

Billingsborough Parish Council Newsletter

The New Village Entry Signs – have arrived with one already being in situ and from the positive feedback we've received it's a **HIT!** We however consider that painting the poles black and adding gold finials will make them look even more amazing. As the poles belong to LCC we of course have to get permission to do this, which has been applied for. The signs are based on a design submitted by a parishioner in response to our appeal in 2021 for sign designs. We'd like to once again **thank them very much** for taking the time to do so and for perfectly capturing the key characteristics of the village.

Recent flooding – Cllr Hill reported at our January meeting that this area was one of the worse effected and unfortunately; several of our roads and properties were adversely affected. We used our entire store of sand and bags to assist residents in need, though we have since applied for further free supplies from LCC & SKDC. We have also taken the first steps to help mitigate any future damage, should flooding occur again, by appointing a Councillor to gather information to help develop a **village** flood plan and by contacting Black Sluice, to request them to dig out the Ousemere Lode along the back of Folkingham Rd, Station Rd and Vine St. So hopefully works will soon be undertaken and a maintenance plan put in place to ensure that it can effectively manage excess water. To all those who braved the elements to fill and deliver sand bags we once again say a **MASSIVE THANK YOU!!**

Community Flood planning meeting – it's in everybody's interest to draw up a flood plan together, that will help us both prevent future flooding and identify what we **ALL** need to do and how to get help locally should flooding occur. To that end please bring yourselves and ideas to the Village Hall, at **11am on 2nd March**. We look forward to seeing you and *hearing* what you have to say – **so save the date**.

Sign up for flood alerts etc – <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> **Report flooding** – to LCC on **01522 782082** or, for small rivers call the Environment Agency on **0345 988 1188**, for sewers call Anglian Water on **0345 145 145**. If your property should be unfortunate to be flooded call the emergency services **999**.

Your Annual Village Meeting - will be held on **14th May at 6pm in the Recreation Ground sports pavilion**. This is **not** a council meeting but one organised by us to give parishioners i.e. **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.

Precept for 2024/25 - was set at **£17,750**, an increase of 10.9%, which equates to an extra 3.51p on a Band D property from last year and ie. **35.93p**, (last year it was 32.40p). **Budget** – income £40k, expenditure £84k, full details can be found on our website.

Items resolved to accept at our January meeting – to a bus stop for Call Connect being installed outside the Fortescue Arms, to accept the quote for our 3 yearly tree inspection, to get quotes for works to the paddock hedging in the cemetery, to accept the quote for weed control within the village, in the pavilion to buy an additional fire extinguisher & notices as advised in the recent fire risk assessment & get quotes for new fire exit doors, that rather than change the flat roof on the porch on bowling green side, to remove it & get quotes for this work, to get a **Items resolved not to accept** – the purchase of new dog fouling campaign notices & not to employ a village caretaker.

Can you help – we are looking for someone to print our newsletter, i.e. 650 copies, double side A4, folded, every other month, our next one will be ready for print mid- April. If you can help or know someone that can please contact our clerk ASAP.

Roads unfit for purpose – at our January meeting we once again stressed to Cllr Hill the abysmal condition of Folkingham Road, requesting that it be repaired ASAP. We were advised that the resurfacing work unfortunately wouldn't commence until Spring, however; some of the larger holes would be addressed soon. We also brought to his attention the condition of the roads in Elizabeth Drive and the Pingle. He advised that he'd report these. We will of course follow these up until resolved.

LCC have a Volunteer Workforce – that provides up to two days free labour to councils per year. Our clerk has been liaising with the co-ordinator of this scheme regarding the team undertaking painting for us in the recreation ground and removing ivy from the church wall on Church St, edging along the kerb & weed removal up to High St. it is anticipated that work will commence in May. All we will have to do is buy any necessary materials.

Councillor Vacancies – have you seen these adverts before and thought yes I'd like to apply but I've no experience, I'm too young, I don't really know what it involves? Then now's the time to take the next step, as experience isn't required, anyone over 18 who's on the electoral role or who has worked or lived in the village for at least a year can apply and what it involves is attending our 9 meetings, to help make decisions to maintain your village and shape its future. Occasionally some hands on help may be required but only if you're able to do so. *Are you raring to go?* Then please contact our Clerk or complete the brief application form that can be found on our website. We're looking forward to meeting **YOU!**

Our tennis court re open on Sunday 31st March 2024 – 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

