

Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter

Elections for both district and parish councillors will take place on 4th May – so if you'd like to make a difference to your village and be part of the decision making shaping it and its future, now's your opportunity to do so by applying to become a **Parish Councillor**. Information/nomination packs for candidates can be requested from Electoral Services at South Kesteven District Council by contacting 01476 406080 or by email elections@southkesteven.gov.uk, specifying the name of the parish/parish ward you wish to stand as a candidate. Information sessions are being held on Monday, 27 February at Bourne Corn Exchange, 3 Abbey Road, Bourne, PE10 9EF at 6.00pm and Monday, 6 March at SKDC Council Offices, South Kesteven House, St Peter's Hill, Grantham NG31 6PY at 6.00pm. These sessions will outline the election process for the Parish Council elections. Candidates wishing to stand for election can refer to the Electoral Commission's website <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales> for guidance on becoming a candidate at a Parish/Town Council election. Anyone interested in being a candidate at the elections is welcome to attend any of the briefing sessions. If you would like to attend any of these events or require further information, please email elections@southkesteven.gov.uk or call the elections team on 01476 406080 in advance of the session.

Evidence required to vote at a polling station – you will need to **show photo ID** before you are issued with a ballot paper to vote in person or by proxy at the local elections on Thursday May 4th. This needs to be the original version and not a photocopy. A list of all documents that are accepted at polling stations are listed by the Government at <https://tinyurl.com/UKelectionID>. An accepted photo ID which is out of date but still bears a good likeness, can be used to vote. People who don't already have an accepted form of photo ID or are not sure if their current photo ID is still a good likeness, can apply for a free voter ID document – a Voter Authority Certificate – from the end of this month, either online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or through SKDC by completing a paper application form or applying in person. This must be done before **5pm on Tuesday, April 25th**, but you should apply as soon as possible. To request a paper application form or to make an appointment to apply in person contact SKDC's elections team on **01476 406080**, email elections@southkesteven.gov.uk. You will need to provide a passport quality photograph, your National Insurance Number and your date of birth. *Nothing will change for those who have chosen to vote by post.*

Your Annual Village Meeting will be held on **16th May at 6pm in the Recreation Ground sports pavilion**. This is **not** a council meeting but one organised by us to give parishioners ie **YOU** the opportunity to voice your opinions on what you want for the village or tell everyone about your 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. This meeting will be directly followed by **The Annual Council Meeting**, which you're welcome to attend.

Our Budget for 2023/24 – was ratified at our February meeting. For full details please see our minutes.

Precept for 2023/24 – was set at **£15750**, which equates to **2.7%** which is a slight reduction on last year. This will add **86p** to the Council tax bill of a Band D property.

11th March at 11am - a village meeting is being held in the recreation ground sports pavilion to discuss what if anything the village wishes to do to celebrate/commemorate the **Coronation of his Majesty King Charles III**. The Council has allocated a pot of funding to assist with this. So if you have ideas as to how the village should celebrate this momentous occasion or wish to organise something, **please come along and share it with us**.

1st April at 11am a village meeting is being held in the recreation ground sports pavilion to discuss the possibility of **renting the paddock on Low St** and develop it with community consultation and hands on input, into a green space for pleasure, leisure, tranquillity, emotional wellbeing, learning and a haven for wildlife that provides accessibility for all. It would be dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II in commemoration of her Platinum Jubilee. So please come along and let us know what you think. ***NB our decision to proceed or not will be influenced on the outcome of this meeting.***

Fields in Trust – our application to protect our recreation ground as a designated green space and thus safe from any other use or any future undesired development is in the final stages of completion.

A Vacancy at the Nests Alms-houses has arisen – applications from older persons of good character, who reside in the Parish of Billingborough, of limited means and members of the Church of England” given preference. All applications to **Mr C J Senior (Clerk) 01529 240130, 2 Grosvenor Square, Lowe Street, Billingborough**

Church Easter events/services – an informal and friendly **Lent Course – Journeying through Lent**, led by Father Rob, commences on **Tuesday February 28th** and then each Tuesday up to and including March 28th, from 7pm to 8.30pm. (5 meetings). It is open to everyone. If you wish to attend please call Janet on **01529 241583** to reserve a place. **Ash Wednesday** 22nd February 7:30pm – Billingborough church, **Good Friday** 7th April 12:00am Stations of the Cross – Horbling church, **Good Friday** An Hour at the Cross 2:00pm – Billingborough church, **Easter Day** 9th April, 10:00am Communion – Billingborough church.

Secretary for Billingborough church required – if you have a couple of hours a month to spare and think this is something you could do, then please contact Trevor on **01529 241325**.

Billingborough Toddler group – is held in the village hall every **Thursday morning** during term time, from **10 - 11.30am** and the fee per session is just **£2** per family. They are a very friendly and informal group that offers a large selection of toys and art resources for babies through to 4 year olds and welcomes new members. For more information please contact Rebecca on **07494492881** or at rebeccacolman@gmail.com.

Village hall - the first Social Bingo of 2023 will be held on **Friday 3rd March** (adults only). Doors open at 7pm.

Our tennis court re open on Sunday 26th March 2023 – as usual use of these is free. All we ask is that you treat them with respect by wearing appropriate footwear, abiding by the guidelines on our notice and that you report any concerns or issues to our Clerk asap.

Dog poo – is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter – and unfortunately it continues to be an issue in our village. Especially in the recreation ground and on public footpaths! So once again we politely ask that if you're a dog walker please ensure you pick up after your dog and dispose of it in your bin or a litterbin **not** in the hedge or on the verge in a plastic bag!! Also if you witness an offender please report it to SKDC with photographic evidence if possible. **Thank you.**

Energy Saving Advice – you can save money by lowering your boiler temperature, by turning down radiators in rooms you don't use or off all together, by tackling draughts around windows, doors, floors and by the use of window film, by reducing the temperature on you hot water cylinder, by reducing your washing machine temperature and ensure you fill your machine every time you use it and by turning off all appliances you usually leave on standby. By doing all of some of these you could save a substantial amount of money. For more information on these steps and other ways to save money, go to [gov.uk/helpforhouseholds](https://www.gov.uk/helpforhouseholds).

Have you caught a driving offence on your dashcam? – eg. dangerous driving, driving without due care and attention or careless driving. If so you can report such driving offences to the police. For information how to do so please go to:-

<https://www.lincs.police.uk/police-forces/lincolnshire-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/op-snap/>

#OperationSnap

Paul - has resigned from the Council as new personal commitments mean 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.

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