

BILLINGBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 6th July 2015
at Billingborough Primary School

PRESENT : Cllr Mike King (Chairman), Cllr Bob Free (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Margaret Cummings, Cllr Roger Stafford, Cllr Peter Pocock, Cllr John North, Cllr Matt Peace, Steina Bishop (Clerk)

The meeting was opened at 6.50pm for the Public Forum. There were no members of the public present and it was agreed for the Chairman to start the main agenda.

1. Chairman's Remarks:

Our Chairman advised us on the progress of Charity donations that it was thought we were not as a village utilising to the full.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Andy Bain

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Free advised that his wife had applied for the vacant position of Clerk to the Parish Council.

4. Police Matters

There was no attendance by a Police Officer. None was required.

5. To approve the Minutes of the meeting dated 11th May 2015

These were approved as a true record of the meeting

6. Clerk's Vacancy

Cllr Free left the meeting

The Chairman advised that three applications had been received for the position. He proposed that a Panel of three councillors should be set up for interviewing the candidates, which would take place at the Cricket Club. The Panel would comprise Cllrs Stafford, Cummings and King and it would report back to an Extraordinary Meeting on Tuesday 21st July. Present Clerk to book the room.

Cllr Free returned to the meeting

7. Parish Matters:-

A. SPRING WELLS

a) Maintenance of extra land

MK advised that the land around the new sub station was now being treated as the Parish Council's and a neighbouring householder had offered to cut the grass. However JN pointed out that he had already included it in the Council's grass cutting contract. It was agreed that the decision on whether to plant shrubs should be reviewed in the autumn.

b) Tubular rails at south end

It was agreed that the Tubular Rails were a safety issue. A picket fence was proposed. MP to get a contractor, who would also remove the stub steel posts. RF to remove the Spring Wells sign for refixing.

c) Repairs to pond edge :

RS advised this was expected in 2 – 3 weeks. The Billingborough contractor was doing the work. RS wanted to see it completed.

d) CCTV progress.

The Clerk agreed to get CCTV plastic signage.

e) Damage to Information Board

RF to Hamerite damaged Board

B. RECREATION GROUND - Cllrs. Bain & Peace

- **New Picnic benches – progress**

AB not at meeting so no report. **MP** to talk to **AB**

- **Removal of skate ramp (progress) and new skate ramp decision.**

The damaged ramp has not been removed yet, but **AB** has had a quote

MP agreed to handle and contact **AB**.

Replacing with a metal half pipe was a possibility but expensive - three prices were to be obtained. **The Clerk** agreed to finish this. **MP** to provide his quote and get two new ones.

- **New children's play equipment (progress)**

The grant deadline is August, the next one during the winter. Date to be checked.

AB not present to report. The urgency of moving this forward was stressed. The Chairman gave advice.

- **Action re dog/dog mess (progress)**

The Clerk agreed to obtain signs and deliver to **MP**.

- **Fencing of children's play area (progress)**

The quote had apparently been lost

- **Bowls Club Gate (progress – Clerk)**

It was advised that the gap was too wide for an 'off the shelf' gate.

Quote from Dave Partridge of Sleaford for the gate was suggested, also Branch Bros. and one other. **MP** to get. Must be agreed by the Bowls Club before commissioning.

Must be Lockable. £600 max.

C. Height Restrictor (progress – Clerk)

The Clerk was dealing with this. She was still pursuing a solution through the Council's insurers chasing the culprit.

D. Cemetery Issues Clerk & Cllr. Pocock.

Subsidence was agreed to be problem specific to one or two graves only. The cemetery had been tidied up. **MC** to obtain a quote for 20 Rose Bushes for autumn planting to create a Rose Garden.

E. Planters project – Cllr Cummings Progress and revised decision.

MK stated that the issue here was the appearance of any planters and their future maintenance and replanting. **MC** had obtained details of planters that could be put in place and serviced by a company. It was agreed **MC** would explore prices and report back at the next meeting.

F. Speed assessment cameras – Cllr. Free (progress)

RF has this in hand. A removable camera had been ordered and three fixed points for its use agreed. There was a waiting list.

G. Highways Issues - Cllr King

MK reported a noticeable difference with the pothole situation being better in the village.

- **Village sign progress**

This still hadn't been replaced since its vandalism last August but MK was chasing it hard

- **Straw Problem**

This is the responsibility of the police. The straw is getting into the drains and this is a Highways Problem, which could cause flooding. MK had persuaded the police to visit the offending farmers.

H. Aveland School site project – Cllr King (progress)

The planning permission was still held up due to the waiting for a multi agency meeting on flooding- also he and the SKDC Planning Committee were not happy with the proposed lack of a planning condition to fund the infrastructure for the community recreation area.

I. Police Box project Cllr. King (progress)

MK has written to the Police and Crime Commissioner again but no progress to report.

J. Emergency Plan - Cllr Pocock (progress)

a. Sand and sand bags

PP informed the Council that all are ordered and waiting for South Kesteven with delivery date of sand and sandbags. The arrangement would be publicised once in place.

b. Publication of plan

This would come to the September meeting

c. Section 19 report (Cllr King)

Planning Application for 11 apartments on West Road on hold due to finding old sewer and lack of flow. MK to contact RS at Highways for progress on the Section 19 flooding report.

K. Update on Agricultural land holdings – Cllr Stafford progress

All documents to RS to list what Parish Council have got.

8. Planning Procedures – Clerk Progress

The Clerk to look at the Weekly List, which will be followed by a deadline notification from SKDC to her. The Clerk to notify the planning application via email to the Councillors for their report to the Chairman within the time specified.

9. 40 Foot Drain and Fen Flooding Proposals: villages consultation (Cllr King)

This was discussed in detail and the ramifications of removing all the pumps. What effect would this have on the area? A meeting has been organised for Tuesday 25th August at the Village hall, 1 pm – 8 pm for Billingborough and others along the length of the 40 Foot Drain. The Council's views would be given in the next news-sheet and people encouraged to attend and respond to the Environment Agency.

10. County Council Ward Boundary – Election Commission Consultation (Cllr King)

MK informed us that he had sent a letter to request our Boundaries stay as they are.

12. Correspondence received/matters arising which the Council is invited to resolve on (including issues communicated to councillors by residents).

- Correspondence from the community cleaner saying she had not been paid was discussed and the Clerk agreed to pay tonight, immediately.
- P.C.C. War Memorial **AB** to be notified in his role as Church Treasurer that half the cost (£390) has not been paid back to the Council as Andy preparing Church Accounts it might be good to tell him)

13. a),b),c),d) Financial Report - Clerk.

As there were no copies of the Financial Report to hand out to the Parish Councillors and neither had these been circulated in advance as requested by the Chairman, the Chairman declined to sign the 2014/15 accounts. The Clerk said she would now be sending them via email.

The Clerk said she would move the internet Bank account to go onto three tier signatures.

14. To discuss the Parish Council website, its content and improvements (Cllrs Cummings and Peace)

MC reported that the website had been updated and the Minutes now Agreed from the previous meeting would be going on there very soon, along with the news-sheet from this meeting. **MC** also spoke of an additional website she was going to look at, perhaps to use instead of the County Council website which was very limited in its use. In the meantime she had also created a Facebook Page, **Billingsborough Parish Council**, which is up and running to see if it generated any response, and urged councillors to look it and comment.

MC to liaise with **MP**

The meeting closed at 10.05pm. These minutes have been prepared by councillors from memory as the out-going Clerk did not prepare any.