

Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter September 2024

Good news we have a new Councillor – Judith Tweddle, who was co-opted and welcomed to the Council in June. However – we still have **five** vacancies, so there's still an opportunity for **YOU** to help make a difference to how your village is managed. – **All you have to do is complete our brief application form**, which can be found on our website. Or if that feels like a step too far, why not test before you commit by coming to our meeting on 10th September at 6.30 to see what we are about? **That's what Judith did.** All applications will be considered at this meeting and selection will take place via co-option – We look forward to welcoming **YOU**.

Now is the time - to let us know what you'd like us to budget for when we plan our expenditure for the coming year at our November meeting. So if there's anything specific you'd like to see happen in **2025/26** or long term please let our Clerk know by **30th September**. We can make choices on your behalf though **it would be much better if our decisions were based on your desires!**

We are currently considering options re the possible redevelopment of the basketball area within the tennis court & skate park area so that it best meets the needs of the village - we are dedicated to finding the most appropriate improvements for these spaces and would greatly appreciate your input. So please review the options below and vote for the one that you believe will best serve you, your family, and our community. If you have other suggestions, please contact our clerk at billingboroughparishclerk@gmail.com or join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 10th. **1)** Redevelop the basketball side of the tennis court into a 5-a-side all-weather football facility, with floodlighting - (**pay to use**). **2)** Remove the existing skate park to create a 5-a-side all-weather football facility (pay to use). **3)** Update skate park to create a bike area **4)** Propose a new idea for the facility – please contact us with your suggestions. **5)** Resurface the current tennis facility only. **6)** Do nothing – the facility is great as it is. **Your feedback is invaluable to us** & we **look forward to hearing from you and working together to enhance our recreational space**. A **poll** will be available from **1st to 30th September** via **Facebook** with links being available in the “Billingborough, Horbling & Birthorpe Local” group & our own Facebook page. **NB. We would look to fund any development via grant funding.**

Flood prevention planning - Anglian water have at long last contacted us re a date to meet, however; we have not set one just yet, as we consider that it would be more advantageous to set a date for a meeting after the section 19 reports have been released. Unfortunately; we are still waiting for LCC to undertake the remedial works agreed at our meeting with them on 3rd June.

Aveland field – we have been responsible for cutting this field for 8 years. We took on the responsibility as part of the licence agreement on the understanding that we would own the field within the next year or so but to date this hasn't happened. So we asked Cllr Hill if LCC could possibly refund all our grass cutting costs incurred to date, which are approx. £6k, to which as yet we've had no response. We have however; been advised that LCC will take over the responsibility for cutting this area and will cut it 4 times per year, with the first cut being on 9th August. They've also cut the area earmarked for housing.

Another new pipeline - we have been advised by Cllr Martin Hill that second pipeline is proposed to run from the planned reservoir that will feed water to Peterborough for treatment. This pipeline will pass by the west side of our village along Mareham Lane.

Updates from last newsletter - The King's portrait – is now on display in the church – so why not pop and have a look? **Community Speedwatch** – following our decision in May to sell all equipment, we are pleased to advise that it has all been sold. **Our Fields in Trust plaque** – has been installed at the recreation ground.

A Public meeting in respect to the Fortescue Arms – was facilitated by the Council on 13th July. This was following a request from the VH Committee to look at making the pub a “building of public interest”. It was explained by our chairman what this means and a parishioner, who works for English Heritage, reported that he was fairly confident that enough grant funding could be sought to cover the purchase, repair work and set up costs for the subsequent running of the pub. The general opinion of those in attendance was that the village should explore ways to ensure that the village retains a public house. Consequently a committee of 8 was formed and a meeting set for the 7th August. At the August meeting a decision was taken to leaflet the parish, in order to gauge public opinion. So when your leaflet arrives please take the time to let them have your opinion. For more details please go to **Fortescue Arms Community Group on Facebook**.

Village hall – an emergency general meeting will take place on the **6th September at 6pm** in the village hall, to hopefully recruit a new committee member to fill the current vacancy. This meeting will be followed by a general meeting. Unfortunately, there will be another two but possibly three vacancies to fill at the AGM in December, as 2/3 longstanding committee members will be resigning then. These members have between them given over 30 years of service to the hall and villagers, creating the community gym, helping keep the hall going, raising funds for continued improvements, supported events, raised money for charity and more. In order for the hall to continue it needs people to come forward to fill these vacancies, as without a committee the hall would have to close and no one wants that to happen, as it is used by groups, clubs and people of all ages, for celebrations, bingo, dances and more. **Please help keep to it open**. Think can you spare a few hours a month? If yes then please come along to the emergency meeting or AGM (date will be announced well in advance) and express your interest. **Bingo** resumes on **Friday the 6th September** doors open at **7pm** eyes down **7.30pm**, cash prizes so **over 18's only**.

