They have made an apology. Breckland Council has disregarded giving any responses. They still fail to answer the questions asked, such as not advertising the sale of the land and they will not commit to anything. The Parish Council was not consulted with. Breckland Council comment about the call for sites and that the Parish Council did not respond. There is no evidence that the Parish Council was even notified about it. Cllr Crudgington could ask under the Freedom of Information Act to see emails proving what Breckland Council are saying.

Cllr Crudgington felt the Parish Council should take the case to the Ombudsman so he is going to report the case. Once he has had a response he will decide how to proceed. Cllr Lake proposed that Cllr Crudgington be allowed to take the matter as far as he needs to, seconded by Cllr Cutcher and carried.

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

Nothing has happened since the last meeting. There will hopefully be a Church Service, and a Harvest Festival and a Carol Service happening this year. On July 4th the Village Hall will be used for election voting. On Friday 21st June, which is Mid Summer's Day, Cllr Lake thought it would be good to go for a walk and he suggested starting from the Village Hall at 6.30 p.m. and go for a walk heading up to the forest and then have a drink in the Bintree Royal Oak Pub. The event will be advertised.

17. To receive an update on 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 and Mr Cutcher have been busy doing grass cutting and strimming.

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

The men from North Elmham no longer carry out the grass cutting, so apart from Cllr Lake and two residents, no one is cutting the grass. Cllr Cutcher offered to cut the grass around the kissing gate. The dog fouling signs need to be put up. Cllr Lake is looking for a post to put it on, Cllr Cutcher has contacted a nursery because he has obtained a grant but the nursery has not contacted him with a reply. Cllr Lake can give him some horse chestnut saplings.

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

One of the batteries is faulty so the Clerk will inform the Gressenhall Parish Council Clerk. Speed watch is operating once a month and one person was caught speeding.

20. To discuss moving the 30 m.p.h. limit to the other side of the S bends near the Billingford Lakes.

Cllr Wilson raised a query with Norfolk County Council but it was to no avail. A new case has now been opened. He will send the emails onto Cllr Borrett, who will try to help with the situation. It has been noted that there have been at least 2 notifiable accidents on the bends leading into the village where we wish to have the speed limited reduced, in the last half year.

21. To discuss the anticipated update on the Breckland Local Plan and New Town option.

There should be a meeting on June 24th and Cllr Cutcher might attend it. The New Town option is no longer but there could be the Swanton Morley Barracks to consider, as it could prove worrying. The consultation has gone 'live' today. Cllr Borrett had earlier raised the issue of the potential 2,000 house development at Swanton Morley, which he feels inappropriate for the site, and would be requesting assistance from local parish councils to voice their concerns during the latest consultation phase of the local plan.

22. To discuss the Fuel Allotment Trustees.

A report was given by Mr Dawson at the earlier Annual Parish meeting.

23. To receive items for next agenda.

Update on the Awards For All grant situation

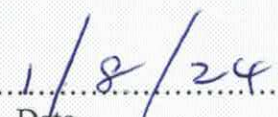
Update on the idea of purchasing 2 grit bins

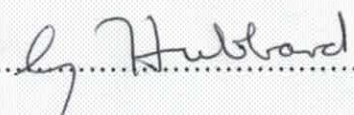
24. To set date and time of July Parish Council meeting,

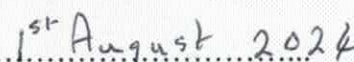
The next meeting will take place on Thursday July 25th at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.


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Chairman


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Date


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Clerk


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Date