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BILLINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 24th August 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

Present:- Cllr M Davies, Cllr A Lake, Cllr R Thorneley, Cllr Keith Crudginton and
Cllr M Reeve

Others Present: - 8 members of the Public, Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

Matters raised under time allocated to the Public.

Cllr Lake advised those present that the next Village Quiz was planned for 4th December at 7.30 p.m. He mentioned that the past questions to village quizzes were on the website.

A member of the Public asked the Chairman who was going to monitor what is happening at the Billingford Lakes and he was told an employee of Breckland Council would be carrying out this task.

1. Welcome and to accept Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. There were apologies for absence received from Cllr P Payne and these were accepted.

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 May 18th 2021

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Crudginton proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Thorneley and carried, so the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of May 18th (not on the Agenda)

There were no matters arising.

5. To discuss the resignation of Mrs Valerie Wilson

Sadly Cllr Wilson has had to resign from the Parish Council after many years of service. The Parish Councillors all signed a card for her and a gift of flowers will be sent. The Clerk has already set in motion the necessary paperwork regarding the vacancy.

6. To discuss any notified Planning Issues

3NM/2021/0023/NMA Billingford Lakes, amendment to 3PL/2016/0533/H seeks minor typographical amendments to the planning consent for clarification, Approved

3PL/2021/0574/D Billingford Lakes, Elmham Road, reserved matters application for construction of 8 holiday lodges located within the site, following outline part of hybrid application 3PL/2016/0533/H.

7. To discuss Billingford Lakes – possible contact/relationship with the new owners

The Parish Council will ask the owners for their comments and opinions on reducing the speed limit down to 30 m.p.h. Cllr Crudginton and Cllr Payne are in communications regarding the speeding. They felt involving the applicants would be a good move regarding trying to get the speed reduced. They felt their involvement regarding the campaign to try to get the speed reduced in the village would be beneficial. It was hoped the Parish Council would hear their views regarding the speeding problem and not Breckland's all the time.



8. To discuss obstruction of access point to Billingford Common

There is a track south of Holl Lane, which is part of the surrounding common and runs westwards, and it has recently been blocked with barbed wire, adjacent to the common land, known as Franks Pit, thus blocking access to that part of the Common. Norfolk County Council has the authority for Commons and has been informed and the Parish Council has requested Norfolk County Council to remedy the situation.

9. To discuss any correspondence received

Open Spaces Society – Grant A Green Appeal – the P. C. decided not to send a donation.

Donation request - East Anglian Air Ambulance – the P. C. decided to send a £25.00 donation.

Donation request - East Anglia's Children's Hospices – the P. C. decided to send a £25.00 donation.

Email - 1 Million Trees for Norfolk project – an email will be sent to Holkham Hall to investigate whether this project would be of interest.

Email from Norfolk ALC Wellbeing –subject Digging Up Norfolk. A group of Parish Councils have written to other Parish Councils for support in order to help oppose this idea and support them. What is being proposed is to use an Offshore Transmission Network. This could save a lot of 'digging up'. They are asking that we support their views. The Parish Council will support it and will write to say so.

10. To discuss the costs of the Village Sign repair

A quote had been received for £800.00. Mr Paul Downs made it and he quoted £600.00. A resident is interested in doing this work and he will be speaking to Cllr Davies at the weekend and he may provide a quote. If his quote is well below the others, then it will be accepted. Cllr Lake proposed that if the quote was £600.00 then Mr Downs should be offered the work, seconded by Cllr Thorneley and carried.

11. To discuss the Rubbish/Debris on land between Frank's Pit and the Travellers Land

Serco have been charged with removing this rubbish over several months and there is still some there, so hopefully they will remember to come and take away some more soon.

12. To discuss Mr Pask land – waste on Holl Lane

Mr Pask has some rubbish on his land. The situation has been looked at and Breckland Council have responded by saying it is not regarded by them as being an issue.

13. To discuss Platinum anniversary trees

This was discussed under item 9.

14. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments

Cllr Davies proposed the following financial transactions be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Lake and carried:-

Playsafety Ltd. £82.20 TT Jones Electrical Ltd. £23.76 T D Gardens £75.00 (x3)
 Clerk's net salary for June, July and August £541.00 HMRC tax for June, July and August £83.00
 Clerk's expenses for June, July and August £50.48 East Anglia Air Ambulance £25.00
 East Anglia's Children's Hospices £25.00

15. To discuss Highways Matters - Blocked drains outside Billingford Hall and the Old Rectory

Cllr Payne will chase this problem up with the Highways Department.

16. To discuss speeding through the Village and the progress

Cllr Davies suggested that in future any data that is created be put on the website so it can be viewed by any interested party. The SAM2 sign was monitoring traffic recently. 50% of traffic was speeding, averaging between 30 m.p.h. and 40 m.p.h. Some people travelled at just under 30 m.p.h. but at times the speed was over 40 m.p.h. The speed even went up to 65 m.p.h. and a car was spotted doing 70 m.p.h. The County Police Liaison Officer has been sent the data and it will be passed on and she has been asked to organise a Police Officer to come to the village. The Community Speed Watch exercise was also carried out. The Police have asked that the Community Speed Watch activity be suspended for a while because a new Form has to be completed and some more training needs to be carried out by the volunteers. The next step is for data to be sent to the Highways Department. Cllr Crudginton thinks Pinch Points are a good deterrent and he is going to take photos of ones in other villages and pictures of Billingford and he will speak to Highways regarding where the road is adequate in size. He feels if a good result is not forthcoming then the situation will have to be taken further. Cllr Crudginton discussed the possibility of a letter through everyone's door regardless of whether people feel they are affected or not and a petition may be needed. If the Community Speed Watch volunteers feel that problems are not being resolved, then they may not want to continue as volunteers.

17. To discuss the status of Billingford Church

The wall at the rear of the Church has collapsed but it did not meet the criteria to make an insurance claim. At the moment the situation is with the Rector and the team. There is no Parochial Church Council at the moment and the Church is closed. There is a crack and it is being monitored and the Church is having the crack looked at. The Church has been closed for worship and there are no services, weddings, funerals or christenings. The crack has been reported and at the moment no report has been forthcoming regarding the crack. Cllr Crudginton proposed that something be done to try to get some volunteers to help with the cleaning up of the state of the Church and grass that needs attention.

18. To receive items for next agenda

Several items discussed this evening will appear on the next agenda.

19. To confirm date and time of next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is set for Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. There being no other business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

..... *M Davies* *9/11/2021*
 Chairman Date

..... *E Hubbard* *9/11/2021*
 Clerk Date