

Minutes of the Annual Billingford Parish Council meeting held on Monday
4th May 2026 at 6.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

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

Other Members Present:- Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman and to receive apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. To elect the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for 2026.

Cllr Cutcher proposed Cllr Lake for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried.

Cllr Lake proposed Cllr Cutcher for the position of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried.

3. The Clerk to receive the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office form from Cllr Lake.

4. To co-opt onto the Parish Council Mr P Richardson.

Cllr Cutcher proposed Mr Richardson for the position of Parish Councillor, seconded by Cllr Lake and carried.

5. The Clerk to receive the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office form from Mr Richardson.

The Clerk received the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office form from Cllr Richardson.

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

There were no interests declared.

7. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2026.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Lake 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.

8. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of February (not on the Agenda).

There were no matters raised.

Matters Raised by The Public.

There were no Public present.

9. To submit any required questions to Dist. Cllr G Bambridge and County Cllr B Borrett, including the latest information on the Local Government Reform in Norfolk following the reinstatement of May Elections.

Neither Cllr Bambridge nor Cllr Borrett were present.

10. To receive a report from the Councillors for the meeting.

Both Cllrs Bambridge and Borrett had sent reports, prior to the meeting, and they will be attached to the minutes.

11. To receive a report from the Chairman.

Cllr Lake gave a verbal report. He thanked his fellow Parish Councillors and especially the Vice Chairman for their hard work throughout the year. It is very difficult to do a great deal of work as two of the Parish Councillors have full time employment. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk.

12. To receive any other available reports.

The Clerk had received a report from Norfolk Constabulary and it will be attached to the minutes.

13. To receive a report regarding the Fuel Allotment Charity.

Two members of the village are doing a sterling job regarding the Charity and there is a vacancy on the Committee of the Charity. A report will be available later in the year.

14. To discuss any necessary correspondence received.

A communication regarding old maps of the parish had been received from an archivist in Reepham (Bircham centre). These maps have been collected, and the intention is to eventually display both of them in the Village Hall

It has been noticed that some 'holds' appeared to be missing on the climbing wall of the play centre, so Cllr Lake will look at it and investigate.

15. To discuss any Planning Issues.

Regarding land off Festival Road, the Planners are currently supposed to be voting on the issue mid-May Cllr Bambridge cannot speak and also vote. It is the PC's wish that he should vote rather than speak. It may be that some members of the public may go to Breckland Council to speak.

The Parish Council belongs to the Central Norfolk Solar Farm Alliance opposing the extensive plans for solar panels proposed from Dereham to Swaffham. Hearings have started with objections registered from the MoD.

Wood Lane/A47 junction is now open again in both directions. The reduction in traffic will hopefully become noticeable before long.

16. To receive a Tree update.

Cllr Cutcher has had no recent contact regarding the Tree Preservation Order in Billingford but the TPO has reassured him they remain 'on the list'. The Woodland Trust Community tree pack has been confirmed, and they will arrive in November. The Orchard trees are doing well and have been regularly watered through the dry April.

17. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments.

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

Clerk's net salary £674.60 HMRC Tax £109.40
C Morton, internal auditor £50.00

Since the last meeting, SSE Energy was paid £64.67, CPRE d.d. £5.00 in March and April and the first precept from Breckland Council of £2,500.00 was received.

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

The document had been circulated and no-one had any questions relating to the document.

19. To adopt the end of year accounts.

Cllr Cutcher proposed the end of year accounts be adopted, seconded by Cllr Richardson and carried.

20. To adopt the AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption.

Cllr Cutcher proposed the AGAR and the Certificate of Exemption be adopted, seconded by Cllr Richardson and carried.

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

The next Village Quiz will be taking place on Friday 29th May 2026 at 7.30 p.m.
On May 7th the Village Hall will be used for voting in the local elections.
No events have taken place since the last Parish Council meeting.

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

No update was available regarding the Church renovations. There is a Church Service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The next one is on 17th May.

23. To discuss any Highways issues in the village.

The mud on the Bintree Road has now been cleared away. Pothole repairing has taken place, but further holes mean more work is still necessary. The sugar beet debris in the ditches still needs to be cleared out. Cllr Lake will speak to the gentleman in question about this problem.

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

There was nothing to discuss. The Police were carrying out a speed check recently in Bintree Road.

25. To discuss the vacancy situation on the Parish Council/.

The present Parish Councillors are still finding it difficult to find other people who are willing to join the Parish Council.

26. To receive from Cllr Cutcher an update regarding the application for funding for 'narrow road' or 'access width limit' type signs for Bintree Rd.

The paperwork has been sent to Norfolk County Council about these signs. The application is approved and the Parish Council is not due to pay any money towards the sign. The Clerk will send an email to Cllr Borrett again about the narrow road sign situation.

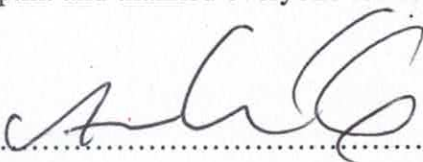
27. To receive items for next agenda.

No one present requested any particular items.

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

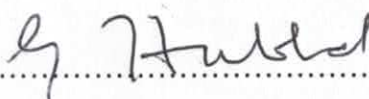
The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at 6.30 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.00 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.


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Chairman

11/8/26
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Date


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Clerk

11-8-26
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Date

ADDITIONAL NOTE

After the meeting it was agreed the summer solstice walk would meet at the Village Hall at 6pm on Friday 19th June to walk to Bintree and the Royal Oak Public House.