

BILLINGBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 9th January 2017 at Billingborough Primary School

Present: Cllr M King – Chairman, Cllr R Free – Vice chairman, Cllrs R. Stafford, P. Pocock, P. Jepson, C. Jepson, C. Woodhead & S. Stock
Cllr M Hill – District Cllr (items 5d-f only)
Clerk to the Council – M Free

The Meeting opened at 6.35pm for the Public Forum. There were no members of public present so it was agreed to start the Meeting.

Cllr Martin Hill arrived after item 5.c. The Chairman introduced the new councillors. Cllr Hill briefed the Council on the cuts regime and the balance issues facing SKDC. Over 30% had been saved thus far (approx. £120m) but a further £40m was required in FY 2017/18. Savings had come from grass cutting and street lighting. Increasing demands were being placed on NHS and Adult Social Care. There were also issues with recruitment of GP's and hospital staff, and Hospital services were reducing. The Government was reviewing efficiencies such as extended GP hours and other services, (e.g. Fire Service) co-responding (something that some the Billingborough Firemen already do). Council Tax was expected to increase, with both the Government and SKDC elements increasing by 2%. Drainage in the village was discussed, with the area under the former Grimers site requiring improvement. The preference was for this to be carried out prior to any building works being carried out. SKDC had voted against the Mayoral Referendum and the result had not changed the expected allocation of resources. 14 'Garden Villages' and 3 new Towns were proposed, although 'Grantham Garden Village' was already in existence. Cllr Hill invited questions from the Council:

Was the Stamford Hospital trial of ID checking before treatment being rolled out? This was being considered along with a number of other options, such as centrally locating emergency vehicles. Some concern was raised about dark areas and junctions created by street lighting being turned off, and the different ownership of lights in some areas (LCC & SKDC). Along with changing low energy bulbs, this initiative had identified a number of savings. To date the fears relating to increased crime levels had been unfounded. The Chairman returned to the Agenda.

Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year.

Prior to the meeting, the resident who had previously raised concern of the height of the conifer hedges that border the former Grimers Site notified the Chairman that this still had not been carried out. Although he had been contacted twice previously, the Chairman had agreed to email the developer again, and already had.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Hesslewood was absent. No reasons were given.
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting & General Meeting on 5th December 2016.**
The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the file copy.
3. **Finance Report.**
 - a. **2016/17 Accounts to date.** The Clerk presented the Council with the previously circulated accounts for the financial year 2016/17 to date. The outstanding compensation payment had just been received.
 - i. **The Council approved all the payments and receipts. Cllrs King and P Jepson signed the payments on the attached list and agreed to authorise the electronic payment.**
 - ii. Before the Council discussed the option of increasing the Clerk's salary scale point the Clerk was asked to leave the room. Cllr Free made a DPI and also left the room. **The Council voted unanimously to increase the Clerk to scale point 20 from today's date.**
 - iii. The Council reviewed the DD payments (Anglian Water & EOn). The Clerk requested basic salary to be paid by SO monthly. **It was unanimously resolved to continue with the existing DD and pay the Clerk monthly by SO.**

