

Billingsborough Parish Council Newsletter

We wish you a Very Happy New Year!!

Billingsborough Fire Station NEEDS YOU! - Due to extremely low crew numbers at the fire station, there are occasions when the fire engine at Billingsborough is not available to attend incidents. Other fire stations are relied on to provide emergency cover to Billingsborough and the surrounding area. Consequently; Billingsborough fire station is looking for people interested in becoming On Call Fire Fighters. The role is not full time; therefore, you can make yourself available to respond to incidents in and around your primary employment and family commitments. If you think being an On Call Fire Fighter might be for you, there is lots of information on their website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr or you can call their recruitment line for more information: **0800 3580 204**. You are also very welcome to pop down to the station on a **Monday night between 6.30 pm – 9pm** for an informal chat with the crew if you wish to find out more.

We are also looking for volunteers to become Councillors – as we are once again only 5 when we should be 9. No qualifications necessary, just the time to attend our nine meetings a year and work for the benefit of our community. More details and the application form can be found on our website. Selection will be via co- option at our meeting on **9th January**.

You're always welcome – to join our meetings. Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for residents to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues. Submission of questions in advance of the meeting is welcomed, so that they can be answered more fully. **NB** Matters raised that are not included on that agenda will be considered for subsequent agendas.

Greater Lincolnshire devolution consultation- is open until **29th January**. You can take part by attending a public event, by completing a paper survey, by phone or online at <https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution>. Every household should have received promotional information via mail, if not then please contact engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk. This is your opportunity to have your say and help decide the future of Lincolnshire **YOUR** County - **YOUR OPINION COUNTS!!**

Your Budget ideas – we received two requests from you- i) to have a litterbin at the allotment entrance to encourage dog walkers to clean up after their dogs – as SKDC are unable to empty any extra bins, it was agreed to ask permission to move the bin from outside the Army hut to the allotment entrance – permission was granted and we are pleased to report that the bin is being used. ii) to consider if the Council would consider funding for a village firework event. It was resolved to ask for further details, to enable further discussion at our January meeting.

Our budget considerations – it was resolved - i) to make increases to our cemetery fees, however; at different rates in order to align the differences between resident and non-resident fees, ii) to increase the rent for the cemetery field, iii) to increase the hourly rate to all our contractors, (the amount being subject to the confirmation of the rise in the NWL), iv) that any obligation in respect to an employee's pension scheme would be adhered to, v) to accept the quote for grass cutting in the village from Glendale & the 3 yr. quote from Indigo 19 for the cemetery, which also includes regular fed and weed treatments, vi) to increase our charge to Parkers for the grass cutting on Blasson Way, vii) to continue with all our yearly subscriptions, viii) to set aside £500 in case a Gov.Uk email address is made mandatory, ix) to continue with our provision to be able to fund our community cleaner, should SKDC withdraw their funding, x) to approach the cricket club and Horbling PC re their voluntary contributions towards the running of the recreation ground, xi) to initiate the planned feasibility studies on two possible projects to ascertain their viability before presenting to the village for consideration.

What's been agreed since our last newsletter? – to accept Crown Estates offer to provide & plant some saplings in Low St paddock, if the tenant is agreeable to this, (they will also care for them long term), to purchase a defibrillator for the recreation ground, to have a professional fire safety and Legionella risk assessment for the pavilion, to replace the pavilion external cupboard door and to replace the pavilion front shutter with security doors with fire exit action locks.

Update on SKDC off street parking places Civil Enforcement order 2023 in respect to West Rd car park – on challenging this order we were advised by SKDC that presently none of the regulations listed in this order will be enforced

Footpaths – 14 submissions were made to FixMystreet re the condition of our pavements, however; only two were deemed requiring attention and the rest not so despite their abysmal state. Consequently our Chairman met with Cllr M Hill and walked around the village to show him just how bad the pavements are and requested that he approach LCC to have the majority of them resurfaced. He agreed that this would be the best way forward but that it may take a while. Meanwhile we will continue to submit to FixMystreet and encourage you to also do so.

