

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

Councillors Present:- Cllr P Payne, Cllr M Davies (Chairman), Cllr M Reeve and  
Cllr R Thorneley

Other Members Present:- Dist. Cllr G Bambridge, County Cllr B Borrett, 5 Electors and Mrs  
Hubbard, Clerk

**1. Welcome and to accept apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Lake and Cllr K Crudginton 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 November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022**

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Payne proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Reeve 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 arising.

**Matters Raised by The Public**

A resident spoke about The Street and stated it was very narrow all the way down to The Lodge. She asked if it would be possible to have some Narrow Road signs sited, as cars regularly loose side windows when travelling down it. Drivers are in danger when travelling down such a narrow road. Cllr Borrett offered to help with this problem, as he has some money available from another source that he could allocate towards the costs of some signs. This problem will be raised with Matthew Lines at Norfolk County Council. The Clerk was asked to try to arrange for Mr Lines to come to the Parish and view the situation and ask him what is the best way forward. Cllr Borrett offered to allocate £500.00 towards this project and he was thanked for this gesture.

Another resident present spoke about a tree on The Street. No one was absolutely sure who is responsible for dealing with this. It's branches reach right across the road and are interfering with the telephone wire and are very close to the residents' roof. They are concerned with the disruption/damage it could cause if left unmaintained for much longer. and when Mr Lines comes to the village he will be shown the tree and asked what can be done about it.

**5. To discuss any correspondence received**

There was nothing to discuss.

**6. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments**

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

Clerk's net salary for December/February £691.72 HMRC tax for December/February £120.80  
Clerk's expenses for December/February £48.86



**7. To discuss the Financial Update and raise any queries**

The Clerk was thanked for compiling the document. No one had any questions regarding the document.

**8. Discussion on rights of way, commons and access land in the parish**

Cllr Thorneley circulated a letter he had written. The content of the letter was basically to highlight to the public the importance he felt of ensuring public access to the long established Rights of Way on Commons and access land in the parish and make sure it is not threatened. Some residents present were unclear as to why they had been given the document and what the situation was actually all about. Cllr Davies stated it related to historic problems and did not wish to expand much on those problems. The Parish Council voted on the statement that it would act to support the public interest to maintain public access and the Rights of Way must be maintained and it should not be compromised. Also that the Parish Council takes responsibility for maintaining Public Access.

Cllr Thorneley proposed a Resolution be passed and Cllr Payne seconded the Resolution that the Parish Council would maintain public access to the footpaths and commons and act on other related matters of concern and this Resolution was carried.

**9 To discuss any Planning Issues**

3PL/2022/0273/VAR Burfield, Bintree Road, variation of condition 2 on p.p. 3PL/2017/1613/F – regarding passing bay. This application is still ‘Undecided’.

3PL/20232/0272/D Land South of Old Bells Farm. Elmham Road, NR20 4RE Reserved matters application for erection of 2 storey dwelling & cartlodge following outline approval 3PL/2018/1254/O. This application is still ‘Undecided’.

3PL/2022/0258/DOC Blacksmiths Cottage, Bintree Road, discharge of Condition on 3PL/2020/0901/F D.O.C. is complete.

3PL/2022/1208/D Land South of Old Bells Farm. Elmham Road, NR20 4RE Reserved matters application for erection of 1 no 2-storey dwelling & garage (Plot 2) following outline application 3PL/2018/1254/O. This application is still ‘Undecided’.

**10. To discuss the New Town Proposal**

Cllrs Thorneley and Davies attended the Breckland meeting on this and the slides that Breckland produced were circulated. At the moment the New Town proposal is under the heading of Issues and Options of suggested sites and there is no decision as yet. There is a Campaign meeting tomorrow night in North Elmham at the Tennis Club. It is disappointing that it has been resubmitted. An Issues and Options consultation is due out any day now. There are questions on the Consultation about the New Town. It is vital that people engage with the Consultation and it is easier to answer now. It takes about 18 months for it to be adopted. It is being called a Railway Village but it is for 5,000 houses. Breckland are looking for sites to build low costing houses.

**11. To receive Community Speedwatch sessions summary**

Two sessions have taken place. Four people were caught exceeding the speeding limit and they have been reported.



**12. To summarise village events that have taken place since the last meeting**

A Zoom meeting took place for the Breckland Design Guide.  
A Christmas Candlelit Service took place in December and it was a great success.  
A Coffee Morning took place on January 1<sup>st</sup> and it was very successful.

**13. To receive items for next agenda**

To elect the Chairman of the Parish Council  
To adopt the End of Year Accounts

**14. To set date in May for the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. This meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting and it will be preceded at 7.00 p.m. by the Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

.....  
Chairman

..... 9/8/2023  
Date

.....  
Clerk

..... 9-8-2023  
Date

The Chairman wished for it to be minuted that under Item 8, the statement that the Parish Council takes responsibility for maintaining Public Access cannot be implemented. The statement is incorrect. It is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council, not the Parish Council. Secondly, the second paragraph is incorrect. Correct procedure was not followed. No motion may be moved at a meeting unless it is on the agenda and the proposer has given written notice of their intention and of its wording to the Proper Officer of the Parish Council. You vote on a motion not a resolution. The resolution is the outcome of the motion. Therefore, this item is in breach of the Local Government Act 1972 under rules of debate and the parish council's own standing orders under section B.