Your Village Hall – yes it's your village hall! It was given to the village and put in trust in 1948, with the purpose of "improving the life of inhabitants". It is **totally self-funding** and managed by a committee of Trustees who work very hard and diligently on your behalf to ensure that this is possible. However because of the current financial climate this is becoming an increasingly difficult task for them. The cost alone to heat the hall has risen dramatically over recent months with the electric bill for December being almost £2000. Unfortunately they cannot afford to continue with the level of expenditure that they currently have. Sadly with this in mind they have had to raise hall hire for all users. This is not a decision that they took lightly, in fact they have not raised costs since 2016 but are now at a point where they've had to raise it in line with other halls to enable them to remain open. A little reminder what they offer at the hall - a wide range of fitness groups, an art group a ladies group and they are soon to add a new group for men for scale modelling, for more details about this go to Facebook or text **Wayne Chessum on 07717281817**. There's also the community gym that opens on **Mon Wed and Fri 9am-12 and 5pm-8pm**, and the very successful cash bingo, the next sessions will be on **Friday 1st March and Friday 5th April**, doors open at **7pm** and eyes down at **7.30pm**. The committee are constantly working to improve the facilities and have a list of things that they hope to achieve in the next few years such as refurbishment of the bar area, new flooring, plastering and decoration. If there are any local businesses or community volunteers that can offer skills or funding **they would love to hear from you**. Following their AGM in December they had a restructure of committee roles. For more information please see the notice board at the hall or their Facebook page. **For hall bookings contact 07704298402**. For any other information relating to the hall please contact **Debbie Chessum on 07709198524**.

Scout update – Unfortunately, Storm Henk caused devastating flooding throughout their HQ building. Things are slowly being dried out. They'd like to say an enormous **Thank You** to other local community venues, including Billingborough Village Hall, that have provided them with alternative places for all their young people to meet, while they're homeless. They're now fundraising to 'Build Back Better' with plans for building and drainage works to help mitigate against future flooding, as well as much needed improvements to **their kitchen and toilet facilities**. You can support them via their GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/9c333a0f> or by contacting martha.browm@stamfordbournescouts.org.uk. They will be hosting a **Family Games Night** - all ages welcome, with prize bingo, an Easter bake-off competition and so much more on the evening of **Friday 22nd March in Billingborough Village Hall**.

Church News – Quotes to support the funding application to SKDC to enable the **church clock** to be repaired & painted have now been submitted. Once funds are agreed, work will commence ASAP. **Pews** – it was unanimously agreed at the last PCC meeting to donate a pew to the village school, on the understanding that they would attach a plaque recognising this donation. The remaining two pews will now be advertised on Facebook. **100 club** – raises funds for the church, it costs **£1pm**, giving you the opportunity to win £50, £25, £10 or £5 for 10 months of the year and £150, £100, £50 & £25 twice a year, there are currently a few numbers free for allocation, so if you're interest in taking your first step to becoming one of the lucky winners, please contact Georgina on **241325**. **Services - Mothering Sunday 10th March** – service at **10am in Billingborough Church (BC)**, with a posy of flowers for all Mums. **Maundy Thursday 28th March** – vigil from 8 pm to Midnight (BC), **Good Friday** – Stations of the Cross commencing in Horbling from 12noon, followed by a Walk of Witness to rear of Billingborough church, where hot cross buns & hot drinks will be served, followed by a service in the church from 2pm, when Billingborough & Lafford choir will be singing. **Easter Sunday – 10am** communion in Billingborough Church. **PCAGM** – will be held at **11am in the church on 2nd March**, this is open to the public.

And there was music – on **13th April Stamford Concert Singers** will be performing in the church. The concert will commence at **7.30pm**, tickets will be **£15**, which includes a free buffet supper and glass of wine. A raffle will be held in aid of church funds. Concert tickets are available from **Trevor on 241325** or **Liz on 240839**.

Vacancy- The Nests Almshouse Charity has an upstairs flat available. " Older person, of good character, resident in the Billingborough group of parishes, of limited means and member of the Church of England" given preference. Contact: Mr C. J. Senior (Clerk) **01529 240130**. 2, Grosvenor Square, Low St., Billingborough.

Volunteers required for Linkwell - our Good Neighbourhood scheme. If you're interested please call **07731 678242**.

The Ladies Wednesday Club – first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. In March it is **Signing** with Cal Trowse and in April it's **"Needn't cost the earth"**, creative gardener Debbie Cooke, followed by the AGM.

Library van dates- Vine St – 4th March & 29th April 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall** - 27th March & 24th April, 9.45 to 10.45. There's also **Books to your door**- if you or someone you know is unable to visit the van due to mobility, age or health related issues then this free access service can arrange for books to be delivered to your/their door every four weeks on a prearranged date. Normal, Large print & Audio books are available, for more details call **01522 782010** or email benjamin.tatton@gll.org.

Your Feedback & Ideas - are always welcome so please let us know what you think or of any ideas you think would benefit the village.

Litter - we politely ask that you put your litter in one of our many litterbins or take it home with you – **thank you!**

A gentle reminder – that anyone can report a concern re roads, pavements, abandoned vehicles, leaks etc. by going to fixystreet.com, LLC, SKDC & Anglian Water websites. The more people that do so, then the higher the chance of a quick resolution.

Clerk billingboroughparishclerk@gmail.com 07415 842591 Chairman bwoodheadbillingboroughpc@gmail.com 07810 861089

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

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Billingborough-Parish-Council-107945005250794>

