

Billingsborough Parish Council Newsletter

Your village needs YOU! – to help make a difference to your village and look after its interests – **HOW** - by becoming a **councillor**. Councillors are just ordinary people who choose to work for their community so **YES** you will have what it takes! So if you've some spare time on your hands to attend our nine meetings and perhaps help in other ways occasionally, are over 18, on the electoral role or have worked in the village for over a year, you're ready to go. So why not take the first step towards joining us by completing the brief application form that can be found on our website? Selection by co-option will take place at our Council meeting on **14th May**. We look forward to meeting **YOU!**

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.

Recent Flood meeting – thank you to all who attended and to those who volunteered to be part of the village's emergency planning team. We are currently trying with the help of Cllr Hill to organise a follow on meeting with the heads of the relevant agencies, LCC and our MP. We'll publicise a date once we have one. **Sign up for flood alerts etc.** – <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. Please contact our clerk if you'd like to volunteer to be part of the village emergency team.

Items resolved at our March meeting – to accept the quote from Simpson to undertake all essential works as advised in our recent tree survey, to accept the quote from Instantprint for printing the newsletter, that after review of all policies that no changes were required, to accept amendments to the CC agreement and that no changes were required to the cemetery caretaker's contract, to object to the appeal submitted in regard to the proposed solar farm, to accept the Legionella policy and plan and that the recreation ground caretaker would be person to undertake the necessary duties re this and to check the emergency lighting and to ask if he will be willing to do so, with an extra hour per week being added in recognition of the extra work, a budget was agree for extra hours and training, to install the remaining two village entry signs and paint poles at a later date, to reply to LCC suggesting that EVCPs be installed in West Rd car park, to advertise for volunteers for the community speed watch scheme, if this proves unsuccessful to consider selling the equipment, to purchase cap ends for the skate park equipment, not to purchase a D Day flag. Minutes of this meeting can be found on our website.

No mow May – the Council will once again not cut the Aveland field during the month of May in order to boost wild flowers and thus the amount of nectar available to pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and moths. **You could decide to do this too.**

Our 3 yearly Tree inspection – recently took place identifying that 22 trees required essential work, which has since been quoted for, with the work being planned for May. **Our yearly Playground equipment inspection** – was also recently undertaken, the only required necessary work is the replacement of some caps, which are currently being sourced.

Sports Pavilion – we have recently removed the west facing porch, repaired the roof, fitted new emergency exit bars to the main room doors, installed new showers, installed a defibrillator on the east wall, have had a Legionella and fire risk assessment undertaken and the Cricket Club have redecorated internally.

West St – we recently reported to LCC the fact that one of the businesses on the industrial estate had dug a drainage channel across the yard and inserted a soil pipe under the boundary fence, which will drain onto the road, in an area that floods, querying if planning permission was required. We have since been advised by LCC that they are taking enforcement action.

Hip, Hip Hooray - at long last after several years of requesting that Folkingham Rd be repaired properly, our tenacity as eventually succeeded, as these repairs were recently completed. Our thanks go to Cllr Hill for his help with this matter.

Community Speed Watch – if would you like to train to be part of this or to manage it, please contact our chairman.

Footpath from Pointon to Billingsborough – work has started on the part from Pointon to Sempringham, however we have been advised that the path from there to us will not be undertake this year. We will of course keep raising the issue until it is done. The Big Clean have recently tidied part of this path and verge, which has improved it.

Local Plan – SKDC have a new draft local plan 2021 – 2041, which you can view on their website. In it, it proposes the development of 140 new dwellings on the former Aveland site and land to the west of Pointon Rd, consultation closed on 25th April. We will keep you updated re this proposal.

Low St Paddock – we have been advised by the Crown Estates' (CE) agent that the tenant of this paddock is happy for six new trees to be planted there. CE are donating and planting the trees and have granted permission for us to erect a plaque in memory of our late Queen. Design, wording and location of this are yet to be decided on.

Recycling - don't forget to **only put clean dry** paper & cardboard in your purple bin, tin and plastic in your grey one and general rubbish in your black bin. We have been advised that SKDC intend to introduce a food waste bin.

