

BILLINGBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on Monday 7th December 2015
at Billingborough Primary School

Present: Cllr M King - Chairman (absent for Item 11) Cllr R Free - Vice-Chairman (Chairman for Item 11)
Cllrs M Cummings, J North, M Peace, and P Pocock
Clerk to the Council – M Free

The meeting was opened at 7.00pm. There was no Public Forum and there were no members of the public present.

1. **Chairman's Remarks.** The Chairman acknowledged the progress that was being made to the ongoing projects. The Chairman informed the Council that the recent meeting with Pointon FC had been very positive.
2. **Apologies for absence:** The Council accepted apologies from Cllr Bain and Cllr Stafford.
3. **To approve the Minutes of the meeting dated 2nd November 2015.** The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman signed the file copy.
4. **Meeting Dates.** The Council agreed the proposed meeting dates for 2016: 4th January; 7th March; 9th May; 4th July; 5th September; 7th November and 5th December. **Clerk to notify the School and publish the dates on the Noticeboard. Cllr Cummings to post them on the website.**
5. **New Councillor Appointment.** The Council discussed the two candidates who had been interviewed for the vacant councillor position. The sealed votes were collected and counted by the Clerk. The votes were 5:1 in favour of Mr Paul Jepson of Billingborough. **Cllr King to inform both candidates of the Council's decision.**
6. **2015/16 Maintenance Tendering.** Tenders for the 2016 Grass and Hedge Cutting/Maintenance contract will be invited after the next meeting and the Council discussed the contract requirements. It was agreed that references would be required, only strimmers to be used within ¼m of a cemetery headstone or monument and the contractor would need to specify their Public liability, and be responsible for any damage caused. The option of specifying a maximum grass height for certain areas and a rolling contract, with exit points were also discussed. **Cllr North to identify suitable companies and the various contract options, and distribute a draft contract for approval at the next meeting. Cllr King to provide Cllr north with the details of the companies used by other councils.**
7. **Circus Tyanna.** The request from Circus Tyanna to use the Billingborough Recreational Ground in May 2016 was discussed. Following a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed that having the Circus on the Recreational Ground would have a negative impact on the other users, especially the Cricket Club. **Clerk to notify Circus Tyanna of the Council's decision.**
8. **Speed Feedback Signs.** Cllr Free informed the Council that the battery in the speed feedback sign was only lasting 2 weeks. A solar powered sign needs to be fitted to a permanent structure, which would need Highways approval. Currently Highways were not approving requests for the solar powered signs available under the Road Safety Partnership. Also, Highways had still not fitted the posts for the 2 other locations. Approved for the existing feedback sign. **Cllr Free to contact Cllr Hill regarding the request for a solar powered sign.**
9. **Finance Report**
 - a. The Clerk briefed the Council on the Payments and Receipts since the last meeting, and payments requiring authorisation; see attached list. The Chairman and Vice authorised the payments and signed off the payments and receipts.

- b. The Clerk informed the Council that the request to close the Barclays Bank Accounts had been submitted, and that Cllrs Cummings and North were now authorisers for the Unity Trust Bank Accounts.

10. 2015/16 Budget and Precept Preparation

- a. **Budget.** The Draft Budget that had been previously circulated to the Council was discussed. The Subscription payment was increased to account for Allotment Society and Playing Field memberships. The in-year investment to set up the Allotments was also increased. A total of 30 allotments were planned.
 - b. **Precept and Grant.** The council discussed the precept and proposed Grant for the financial year 2016/17. It was agreed that the combined Precept and Grant figure for next year should remain the same.
 - c. **Projects.** The Council acknowledged the lack of recreation facilities for the older children. Cllr Peace presented replacement options for the Skate Ramp, and some other options for older children. It was agreed to investigate the options for a higher skate ramp. It was also agreed to invest in refurbishment of the Tennis Court area. **Cllr Peace to obtain quotes for the revised skate ramps for a Council decision at the next meeting. Clerk to amend the draft budget for approval by the Council at the next meeting.**
- 11. Other Business.** The Council was required to comment on Planning Application S15/3257. This was an application submitted by Cllr King. Cllr King was asked to leave the room. Cllr Free chaired the comments. The Council were unanimously in favour. **Clerk to submit the Council's comments to Planning Officer.**
- 12. Next Meeting.** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th January 2016 at the Billingborough Primary School at 7pm, preceded by a public forum at 6.50pm.

The Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.