

Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter January 2025

We wish YOU a Very Happy New Year!!

New Year is when people often try something new – so why not give being a Councillor a try? Never considered it – well perhaps now's the time to do so? Or think you'd not know what to do – don't worry none of us did when we joined but training & support is provided. Still not certain then why not test before you commit by coming to our next meeting on **14th January at 6.30pm** to see what is involved? If you've decided to give it ago application details can be found on our website.

Our budget considerations for 25/26 – it was resolved to - increase our cemetery charges by 5% & introduce new charges in relation to self-internment of ashes. To investigate the possibility of increasing our land rents in 26/27, for which legal fees would require budgeting for in the 25/26 budget. To increase the rent for the cemetery field to £200 if the current tenant renews & to £250 pa, if it has to be advertised & let to a new tenant. To increase the fee charged to Parkers for cutting the grass on Blason Way by 5%. To maintain the current amount requested as donation from both the CC & HPC. That all current subscriptions & DD should remain the same for the coming financial year. To accept Glendale's quote of £3523.48 for grass cutting. No discussion re cemetery as we have a three year contract that runs until the end of 26/27. To maintain our current number of waste collections. To keep a budget of £2500 for payment of our community cleaner, in the event that SKDC discontinued their funding. We have since heard that they intend to continue with this, so the budget will be adjusted accordingly. To increase our rate paid to our contractors. We didn't receive any budget request from the public, though there were three councillor ones to consider – to purchase 2 more litterbins for use in the village, the development of a village museum & a pump track to be incorporated into the rec redevelopment project or somewhere else in the village. After discussion it was felt that all three required further thought, planning & consultation & thus would be reconsidered at our January meeting. The precept will also be discussed and decided on at this meeting. **Agreed expenditure** – it was resolved to purchase a replacement seat unit for the broken swing in the play park at a cost of £2,129.89 + vat, to set a budget of £250 for training of Councillors on Cemetery & Memorial Inspection, Legionella & appraisals. Full details can be found on our website.

Traffic attendant – the good news is that someone has shown an interest in this post but wishes to do so a job share, consequently LCC have adjusted their advert stating that there is a possibility of a job share if anyone is interested. Their recruitment round 2 begins on 3rd January to 20th, which will be supported by an 8' x 3' banner outside of the school. So if you think it's something you'd like to explore further or better still apply for, then please respond to the details in their advert/banner or contact Cllr Marin Hill on **07939 130665** or cllrm.hill@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Section 19 investigation – unfortunately despite our concerted efforts we have still been unable to obtain a copy of this report.

Engagement with Anglian Water & IDB – we were recently contacted by our MP Gareth Davies' researcher advising that Gareth is due to meet up with the CEO of AW & asking if there was anything we wished him to mention. We responded stating that it would be extremely helpful if we could be informed of their areas of responsibility in the parish, have a designated contact to liaise with, be advised in advance of planned works, investigations & improvements, along with outcomes. We also asked if he could chase up the IDB whom to date haven't made any contact with us, since Gareth reached out to them on our behalf in April.

Footpath Update – it's a year since we met with Cllr Hill to undertake a walk around the village to discuss the abysmal state of our pavements, He subsequently assured us that he'd endeavour to get LCC to remedy these. Unfortunately to date no works have been undertaken or date given as to when they might take place. So we'd just like to reassure you that we are continuing to pursue this matter and will continue to do so until we have a satisfactory outcome.

The Big Poppy make - calling all knitters & crocheters, your help is needed to help create a magnificent display of poppies in the village, to commemorate this year's Remembrance Day – whether you're an experienced knitter or crocheter, just starting out, can manage to make a lot or only one, your contribution will be very much appreciated & will help create a stunning display to honour those who served! If you require a pattern please call Debbie on **07709 198524**. **NB** A collection box for completed poppies will be in the church from February and also at the weekly Pop in Too.

