

Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter July 2024

PC Annual meeting – Cllr Chris Woodhead was elected as Chair and Cllr Calvin Williamson as Vice Chair. All Councillors' contact details can be found on our website. **Annual village meeting** – thank you to everyone who attended and contributed. The Chair's annual report can be viewed on our website.

Your village needs YOU!!!! - unfortunately we currently only have four Councillors, when we should have nine, making it incredibly difficult for us to get everything done that we'd like to in order to make the village better for everyone! So if you think you could spare the time to attend nine meetings a year, (none in April, July or December), can occasionally rustle up a little enthusiasm and are community minded but aren't sure if being a Councillor is definitely for you - then why not come to our next meeting on **9th July** to see what it's all about and get a taste before you commit? We'll happily answer your questions. If you know for definite it's for you but just haven't got round to letting us know, then hesitate no more come and knock on our door. New Councillor selection by co-option will also take place at this Council meeting.

Flooding – on **26th April** we met with our MP **Gareth Davis** to discuss our concerns re the lack of response from the various agencies that we'd been trying to get to engage with us to discuss and address flooding in our village. We also mentioned the problem with the straw delivery lorries. We have since had correspondence from him advising that he has written to said agencies but to date unfortunately none of them have contacted us. **We've requested maps from LCC** of all our underground pipework they have responsibility for, however; as many of the pipes are dual purpose it appears none are readily available. **We met with Highways on 3rd June** re the flooding in Birthorpe Road, which starts from a ditch up from the cemetery and have been assured that they will engage a team to come with a camera to investigate this ditch and will also jet from Aveland Drive to and at the crossroads and in the High St. They will also look at getting various land owners to clear any blocked ditches. We mentioned that a lot of the kerb drains are blocked and were shocked to learn that these are only cleaned bi annually. We as residents can help a little by sweeping our gutters, clearing weeds and if we have a ditch outside your property, ensuring that it's clear to allow water to drain freely. **West Rd car park** - a report from SKDC confirmed that there is a proper drainage system in place, however; it is blocked/damaged, so now they need to establish who has responsibility - Highways or Anglian Water. **Proposed housing development on SKDC's draft local plan** – we voiced our concerns with Cllr Hill & Cllr Turner that all issues relating to our village drainage system need to be fully remedied or the system refurbished before any such development can take place and that it would be preferable for a new independent system be installed, should the development go ahead. **A Section 19** – investigation is underway due to the amount of flooding Lincolnshire experience in January and we have been advised by Cllr Hill that the investigating team should reach our village by August. However; whatever the issues identified or outcome of the report, unbelievably; neither Black Sluice nor Anglian Water will be obliged to take any action. **Village flood and emergency plan** – if you'd like to be involved in its development or volunteer please contact our clerk.

Solar farm S23/0511 appeal decision – on 24th April, SKDC allowed the appeal by S Ignis Ltd, granting them permission to proceed with the development of a solar farm at Washdyke Farm.

Call Connect – wish to erect 2 bus stops in the village and the Council is currently negotiating its preferred location for them.

King's portrait – we were fortunate to received one of the free portraits of our King. Given that we don't have a Council building in which to display it, we asked the Church PC if they'd like to hang it in the church and they replied that they'd love to! We'll let you know when it's up, so you can go and take a peek.

Pop up art project in September – unfortunately the bid for funding for this project was unsuccessful.

No more hardcopy – it was resolved at our May meeting that it's time to move with the times, therefore; as of the May 2025 our newsletter will be going digital, being posted on our Facebook page and website. We will however; continue to display a hard copy on our noticeboard.

Community Speedwatch – given that no volunteers had come forward to help run the scheme, it was resolved at our May meeting to sell all the related equipment.

Traffic attendant – last year we secured a role for a 'lollypop' person to work outside our primary school, to ensure our children can cross the road safely. Unfortunately to date no one has applied for this role! It's only fifteen minutes morning and afternoon, so do you think you could do it or perhaps share the role with a friend? Think about it and if you'd like more details then please contact Cllr Marin Hill on **07939 130665** or **cllr.m.hill@lincolnshire.gov.uk**. It will be a shame if after all our hard work to secure this position, that it is rescinded due to lack of interest.

Look out for – our Fields in Trust plaque that will be being installed soon. This is to donate that the recreation ground is now in trust and therefore cannot be used for anything other than recreational purposes.