- b. **2017/18 Precept.** The Council discussed the proposed precept and considered the impact of the reduced grant. **The Council voted by a majority of 6:1 to approve the increase in Precept to account for the grant reduction and additional houses.**
 - c. **2017/18 Budget.** The previously circulated Draft Budget was discussed, including amounts for training, the Emergency Plan and Newsletter printing. **It was unanimously resolved to increase the training budget to £100, and the rest of the Budget.**
4. **Allocation of vacant Councillor Roles.** The website and other vacant roles were discussed. Cllr Pocock had reviewed the website introduction. **It was resolved that Cllr Stock would take on the website with guidance from the Clerk, and the entrance planters, obtaining 3 quotes for summer planters. Cllr Stock would also take on Youth Projects and make contact with Rev Sorenson on any progress with a 'Youth Club' and possibility of Fire Station as a venue.**
5. **Parish Matters.**
- a. **Vandalism Update.** The Clerk briefed the Council on the ongoing and latest vandalism issues. These had been reported to the Police. Billingborough were back on the sentinel 'monitoring' list. It was hoped the installation of the CCTV will put a stop to the problem.
 - b. **Recreation Ground:**
 - i. **CCTV Installation.** Cllr C Jepson informed the Council that an electricity connection was required for the CCTV. This was expected to be installed on Friday and would cost £180. The Cabinet, monitor, western cameras and hard drive had been installed. **Clerk to contact the Caretaker to open the shutter on Friday.**
 - ii. **Tennis Court Refurbishment.** Cllr Free briefed that no date had been set for the fence work. He had a quote for the white lining (£200-£250). A previous offer from a volunteer to carry out the work had been withdrawn. This and the planned replacement bins would be looked at in the Spring. **Clerk to chase fencing company.**
 - iii. **Play Equipment Inspection Report.** Cllr Free informed the Council that one of the cradle swings had failed the inspection and had been removed. This could be repaired with locally sourced parts. There were no other high items. **It was resolved that the Rec Team would review the report and present areas for rectification at the next meeting.**
 - c. **Cemetery Plot Reservation Fee.** The Council considered a request from a local non-resident to be classed as a resident for the purchase of an EROB. **It was unanimously agreed that the applicant was a non-resident and was not entitled to the reduced fee. Clerk to inform.**
 - d. **Grass Cutting Contract.** The previously circulated draft contract was discussed. Advice had been taken on the frequency of cuts of the Aveland sports pitches to maintain their standard. The area for cutting at Spring Wells needed to be adjusted due to the retirement of the volunteer resident. Cllr Free had identified a number of appropriate companies to invite to tender. A delegated panel was required to consider the tenders and appoint to meet the Council's preferred start date. **The proposed Grass Cutting contract was agreed. Cllr Free to work with the Clerk to advertise the contract and invite tenders. Cllrs King, Free and Woodhead were given delegated powers to review the tenders and appoint the preferred company/ies. It was unanimously agreed for Cllr King to write to thank the resident for their invaluable contribution.**
 - e. **Community Cleaner Contract Review.** The original contract and the proposed changes were reviewed. **It was unanimously resolved to accept the changes. Cllr Free to liaise with the Clerk to update the contract and discuss with the Community Cleaner for agreement.**
 - f. **Solar Powered Speed Feedback Sign.** Cllr Free read the response from LRSP. Further correspondence was required. Cllr Hill requested to be included in the correspondence. **It was agreed that Cllr Free would clarify the information, and copy Cllr Hill.**
 - g. **Allotments Update.** Cllr P Jepson reported that the allotment areas had now been ploughed and were awaiting harrowing; the BAGS were being chased. Marking out was also due this week. BAGS still needed to confirm the requirement for full and half plots. Water tests had not yet been carried out and the meter fitted. This was required before the additional water points could be installed. Fencing was due to start on Wednesday and the location of the hedges was discussed; the contractor also required the padlock combination. Cllr King had chased the completion of the land transfer through LCC. **It was resolved to pass on the padlock code to the fencing contractor and plant the hedging outside the allotment fencing. Cllr King to chase LCC for the water testing and completion of site ownership.**
 - h. **Public Access Arrangements (Aveland Site).** The access to the public and dog walkers onto the site was discussed. The difficulty in policing any policy was acknowledged and the area was

already being widely used. **Clerk to contact SKDC regarding purchase or relocation of another waste bin at the entrance. A final decision on access arrangements would be made once the land was transferred to the Council.**

- i. **CPRE Best Kept Village Competition.** Entrance into the competition was discussed. The cost was £20. The village had previously entered but had not been shown to its best. **It was resolved by majority that the Council wouldn't enter this year due to the number of projects in progress.**
 - j. **Mobile Mast Update.** Cllr Free briefed the Council that the company had been given the details of our solicitor to show the Council's serious interest. The company would now formally survey the area for suitability. Ongoing.
 - k. **Link Well Community Scheme.** Cllr Woodhead had joined the committee, and briefed the Council on the role of the scheme, which covers Aslackby, Billingborough, Dowsby, Pointon Rippingale and Folkingham. It is a self-initiated referral scheme for over 18s. The scheme was being widely advertised and had received £300 National funding and £300 from Pointon PC but more was required. Next meeting was 10th Jan. **It was agreed that more information was needed (e.g. constitution, how money spent, support to Billingborough residents) before a decision on funding could be made. Cllr Woodhead to liaise with the Scheme and report back.**
 - l. **Commonwealth Day 2017.** Option of purchasing a flag and pole to participate in March celebration was discussed. **It was agreed by majority not to purchase a flag and pole.**
 - m. **Church Photocopier.** Initially the repair had been deemed unrepairable but on checking the machine, it was found to be working. PCC contract for trained group users still needed to be amended before BPC could use the machine. PCC had offered to print BPC Newsletter.
6. **Planning.** S16/2223 and S16/2457 had been approved by SKDC. SKDC response to ENF 16/0344 (colour of Co-op shop front) was discussed. Council response to S16/1939 was discussed. The Clerk had obtained an extension to 16 Jan for Council comments. **It was agreed by majority to write to the Co-op regarding the shop front colour scheme. Cllrs Free & Stafford to compose the letter. It was agreed to object to S16/1939 (Cllr King abstained). Clerk to circulate DRAFT response to S16/1939 to Council for approval before submitting.**
7. **Clerk Report.** The Clerk presented the previously circulated report. There were no further comments.
8. **Items for inclusion on next Agenda.** No additional topics raised.
9. **Other business.** Chairman invited Cllr Woodhead to update the Council on the **Toller Education Foundation**. Possibility of winding up the fund was being discussed, with owned land sold. Allocated funding amounts were deemed to be too small to be useful. Widening eligibility (within Horbling and Billingborough) and increasing the amount was also discussed. Another meeting had been scheduled for February. There was no other business deemed urgent by the Chairman.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.