

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on
Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

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

Other Members Present:- Dist. Cllr G Bambridge, 13 Electors and Mrs Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to accept Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. Everyone was present, so there were no apologies for absence.

2. To declare any Interests re items on the Agenda

Cllr Lake declared a Prejudicial interest in item no. 9.

3. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on August 23rd 2022

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

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of August 23rd (not on the Agenda)

There were no matters arising.

Matters raised by the Public

There was much discussion regarding the Billingford Lakes.

A member present wished for it to be minuted that in 2016 the Billingford Parish Council voted in favour of the development. A lengthy and lively discussion then followed. He was concerned that Cllr Davies is still writing letters about the Billingford Lakes. Norfolk County Council is following up the infringement of boundaries and the interference of the RB3 right of way.

In response to comments made by a resident regarding Billingford Lakes, the Chairman said the Breckland Council and the, Inspectorate have turned down these proposals twice in their capacity as [planning Authority.

Cllr Lake commented that the Chairman should consider standing down as Chairman and resign from the Parish Council if he wishes to pursue his personal grievances against Mrs Bales and Billingford Lakes

5. To discuss any correspondence received

Cllr Crudgington raised a point of order pointing out that the Chairman must be clear that he is acting in a personal capacity and not representing the parish council when sending out communications to third parties that have not been discussed or approved collectively by the Parish Council. Cllr Davies agreed that in future when he sends personally compiled correspondence, he will not use his title, Chairman of the Parish Council. The Chairman said that this was not a Parish Council matter because it is in the authority of NCC. As pointed out

in Item 8 of the August 2021 minutes and item 13 of August 2022 minutes, the NC C, at the request of the Parish Council, are investigating infringement boundaries and the footpath and The Common by the owners of Billingord Lakes,.

6. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments and receive Financial Update Statement

There were no questions regarding the Financial Update.

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

Zurich Municipal Insurance £167.44 TT Jones Electrical Ltd. £83.63
DefibWarehouse £113.94
Reimbursement to Mr Crudginton for Garner Electrical Services Ltd. £116.52
Clerk's net salary for Sept./Nov. £549.84 HMRC tax for Sept./Nov. £85.20
Clerk's expenses for Sept./Nov. £58.85 Donation for Clerk towards new computer £184.00

7. To set the Precept for 2023/2024

Cllr Lake proposed the precept be set at £4,000.00, seconded by Cllr Payne and carried

8 To decide the PC response to the recent Planning Issue of 3PL/2022/0272/D Land South of Old Bells Farm, Elmham Road, reserved matters Application of erection of 2 storey dwelling and cartlodge following outline approval 3PL/2018/1254/O

Some residents who live in the village and who are greatly affected by this planning application, were present at the meeting. They voiced their concerns regarding this planning application. Unfortunately at the time both planning applications were submitted (initially for one single plot and then subsequently for two plots) no-one objected to them. (Ref. Breckland 3PL/2018/1254/O) under a previous Parish Council. Both properties are similar in design and have been submitted by the same architect and there is concern that these buildings plans have been submitted on behalf of the same developer/person, thus contravening the self-build condition attached to this application. Both properties are oversized for the size of plot they are to be built on. There are major concerns regarding access and a skip truck has already got stuck and had to be towed out of the shared access area. This raises concerns for the fire brigade, waste and septic tank vehicle access. There appears to be inaccuracies in the site location plans submitted on behalf of the applicant, for example, the tree report is misrepresentative of the shared access way. It also refers to trees and areas of land that are not owned by the applicant, but by Mr and Mrs Dawson.

Some members of the public present commented that they did not think the Planning Department at Breckland Council was fit for purpose.

Cllr Bambridge confirmed he thought outlined planning permission was already in place and advised that any objections should focus on whether there has been any breach of conditions, impact on the River Wensum (nutrient neutral) and access issues. He further confirmed that Highways issues are decided by Norfolk County Council. Planners have to make a visit. All letters to the Planners have to be read.

Cllr Davies proposed the Parish Council objects to this application, seconded by Cllr Thorneley and carried.

Strong objections need to be made regarding this application. It seems that someone is trying to take advantage of the situation.,

9. To discuss the New Town Proposal

This proposal is outside the Parish envelope and a Protest Group would be useful. Four years ago a similar application was put in. Breckland Council has been advised by Central Government that more houses need to be built. So Breckland Council is looking for useable sites. Cllr Bambridge suggested that all the Parishes get together and object. There is a meeting on 20th December, which Parish Councillors can attend. There will probably be a meeting in January. The River Wensum is the largest chalk river in Europe and is very well protected under SSS1 status. The entire area lies over a chalk aquifer. There are Anglian Water works at the wend of Short Lane and the water from the aquifer is directly used to improve the water quality delivered to the City of Norwich. Thousands of acres of grade 1 prime agricultural land would be lost due to the works on the land itself. There was much discussion regarding the potential extension and upgrading of the railway line. Mid Norfolk Railway Preservation Trust have not had any discussions or involvement in any of these articles that have been put out in the media. There are other planning applications for Billingford waiting to be submitted. These are all on the Breckland Council website for all to view. North Elmham may set up a 'Fighting Fund'. Members of all Parish Councils involved need to co-ordinate their actions, get involved strongly with one another and all attend meetings. The Public present were involved with the discussions that took place regarding this topic.

10. To receive Community Speedwatch sessions summary

SAM2 speed sign sited at East end of the village between 20th August and 8th September

- Total vehicles travelling westbound through village 28, 24
- Total Average Speed Recorded – 30.2MPH
- Average Speeder Recorded at 40.3MPH
- Average percentage of speeders during the period – 19.7%
- Top speeds recorded on any given day ranged from 50MPH, 55MPH, 60MPH, 65MPH, 70MPH, 75MPH
- 80MPH was recorded on 25th August at 0440 hours.

Speed Watch - Speed Watch Sessions took place on 6th and 28th September.

- Total Vehicles caught on speed gun speeding- 26
- First Offence letters sent to drivers – 15
- Second Offence letter sent to drivers – 2
- No Further Action -9
 - o Incorrect VRM – 3
 - o Hire Car – 2
 - o Duplicate – 3
 - No update on PNC – 1

The result is encouraging.

11 To summarise Website article on public rights of way and access land

No discussion took place on this item.

12 To discuss request for public input to website of parish walk photos

The Chairman would like people to send photos to the Clerk of their favourite walks for her to put on the website.

13 To discuss proposal for further personnel for village hall committee

The Chairman said any attempt to undermine the Village Hall and the Playing Field will be opposed because the Village Hall is an important asset to the village. The Chairman thought it was a good idea for a group of people to form a sort of Committee to stop any future attempts at damaging the Village Hall’s reputation (because there is a Trust Deed and any Committees formed must comply with the rules).

Cllr Crudginton advised the Parish Council that a Committee was already in the process of being formed and volunteers had already begun the process of using the hall for events, such as the defibrillator launch on 26th November. There are plans to hold Coffee Mornings and other events for the village going forwards and it will be advertised to external parties for hire. Volunteers also recently cleaned the hall from top to bottom and a Christmas tree and decorations were put up to bring some Christmas cheer over the festive period. The Christmas Village Quiz is to be held in the Village Hall on 3rd December and a Carol Service at the Church House on 21st December at 3.30 p.m.

14. To discuss Clothing Bank idea at the V. Hall, mentioned at the P.C. meeting Nov. 2021

It had been decided not to proceed with this idea.

15. To receive items for next agenda

To receive an update on the Defibrillator event held on 26th November

16. To confirm date and time of next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

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Chairman

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Date

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Clerk

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Date

