

BILLINGBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 8 January 2018 at Billingborough Primary School

Present: Cllrs C. Woodhead (Chairman), R. Free (Vice), M. King, R. Stafford, P. Pocock, F. Stevenson, Cllr Vince (from Item 4) **In Attendance:** M. Free (Clerk)

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm for the Public Forum. The Co-option Candidate and the Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Group Manager (Dan Moss) were in attendance:

Public Forum - Billingborough Fire Station Recruitment Issues.

- Concerns on decreasing numbers and recruitment and retention issues were raised.
- Low numbers impact First Responder service.
- Although other units respond if Billingborough is unavailable, this could cause delays.
- Many recruitment and advertising methods used but new ideas sought.
 - Open to anyone aged 18-55
 - 5 minutes of Billingborough Fire Station (possible option to extend)
 - Flexible contracts available to suit shift workers
 - Training Opportunities
 - Retention and On-call Payments

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

001. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Budget & Precept Meeting and hoped everyone had had an enjoyable Christmas. The Chairman informed the Council that, due to family commitments, Cllrs Paul and Carol Jepson had resigned from the Council. Both had been very proactive Members and their contribution was appreciated.

2. Apologies for absence.

002. None. All Cllrs present.

3. Possible Co-option.

003. Based on the previously circulated application, the Council discussed the cllr role, qualities and ideas with the proposed candidate before voting on the Co-option. It was unanimously resolved to Co-opt Victoria Vince to the Council.

- a. Acceptance of Office and Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest were signed by Cllr Vince and the Clerk as Proper Officer. **Clerk to update SKDC and advertise vacancies.**

4. Receive any new Declarations of Interest.

004. None given.

5. To approve the Minutes of the 5 December Meeting.

005. The Minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the file copy.

6. Receive Any External Reports.

006. SKDC. Cllr King confirmed that the Government had applied a 2.6% increase on the number of houses to be built in South Kesteven. No decisions had been made but could impact Billingborough.

007. The recruitment and retention issues highlighted by the Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Gp Manager in the Public Forum were discussed.

- a. **It was unanimously agreed to support the recruitment drive and highlight the issue in a Council Newsletter. Clerk to forward to Cllr Free on receipt.**

7. **Receive Any Community Groups & Organisation Reports.**

008. **Linkwell.** Cllr Woodhead briefed Cllr Vince on the scheme and reported that the increased uptake in the service had led to the need for more volunteers.

009. **BAGS.** No representative present. The Council hoped that the second year would be as successful, and the momentum continue. Cllr Stafford requested the padlock code.

8. **2017/18 Accounts to date**

010. The previously circulated accounts were discussed, and the items for expenditure were submitted for approval. **It was unanimously agreed to set up a DD for the ICO Registration. Cllrs Free & King signed the cheques and payments sheet, ICO DD Mandate and to authorise the BACS payments.**

9. **Parish Matters**

a. **Tree Survey**

011. The Survey was due to be carried out this month. The Report was not yet available. Awaiting the details from NKDC. **Ongoing.**

b. **Hedge Cutting**

012. The Playing Field Boundary, Bowls Club and Cemetery hedges had not yet been cut. Current contractor was awaiting payment of recent work before undertaking; payment approved at item 8. As this delay may negate the need for an April cut, the option of deferring to PAYG rather than a contract for 2018 was discussed. The increase in the Cemetery hedge height and width was also discussed. **It was unanimously resolved for the 2018 hedge cutting to be carried out as required through quotes.**

013. **It was also unanimously resolved for the Cemetery hedge to be cut back as far as possible at this cut by the current contractor. Clerk to notify contractor.**

c. **Aveland Site Ownership**

014. Cllr King informed that LCC had confirmed that the Northern boundary (proposed development site fence line), was NOT the responsibility of the Parish Council. The original solicitor had left, and Rachel Whitaker had taken on the case. Due to a discrepancy between documents, clarification on the southern boundary was being sought. Crown approval of the sale was still required.

d. **News Sheet**

015. The Chairman briefed Cllr Vince on the News Sheet and recent printing/distribution issues. The Clerk had enquired on the viability of a regular page in the Church and Community Magazine. Although every effort would be made to include it, it could not be guaranteed. Entries would be at no cost. Deadline for the next issue was 11 Jan. **It was unanimously agreed to submit a page entry for the February Magazine. Cllr Free to compose and forward to Clerk for submission. An annual donation could be made to the Magazine if the news could be incorporated regularly.**

e. **Spring Wells Sluice.**

016. Cllr King briefed the Council on his recent efforts to source a repair option for the broken sluice. Cllrs Woodhead and Stafford offered their availability to join in any on-site discussions.

10. **2018/19 Budget & Precept Approval**

017. The previously circulated DRAFT Budget, and the proposed projects, were discussed. This included the option to budget for any work identified by the Tree Survey report and the required Precept.

018. **It was unanimously resolved to join the LALC Training Scheme for 2018/19.**

019. **It was resolved by majority to not allocate a budget for any tree work.**

020. **It was unanimously resolved to approve the Budget. Clerk to publish.**

021. **It was unanimously resolved to request a Precept of £13,851 to cover the Budget and Grant reduction.**

11. **Aveland Site Ownership**

022. Duplicate item entered in error. See 9.c for update.

12. **Planning**

023. The Clerk confirmed that the current Applications (S17/1982; 2262; 0407; and 2328) were still Pending. The Council's agreed response to S17/0407 and S17/2328 had been submitted.

13. **Clerk's Report & Correspondence**

024. The previously circulated report was discussed. Items of note: Cemetery Caretaker ad to be reissued if the current applicant withdraws; the personal information for additional bank signatories was still required. This was a priority with the recent resignations **It was unanimously resolved for all cllrs to complete the bank signatory paperwork immediately following the Meeting.**

14. **Urgent Matters Arising**

025. Pointon FC. The Clerk had received a request for a formal letter of support from Pointon FC. A change of name to Pointon Billingborough & Horbling FC (Pointon BH FC) was also proposed. The aim was to focus football at Pointon and prevent the setting up of any other teams within the three villages. **It was unanimously resolved to formalise the support for the Club, and name change but concerns were raised on the legality of the aim to prevent other teams forming. Cllr King to draft a suitable response.**

026. Cllr Vince highlighted that a recent application for a skip on the High Street had been refused, when others had been permitted. As D.Cllr, Cllr King agreed to clarify the reason for refusal.

027. Cllr Pocock had a new Council specific email. Clerk to circulate.

a. **Items for Next Agenda**

028. **Entrance Planters** – Cllr Vince to obtain quotes; Cllr Stafford and Clerk to forward details of previous quotes.

029. **Policy Review** – All Cllrs to read policies with a view to identifying any updates.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.