Cricket Club fixtures – **Saturday 1st** team matches **July 6th** – Skegness – H, **13th** - Frieston L&L – A, **20th** – Burghley Park – H, **27th** – Bourne 2nds – A, **3rd August** – **3rd** – Boston – A, **17th** – Frieston L&L – H, **24th** – Sleaford 2nds – A, **31st** – Grantham 2nds - H. **2nd** team matches – **July 6th** – Skegness 2nds – A, **13th** – Orton Park 2nds – H, **20th** – Burghley Park 2nd - A, **August** – **3rd** – Belton Park 2nds – A, **10th** – Skegness 2nds – H, **24th** – Baston – H, **31st** – Grantham 3rds – A. **Sunday fixtures to be added.**

Billingham Allotment and Garden Society (BAGS) – would like to thank everyone that came along to support their annual plant and craft sale on 2nd June which was a roaring success! As you can imagine a lot of work goes into making this an enjoyable and successful event and it couldn't happen without the help of the allotment tenants who volunteer their time and provide cakes, the committee and especially all of you that came along to support the event. So they say a **MASSIVE** thank to everyone and to the weather for being so wonderful. One of the villagers said "it means so much to live in a proper old fashioned village community".

Village hall – the next session of their **very successful cash bingo** will be held on **Friday 6th September, doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm**, (Over 18s only). For information & hall hire **which is only £15 ph** visit billingboroughvillagehall@gmail.com or call **07704 298402**.

Community gym new opening times - **Mon** 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm, **Tue** 5pm-8pm, **Wed** 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm & **Fri** 9am-12pm - contact tel nos are - Landline **01529 712665** Mobile **07577030548**.

BATS - celebration of D Day afternoon tea at Rene's Café was a sell out and raised over **£700** for the village hall restoration fund and **£276** for the British Normandy Memorial Trust. If you weren't lucky enough to get a ticket you missed a brilliant show and a delicious tea!

Church update – Trevor Wells is our new church warden, you can contact him on **07973915886**. **Pews** - there are currently three **pews for sale**, one remaining from the alteration to the front seating and two that are being removed from the back of the church to provide more space. **100 Club** - would you like to help with or run this? Unfortunately; due to other commitments the current volunteer no longer has the time to look after this and sadly if no one can be found to take on the role, the club will have to cease! This would be a great pity, as it brings in much needed income for the church and pleasure to all that have a number and WIN. If you would like more information about this position or the pews please contact Trevor.

The Ladies Wednesday Club – first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, non-members £4 per session. In July it's a talk by author Liz Melee – 'Dad's War' and in August it's a bring and share tea at Rachel's, which will start at 3pm as opposed to the usual time of 7pm.

Springwells Patient Participation group – **next meets on 18th July at 6pm in the waiting room**. This is your an opportunity to hear what's been happening in the practice and NHS and have your say. You can register to be part of this group by completing the Patient Reference Group form on their website www.ruralmedical.co.uk, by contacting reception, or coming along on the night.

Pointon Rainbows and Brownies – meet on Monday evenings in Pointon Village Hall. **Rainbows ages 5 to 7** meet from 5pm to 6.15pm and **Brownies ages 7 – 10** from 5.45pm to 7.15pm. Both groups do lots of fun things such as cooking, crafts, games and activities and follow the Girl Guiding UK programme to earn badges and awards. So if your daughter would like to make new friends while learning new skills, having fun and being creative, why not contact pointonguiding@outlook.com for more details or register your interest at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>. **NB** you don't have to live in Pointon to be eligible to join.

Library van dates- Vine St – **22nd July** and **19th August** 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall** - **17th July** and **14th August**, 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 second Thursday at **10am** meeting and ending at the church with tea & biscuits. The walk is approx. 1 hr long, is suitable for all abilities and you can walk at your own pace and as far or little as you wish. For more information please contact Jennifer.pitt3@nhs.net or call **07789 533703**.

Don't forget your photo ID – when you go to vote in the General Election on **4th July**.

We say goodbye and thanks to Roger - who recently left us after **TEN** 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!**

Apologies – for the unusual style of our May newsletter! We had a big hiccup with our new Printers; consequently we have since sourced a new one.

Your feedback & ideas are always welcome so please do let us have them!

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