Springwells – we politely ask the good intentioned person who has been lifting the sluice **NOT TO DO SO**, as it is being monitored by our caretaker and lifted when clear. If it is lifted when debris is present it may cause a blockage. – **Thank you!**

Community speed watch – we are looking for a volunteer/s to manage our speed watch programme. This would entail undertaking training to be a volunteer and organising our volunteers to undertake routine checks. Please contact our chairman if you're interested or would like more information about the role.

Aveland Craft Club fair – raised ???????? for the village hall.

Springwells Surgery Medical Equipment Fund Christmas coffee morning – was very well attended and raised £????????

Your opportunity to own a piece of history – the church has two pews available to purchase, via sealed bids of offers of over £100. If you'd like one please place your bid and contact details in a sealed envelope marked **PEWS** and post in the church letterbox **by 12pm on the 1st February**.

Village hall – for upcoming events go to <https://www.facebook.com/villagehallbillingborough/?locale=en> GB.

Pop in too – is a weekly coffee morning held on a Wednesday in the village hall at 10am. On the first Wednesday of the month coffee is followed by lunch of soup, pudding and refreshments, which is served at 12pm, there's no need to book and everyone's welcome. There is no set charge for either the coffee or lunch you just donate what you can afford. The organisers are currently looking for additional volunteers to help make the soup and puddings, so if you're able to assist please contact Liz on **01529 240839**. NB the **first coffee morning of 2024** is on **10th January**, and the **first lunch** is on the **7th February**.

Do you need a little support – then **Linkwell** may be able to assist you. Linkwell is a Good Neighbourhood scheme that offers support with form completion, transport to medical and other appointments (there is a small fee for this), befriending and general tasks, such as shopping etc. For more information or if you'd like to volunteer please call **07731 678242**.

Have you resolved to get fitter in 2024? - Then why not give the **Community gym** ago? There is an initial induction fee of £5 then you can pay as you go at £5 per session or £16 per month. For more information please call **01529 71665**.

The Ladies Wednesday Club – if you like meeting up for a coffee/tea and a natter and learning about various topics in a light hearted way, then why not pop along to the Village Hall, at **7.30pm**, on the **first Wednesday** of the month? You can either attend as a guest **£4** per meeting or become a member which costs **£20 pa**. New membership commences in May. NB the first meeting of 2024 will be on **Wednesday 7th February**, when the speaker will be Simon Pru of United Filings.

Spread the word – do you belong to a non -profit group/organisation or running a charity event that you'd like to tell everyone about? Then we'll happily include a piece in our magazine -space permitting. For publication dates and submission deadlines please contact our chairman.

Unfortunately Dog mess in the village has increased – so yet again we ask that **ALL** dog walkers clean up after their dog and not leave it where their dog deposits it, just waiting to be trodden in and deposited on someone else's carpet! **Thank you**.

Cost of living help - visit gov.uk/helpforhouseholds to discover what support is available. The CAB can also help identify any available grants or support, for an appointment go to <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/energy-referral-form/>.

A little reminder – that the **5th February is the first collection day of our new purple lidded bins**. These bins are only for clean, dry & loose **paper and cardboard**, so please remember to put everything in the correct bin as failure to do so may result in your bin not being emptied or worse still trigger an enforcement action.

Recycle your tree – don't forget that you can put your real Christmas tree out for recycling with your green bin.

Library van dates- Vine St – 8th Jan & 5th Feb 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall** - 3rd, 31st Jan & 28th Feb, 9.45 to 10.45.

Cllr Rayside - has resigned from the Council as new personal commitments mean that she no longer has the availability to continue as a Parish Councillor. So we'd like take this opportunity to thank Rhea for all her hard work while in post and wish her all the best for the future and in her role as a district councillor.

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Website <https://Billingborough.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/contact-us/2>

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