

# Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter

**We have a Councillor vacancy** - which is your **opportunity** to take an active part and be a driving force in shaping your community! So why not take a look on our website or call our clerk **07415 842591** for details of the criteria required to be a Councillor and then submit your application to [billingboroughparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:billingboroughparishclerk@gmail.com) by no later than midnight on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Selection will take place by co-option at our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - we look forward to welcoming you on board!

**The Annual Village Meeting** – will be held on **10<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm in the sports pavilion**. This is not a council meeting but one organised by us to give parishioners the opportunity to voice their opinions on what they want for the village or tell everyone about their club, organisation etc. no matter of its size or membership. So why not take this opportunity to voice your ideas or present a report on your club or organisation? As always our clerk will be happy to read them out on your behalf, if you'd prefer that.

**Our Budget for 2022/23** – was ratified at our January meeting (for details please see our January minutes). Given the current economic climate and our recent expenditure on refurbishments and capital projects, it was agreed that this year would be one of recuperation. Therefore; our expenditure will be mainly on maintenance and already budgeted for items/works.

**Precept** - it was resolved to request the sum of **£15,500.00** for the precept for the next financial year, which equates to an increase of **2.8%** and adds **0.85p** to the Council tax bill of a Band D property.

**Staying safe** – unfortunately we've had several attempted burglaries in the village in recent weeks, so please be vigilant and remember to keep your doors locked and valuables out of sight if left in a vehicle. **Always report any suspicious behaviour to the police immediately.**

**We have a vision** – to acquire the paddock on Low St and develop it with community consultation and hands on input, into a green space for pleasure, leisure, tranquillity, learning and a haven for wildlife that provides accessibility for all. It would be dedicated to our Queen to commemorate her Platinum Jubilee. If we are successful in acquiring the land, it's anticipated that this project would be completed over several years and be funded by various grants and other income streams alongside some capital input from the Council. Although this is currently just a vision we'd still like to hear your thoughts, so please let us know what you think.

**Fields in Trust** – an application is underway in respect to the recreation ground, to ensure its protection from any future undesired development.

**Grass cutter for cemetery** – we are pleased to announce that an independent grass cutter has been engaged to look after our cemetery, hopefully this will ensure that the grass is always maintained at a reasonable length throughout the growing season.

**Illegal parking** - in an effort to address this, especially in the vicinity of the school and fire station, the Council in conjunction with the school recently ran a competition for pupils to design a poster to bring awareness to this problem. The standard of all entries was excellent, however only two could be selected for printing and these two young artists will each receive a book voucher. We thank all those that took part and applaud their excellent artwork and creativity!

**Community speed watch** – the Council is currently exploring this approach to addressing speeding traffic in our village. So if you'd be interested in VOLUNTEERING for such a project, watch this space for further details.

**Village cricket** – offers an introduction to cricket for ages 5 to 18, with coaching by ECB qualified coaches. **Interested?** Then contact Katie on 07415174458/[Katie-falkner-cricket@outlook.com](mailto:Katie-falkner-cricket@outlook.com) or Kiran on 07957471665/[Mak1-Kiran-cricket@outlook.com](mailto:Mak1-Kiran-cricket@outlook.com), for more information.

**Dates to save for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** for the dance in the village hall when the fabulous **Tailfins** will be performing an exciting live show of 1950's Rock n Roll music, there will be a bar and light refreshments available and a special ticket price for this occasion of **£5pp**. **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 1pm to 4pm** for events at the village hall when there'll be fun for all the family with craft stalls, displays, music from **Type 40** and free mic performers, face painting, games, hog roast, refreshments and more. The winners of the best decorated house and street and royal themed scarecrow will also be announced. (Registration forms for these competitions will be available shortly). If you would like to have a stall, are a musician or singer who'd like to perform or want to help in anyway, then please contact us via Murray on **07971 503742** or via the **Facebook group Billingborough Queen's Jubilee Celebration**.

**Eyes down** – for a **Bingo Night on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March for over 18yrs only** - doors open 7pm - eyes down 7.30 - there will be a bar and light refreshments available - it will be cash and prize bingo - **funds raised will go toward the Village Hall Refurbishment Plan**.

**Pop in too** – now serves lunch on the first **Wednesday of the month**. This consists of soup, pudding and refreshments. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book. It is served at 12 noon after coffee morning that starts at 10am. **NB** this monthly lunch replaces the weekly soup lunch.

**The Great British Spring Clean** – will run from **25<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April**. If you wish to take part litter picking equipment is available from our clerk.

**No Mow May** – why not join legions of gardeners and say “**NO**” to the mow this May? Doing so will help our bees, butterflies and wildlife. So just lock up your mower on 1<sup>st</sup> May and let the wild flowers in your lawn bloom, which will provide a banquet of nectar for our hungry pollinators!

**Tennis court opening** – a date for this will be agreed at our March meeting.

**The waterfowl** – say thank you very much for feeding them but politely ask that you don't scatter seed/bird food on the grass but put it on the two concrete slipways instead, as this keeps their home much tidier? – **Quack, Quack!**

**Please Light Up** – if you're out on your bike **when it's dark** – It's both **dangerous** and **unlawful** not to do so! We also ask that dog walkers ***clean up after their dogs!*** -Thank you.

**Ability Net** –provides free tailored, impartial technology advice and support for disabled and older people in their own home and at their own pace. For more information call **08000407642** or e mail to [enquires@abilitynet.org.uk](mailto:enquires@abilitynet.org.uk). Free resources are available at <https://abilitynet.org.uk>.

**You can help shape your local NHS** – by becoming part of the citizen's panel. For more information or to join go to [www.lincolnshireccg.nhs.uk/citizenpanel](http://www.lincolnshireccg.nhs.uk/citizenpanel).

**Let's Walk** – for ideas and information on walks in Lincolnshire varying in length from half a mile to twelve, with advice on suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, maps to download for free and information on walking groups, log on to <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/lincs>.

**Staying safe online** – Lincolnshire Alert are currently running a survey on attitudes to cyber security, to take part go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JG2XS8S>.

**Phil** - our Vice Chairman has resigned from the Council as unfortunately his recent work promotion means that he no longer has the availability to continue as a Councillor. So we'd like take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work while in post and wish him all the very best for the future!