Restoring your church windows -unfortunately in recent months some windows have been damaged by stone throwing & footballs and as they can only be repaired by a specialist, the cost to restore them to their former glory will cost £3000 or more. To accomplish this goal the church needs your help. Any donation whether small or large will play a vital role in this endeavour & will be gratefully appreciated. Your support is not just about repairing the windows it's about preserving its history & the legacy of your church & its role in the community for future generations! If you'd like to contribute please contact Trevor on **01529 241325** or trevor_wells@btinternet.com - **Thank You!**

The Aveland Art club – would like to thank all those who supported their **Autumn fayre**, which raised an amazing **£1000** for the village hall refurbishment fund. **5th April Save the date – for their Spring Market** – all proceeds will go towards the Village Hall refurbishment fund.

New Springwells Surgery Medical Equipment Fund - Christmas coffee morning was very well attended and raised an amazing **£1425.00**. Thanks go to all those who contributed to its success and donated one of the 74 raffle prizes.

Village Hall – a full committee was elected at their AGM in December, which means that the hall will be able to continue. A list of the committee members is displayed in the hall. In order to streamline processes such as hiring the hall, the committee is working towards having a website. Meanwhile for details re hire, please call **07704 298402**

BATS Pantomime – this year will be **Alice in Wonderland**, with performances taking place on **15th & 16th March**. If past shows are anything to go by, it will be full of laughter, dazzling costumes & plenty of double entendre moments. So be sure to get your tickets early when they go on sale, as it's bound to be a sell-out!

Billingham Cricket Club committee details - Chairman – Barriey Light, Vice Chair & Secretary – Shane George & Treasurer – Samantha Turner. If you wish to join or would like more information please call Barriey on **07506 739413**

Have you resolved to get fitter in 2025? - Then why not give our friendly Community gym ago? It's where results happen and motivation is contagious! For more information please call **07577 030548**.

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. **NB** the first coffee morning is on **8th January** and the first Lunch on **5th 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**.

The Ladies Wednesday Club – if you like meeting up for a coffee/tea and a natter while 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 & the first meeting of 2025 is on **5th February**, when the guest speaker will be Fiona Barlow from 'Use it or Lose it'.

The New Springwells Patient Participation group – will next meet on **27th March at 1.30pm in the waiting room**. So why not save the date? This is your an opportunity to hear what's been happening in the practice and give your ideas, feedback and suggestions to help improve the patient experience. To join go to www.ruralmedical.co.uk, by contacting reception, or you can just come along on the day.

Library van dates - Vine St – 6th Jan and 3rd Feb 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall** - 29th Jan and 26th Feb, 9.45 to 10.45. There's also **Books to your door** - for more details about this service please call **01522 782010** or email benjamin.tatton@gll.org.

Wellbeing walks – take place on the second Thursday of the month 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**.

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**.

Top tips for dealing with ice & snow – if clearing footpaths always work in the direction of oncoming traffic wherever possible, put the snow on a verge or grassed area or on the edge of footpaths next to the road, put sand or grit down once you've cleared if you can but use it sparingly. A teaspoon of salt per square meter will be enough to defrost ice patches. **DO NOT** lift too much snow in one go, it's deceptively heavy, use hot water to melt snow or ice, as it can freeze to form 'black ice', obstruct accesses or paths with the snow you shift. **NB** There is no law to stop you clearing snow & ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to it or public spaces. If driving take note of the weather warnings, ensure your car has sufficient anti-freeze, a fully charged battery, the windscreen washer bottle is full & wipers in good condition, check you tyre pressure & carry an emergency kit, just in case you get stuck somewhere.

Recycle your Christmas cards – a box will be in the church during January for this purpose. All cards will be repurposed to raise funds for the church.

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

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.

Have your say on the 420 pylons planned for the Lincolnshire & Norfolk coast –by completing the survey at <https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk>. **NB** Survey closes on 20th January 2025.

Out of Hours Urgent Care Unit in Sleaford, 47 Boston Rd – is available Mon – Fri 6.30pm – 8pm & 8am to 6pm Sat, Sun & bank holidays (ex Christmas, Boxing day & Easter Sunday). No appointment required & you don't need to be patient of Sleaford Medical Group.

Thanks –on behalf of the village we'd like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to Debbie, Fiona & Samantha who have now left the village hall committee. Between they have given almost 50 years' service. **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH** for all your hard work & commitment!!

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

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