

Website address: - billingfordpc.info

BILLINGFORD PARISH

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Billingford Parish held on Friday June 9th at 8.30 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall.

Present:- Mr A Lake (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mr Keith Crudgington, Mr Patrick Richardson, Mr Andy Cutcher, Mrs Virginia Edgecombe, Mr James Dawson, Mrs Mandy Dawson, Mrs Mary Reeve, Major William Reeve, Cllr Gordon Bambridge and Mrs Hubbard, Parish Council Clerk

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

Mr Lake welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Philippa Payne.

2. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on May 10th 2022

The minutes had been circulated. Mr Lake proposed the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Mr Crudgington and carried.

3. To discuss any matters arising from these minutes (not on the agenda)

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive a report from the County Councillor of N.C.C.

Cllr Bill Borrett was not present and the Clerk had not received a report.

5. To receive a report from the District Councillor of Breckland District Council

Mr Lake read out Cllr Bambridge's report and it will be attached to the minutes. He congratulated Cllr Bambridge and Cllr Borrett on their re-election.

6. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Mr Davies, the previous Chairman of the Parish Council, had submitted a report to the Clerk and Mr Lake read out the report. The main points of the report were as follows:-

There have been activities to reduce interference from traffic speeding through the village, such as the SAM2 sign and speed watch personnel. A "road narrows" sign will be installed on the B1145 and the 30 m.p.h. limit is to be extended to the parish boundaries. New improved low energy sources have been fitted in the street lighting and the village sign has been repainted. Planning issues on Holl Lane, Bintree Road and the Main Road have been dealt with. Campaigning has resulted in vigorous opposition against the New Town mentioned in the Breckland Local Plan. An application for grant money from the Norfolk Community Foundation to purchase a community defibrillator was successful and this has now been installed at the Village Hall. Jubilee community trees have been planted on the village field area, opposite the Church. Flooding in Bintree Road and on the Main Road are under constant requests for maintenance by Norfolk County Highways. Disposal of various accumulated metal ware on Billingford Common has been reported to and actioned by Norfolk County Highways. Infringements to rights of way on FP4 and RB3 have been reported to Norfolk County Council, who have made the necessary action. Parish Council Meetings continued during Covid times, utilising outdoor and on-line meetings, as required.

The village website has been continuously kept up to date with an extensive amount of local information.

Mr Lake reported that when he stepped down as Chairman in 2019 he did not think he would become Chairman again. However, because of the lack of people willing to join the Parish Council in the May local elections, he decided to rejoin in June, as did Mr Crudgington.

7. To receive reports from organisations connected to the Village Hall

There are no reports. There is a small Village Hall Activities Committee and it is hoped that one or two other people will join them. Mr Crudgington reported that Mr Dawson has carried out a fantastic job on the Village Hall website and he was thanked for this. Attendance at events has been really good and more events are planned. There will be something happening for Harvest Festival and perhaps a Car Boot Sale and something at Christmas along with more coffee mornings.

There will be a guided tour around Billingford Lakes on 21st June at 6.30 p.m. exclusively for Billingford Residents. This has been advertised on the noticeboards, as a “Solstice Walk” and via Mr Crudgington’s email contact list and Nextdoor.co.uk. Mr Crudgington advised that the owner Debbie Bales is kindly providing refreshments and food afterwards. Booking for this event is essential and cost is £5.00 per person. Children 12 years and under free. Dogs welcome but must be on a lead.

There is a new fridge, freezer, coffee machine, tea urn, cake stands, tea pots and much more in the kitchen and Mr Crudgington will be installing some new kitchen work tops shortly. Mr Crudgington further thanked all the people involved in the Village Hall Activities Committee for all their hard work. They have done marvelous work.

8. To receive a report, including accounts, on the Billingford Fuel Allotment Charity

No Trustees attended and no accounts or report were available.

9. To discuss and debate the New Town Proposal

This had been discussed at the Annual Parish Council meeting, which had preceded this meeting.

10. To receive an update re St. Peter’s Church

There is still work to be done. The wall is still an on-going concern. There may be some progress regarding possible repairs to the broken windows and the possibility of having the interior of the church cleaned professionally. There is a further meeting on the 20th June at St Peter’s Church and Mr Crudgington hopes to be in a position to update everyone more at the next parish council meeting in August or possibly beforehand. There could be the possibility of some grant funding and this is being looked into where the windows are concerned. The broken windows have since been blocked up to stop birds from further entering the premises. Sincere thanks to Patrick Richardson for arranging this. The trees do not now have to come out so they will remain in place. There was some discussion regarding how dangerous (or not) the main entrance porch was and to investigate possible subsidence in the south/west corner of the building. This will require a structural engineer to inspect this area properly. A number of initiatives are being undertaken in order to try to obtain grants such as through Norfolk Churches Trust in an attempt to instigate repairs and save the church from further degradation. The long-term plan is to hopefully get St Peters re-opened. This is however a major task!

It is hoped that the Harvest Festival event can incorporate a service in the School House in conjunction with the Village Hall Activities Committee. Also there was some discussion regarding the Quinquennial report. Being a building at risk, which St Peter's is, may be useful.

11. To discuss the Parish Council accounts, if required

Copies of the accounts were circulated. No-one present had any questions for the Clerk regarding the accounts.

12 .To discuss any future village plans

No future plans were discussed.

13. To discuss any other business from those present

There was some discussion regarding the situation of the Fuel Allotment Charity.

14. To confirm date and time of next Annual meeting

The next Annual Meeting of the Parish was set for Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 8.00 p.m. As there was no further business to discuss Mr Lake thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date