Cricket club – the new season is underway so why not come along and support them at one of their games in May & June? At the home matches you'll be able to see their new electronic scoreboard in action. **Saturday** matches **1st Team – May 4th** – Burghley – A, **11th** Bourne 2nds – H, **18th**-Grantham 2nds, **June 8th** – Moulton Harrox - H, **15th** – Skegness-A, **22nd** - Boston –H. **2nd Team** - **May 4th** – Burghley 2nds – H, **18th** – Grantham 3rds – H, **25th** – Belton Park – H, **June 1st** - Boston – A, **8th** – Moulton Harrox 2nds – A. **22nd** – Newborough 2nds –A, **29th** June – Caistor & Ailsworth 2nds – H. **Sunday – May 12th** –Nettleham 2nds – A, **19th** – Bassingham – A, **26th** – Harlaxton – H, **June 2nd** – Blankney – H, **9th** - Horncastle – A, **16th** – Heighington – A, **23rd** – Bassingham – H, **30th** – Roustons – A. If you'd like to join the club or the junior cricket please call **Murray on 07971 503742. Good luck to everyone!**

Village hall - The committee would like to thank the Fortescue Arms for their recent donation of **£125** raised from their quiz night and the Aveland Craft Club who raised **£700** at their recent craft fair, monies given are to go towards the refurbishment of the hall. The committee are very grateful for these generous donations and will update on how they use these monies to make improvements. A little reminder what they offer at the hall - a wide range of fitness groups, an art group, a ladies group and a men's scale modelling club. There's also the community gym and the **very successful cash bingo**, the next session will be held on **Friday 3rd May, doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm**, (Over 18s only). For more information re all these or to hire the hall **which is only £15 ph.**, please visit billingboroughvillagehall@gmail.com. **NB** Unfortunately dogs are no longer allowed in the village hall (apart from registered guide dogs) this decision has been taken due to allergies of some people who attend the hall.

D Day Celebrations – on the **8th June** the village hall is hosting an afternoon tea with music and entertainment from BATS, who are always brilliant! Tickets are £15 and will be on sale soon at the post office. This will be an amazing event and tickets will be in great demand **so gets yours early** to avoid disappointment.

Billingborough Allotment and Garden Society Annual Plant and Craft Sale - will be held on the **2nd June 2024** from 10:00 - 14:00, at the Allotments on Birthorpe Rd. There will be plant, craft, preserves, natural products, historical facts, tombola and refreshment stalls. You will also have the opportunity to look at the different plots as well as chat to some of the allotment holders. If you are interested in having a stall, please do get in touch with Jeannie, contact details on PC website, under allotments.

The Scouts - would like to **thank everyone** who supported their recent family bingo fundraiser, which was a great success and raised **£792** towards the refurbishment of their HQ. They were completely bowled by the number of people who turned out to support them! They'd also like to thank the Fortescue for choosing them as the beneficiary of their April quiz fund! If you're interested in joining the Scouting adventure, either as a youth member or as an adult volunteer, then please contact Martha at martha.brown@stamfordbournescouts.org.uk.

A Voluntary Treasurer is required for the PCC of St Andrews Church – if you're interested or would like more details please contact Trevor on **01529 241325**.

The Ladies Wednesday Club – first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, non-members £4 per session. In May there's a visit to Mandy's Pointon Garden, cars leave village hall at 6.46pm and in June the talk is about Boston & the Hanseatic League.

Library van dates- Vine St – NONE in May, **24th June** 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall** - **22nd May & 19th June**, 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.

Wellbeing walks – take place every Monday at 1pm to 3pm, meeting and ending at the church with tea & biscuits. You can walk at your own pace and as far or little as you wish. Please arrive 15mins before the start on your first outing. For more information go to wellbeingwalks@lincolshire.coop/wellbeing-wlaks or call 01522 544632.

Us ducks go a little 'quackers' – when it's the mating season and often don't look where we are going or realise that we are sitting in the middle of a busy road! So we politely ask **that you drive with caution so as not to mow us down – quack quack - thank you!!**

We have litter equipment available – for anyone or group that would like to do a little bit of litter collecting to help tidy the extremities of the village. Unfortunately there is a massive amount of litter to be found once you venture outside the village, especially on the Folkingham Rd. If you'd like to borrow the equipment or organise a litter pick, please contact our clerk.

Don't forget your photo ID – when you go to vote for the new Police and Crime Commissioner on **2nd May**. **The Local policing policy for SKDC** – can be viewed by going to <https://www.police.uk/neighbourhood-priorities>.

We say goodbye and thanks to Jon - who recently left us after three years. We wish him all the very best for the future and thank him very much for all his hard work and dedication during his time in office – **thank you very much!**

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