Church update –exciting news – we may be getting a **new Priest** for the Billingborough & Folkingham group of churches and you are warmly invited on **23rd September, 6pm for 6.30pm**, to an informal **meet & greet evening** (with dinks & nibbles), to be introduced to the potential candidate, so save the date. The **Harvest Service** will be held on **13th October** – followed at **12.15pm by the Harvest Lunch** in the village hall. Tickets are **£12 adult, £6 under 13's** and are available from Trevor **07973915886**. This year's **Remembrance service** will be held on **10th November at 10am**. The **100 Hundred Club** – has a new administrator & the first draw will be in **October** - if you wish to take part please contact **Sue** on **07714331259**. The **clock repairs** will hopefully take place in September. In order to help reduce energy costs, a decision has been taken to turn off the floodlighting at **11pm**. A **chance for you to say goodbye** to **Rev. Dr Anna Sorensen**, who warmly invites you to share in her final service on **1st Sept at 11is at Ingoldsby Church**. Ingoldsby PCC extends this invitation in recognition that this is the end of her ministry in the C of E, not just in the Ropsley Benefice. For catering nos. please can you advise Anna if you will be attending **01476 586991 or 07793 544238**. If you can't make this date Anna will also be taking the Harvest service on **22nd Sept** at Sempringham Abbey and will be around until mid Oct.

Cricket Club fixtures – **1st** team matches in **September - 7th** – Newborough – **A, 14th** – Sleaford Seconds – **H. 2nd team – Sept 7th** – Newborough 2nds – **H, 14th** –Caistor & Ailsworth 2nds – **A** - matches commence at 1pm. For more information or if you'd like to join the club or the junior cricket please call **Murray** on **07971 503742**. **Good luck to everyone!**

Pop in too's - coffee morning on the **25th September** is in aid of **Macmillan**, so please go along and support it. If you'd like to donate a cake or a raffle prize, then please call Liz on **240839**.

The Army Cadets – will be doing a litter pick in our village sometime in September.

Irresponsible parking - unfortunately some drivers are breaking a point of Rule 243 of the Highway Code, that states that you should **not stop or park** opposite or within 10 meters (32ft) of a junction, other than in an authorised parking space. This breach is very prevalent at the Birthorpe Rd/High St/Burton Lane crossroads and Allen Close where vehicles are parking right up to the corner of the roads, making it very difficult and dangerous for vehicles wishing to join the High St from these roads. It's a matter of nosing out and hoping for the best and is a disaster waiting to happen and has led to some residents of Allen close requesting yellow lines for the entrance to their road, as the inconsiderate parking makes it dangerous for vehicles both exiting and entering the close. So we politely ask that you think before you park. **Please don't wait until a serious accident happens to change your parking habits. – thank you.**

Dog excrement in the recreation ground – yet again we had to discuss the problem at our July meeting, considering if we should totally exclude dogs from the recreation ground, only allow dogs on leads or employ a dog warden. It was agreed after much deliberation for the time at least not to take any of these actions. We are however; asking all dog walkers to be responsible – which means **being aware at all times when in the rec what your dog is doing**. – Thank you.

We politely ask – that you trim or cut back any foliage that overhangs public footpaths, access points or the jitties. It would also be very helpful if you could clear any debris from drains that are close to you property – **Thank you**

The Ladies Wednesday Club – first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, non-members £4 per session. September's talk is by Jenni Swift – 'Evelyn's Butterfly Effect' and in October it's a chat with Glyn Davies about Glyn Davies books & more.

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. Please 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 – **16th Sept** and **14th October** 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall** - **11th Sept** and **9th October**, 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. For more information please contact Jennifer.pitt3@nhs.net or call **07789 533703**.

Tennis courts – a little reminder that our tennis courts and basketball area will be **closing for use** at the close of day on **Sunday 27th October**. They will reopen on **Sunday 30th March 2025**.

Our gratitude & thanks – go to Jeannie & Pete who are stepping down from looking after our Pointon & Folkingham Rd planters. They ensured that these looked amazing for the last few years. **Many thanks Jeannie & Pete for all your hard work & dedication!!**

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

Clerk billingboroughparishclerk@gmail.com 07415 842591 Chairman bwoodheadbillingboroughhpc@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>