

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

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

Other Members Present:- 5 Electors, County Cllr Bill Borrett and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

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

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and stated it was good to see some residents present. He thanked Cllr Borrett for attending. There were apologies received from Cllr P Richardson and these were accepted. Although there were only three Parish Councillors present, the Parish Council did have a quorum for voting.

**2. To declare any Interests re items on the Agenda.**

There were no interests declared.

**3. To confirm and accept the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Cutcher proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Lake and carried. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the minutes.

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

There were no matters raised.

**Matters Raised by The Public.**

There were no matters raised by the Public present.

**5. To submit any required questions to Dist. Cllr G Bambridge and County Cllr B Borrett.**

Local Government Reform, the Government has said this is going to happen. All the District and County Councils will be abolished. Breckland have proposed that Norfolk will consist of three Councils and that way the council tax could still stay low. South Norfolk have proposed a two Council arrangement and Norfolk County Council want a single unitary for all of Norfolk and Norwich. The Police and Crime Commissioner post will no longer exist with their duties taken into the role of the new Mayor. There will be consultations over the Christmas period. Elections will take place next May. Whoever is elected will have to reorganise Norfolk and deal with all the different services.

Devolution. There will be a vote on October 16<sup>th</sup> regarding whether to have a new Mayor. It could be delayed for one year. The Mayor will take over the Fire Services and other services as well as infra structure. The public will not get a vote on it. The Mayor will probably be placed in Norwich and Ipswich.

Details of the revised Local Plan (increasing housebuilding by 50% per annum) should become available for comment in October.

Cllr Borrett had created a report and it is on the website.

**6. To discuss any necessary correspondence received.**

Email from North Elmham Doctors Practice regarding volunteers. A member present showed an interest in joining this and was given the details.

**7. To discuss any Planning Issues.**

Information only. High House Farm Cottage, Green Lane. Application for Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed use or development Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), proposed installation of PV panels to 3 poultry roofs.

**8. To discuss the police initiative to try to prevent Courier Scams – OP Radium Trigger.**

The Parish Council is happy to get involved with this initiative.

**9. To receive an update on the Norfolk Nutrient Neutrality initiative and the replacement of septic tanks with water treatment plants and discuss outcome of the meeting.**

About 10 people showed an interest in this. There are strict criteria to pass to qualify and there will be minimum building costs. A power supply is needed and it must be serviced once a year. That particular company does not have to be used, people can sign up with another one. It was an informative and productive meeting.

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

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

Clerk's net salary £896.20 Tax ~~HMRC~~ June-Sept. £164.60  
PKF Littlejohn LLP invoice for AGAR £252.00 Cllr Cutcher mileage £14.40

Since the May meeting, the following transactions have occurred. Payments out:- Campaign To Protect Rural England £15.00, Zurich Municipal Ins. £421.00, Playsafety Ltd. £96.00, Norfolk Agre UK donation £25.00, Internal Auditor £25.00, Clerk's net salary £453.08, HMRC tax £53.80 and SSE energy electric £130.61. Payments in:- HMRC Vat Reclaim £122.07

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

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

**12. To adopt the Data Protection Privacy Notice.**

This will be adopted in November.

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

The Harvest Festival took place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. There were between 35 to 40 people in the Church and most people came to the Village Hall afterwards. On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September will be the Autumn Equinox Walk leaving the Playing Field between 12.30 p.m. to 1.00 p.m. and finishing at The Bintree Oak Public House.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a Quiz in the Village Hall.

**14. To receive an update on the Community Orchard**

The end of the watering season has been reached and thanks to Cllr Lake for helping with it all. One tree has lost its leaves early, but still appears healthy. Back in May Cllr Cutcher applied to Breckland Council for 2 preservation orders on two trees. After six weeks he still has not had a reply. He is still chasing because the 2025 Call For Sites might have the field involved development, so he will chase this situation up.

**15. To receive an update on St. Peter's Church.**

The Harvest Festival took place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 11 a.m. followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. The next service is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December, which will be the Carol Service. Next year the idea is to have a service on the third Sunday of each month, when there is not one in North Elmham. The main porch door is now open. It is the entrance door now but it is locked, so not always open. The cracks above the door have been tested and are not getting worse.

**16. To make final decision regarding Grit Bins.**

The Parish Council agreed to purchase a grit bin and it will be placed near the Kissing Gate.

**17. To discuss any Highways issues in the village.**

Since the last meeting, the 30-m.p.h. sign on Bintree Road has been replaced. The water leak has been repaired. The leak in Festival Road has been repaired but it is leaking again, so it is assumed that it will be repaired again soon.

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

The SAM2 sign has not be used in the village since June. Billingford village should have access to it at the end of October. Some more brackets will probably be bought. There was some general discussion regarding drivers driving dangerously through the village and the need to lower the speeds. It will remain an agenda item.

**19. To submit for funding 'narrow road' or 'access width limit' type signs for Bintree Rd.**

The Parish Council had been considering applying through the Parish Partnership fund for these signs, whereby the Parish Council pays 50% of the cost and Norfolk County Council pay the other 50%. But it is unsure if this will be possible because Cllr Borrett has also offered to contribute £500.00 from his allowance to the cost of these signs. The sign will have to go on the Bintree Road. A bid will be submitted and the Clerk will seek clarification of the situation from Cllr Borrett.

**20. To confirm the Autumn Equinox Walk on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September from the Playing Field starting at 12.30 p.m. and finishing at The Bintree Oak Public House.**

This will go ahead as planned. The winter Solstice Walk will take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 12.30 p.m. from the playing field and finishing at The Bintree Oak Public House.

**21. To adopt revised Financial Regulations. Review the Standing Orders and Asset Register**

The Parish Council adopted the revised Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and decided no changes needed to be made to the Asset Register.


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

To discuss the cost of the planters that may be purchased for the village.


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

The next meeting will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

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

  
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Chairman

11/11/23  
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Date

  
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Clerk

11-11-2023  
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Date