

## Billingsborough Parish Council Newsletter March 2025

**Flooding –on 6th January** – just a year on from heavy rain that caused disruption and road flooding; our village once again experienced heavy rainfall, which this time tragically caused the flooding of thirteen properties and consequently the displacement of the occupants, sadly with many of them still being unable to return to their home. The heavy rainfall also placed many other homes at risk of flooding and cut off access to the village via Folkingham Rd for two days. Volunteers swiftly reacted to the situation as did the emergency services and the Council would like to say a **MASSIVE THANK YOU** to all those that volunteered on the day and following days to help with cleaning up and the digging out of ditches and drains etc. A section 19 report was initiated after the flooding of 2024, however; the report wasn't released until 20<sup>th</sup> Jan of this year and really didn't identify reasons for the cause of the flooding or offer any robust solutions. Another section 19 report has been initiated, with results being requested by May. Hopefully this will provide more information as to the cause with swift resolutions. As many of you will be aware an independent Flood Action Group has been formed by Murray Turner, Helen Middlebrook, Julie Green & Krys Sokalo, to try to identify and address the issues that caused the flooding. They are liaising with all the relevant authorities & already two public meetings have taken place, with several of these authorities being in attendance. Unfortunately to date Anglia Water has not engaged with them. To help get an overview of our area and identify issues/concerns, the Resilience Forum brought their drone to our village on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February to undertake a mapping flight. Due to the accuracy of the data captured by the drone they can overlay elevation & measurement data. They also had use of a LiDAR camera, a specialist survey camera that uses laser rather than visible light. Once the collected data is available it will be shared with us and will hopefully prove beneficially in getting all agencies working towards minimising any future flooding. Unfortunately repetitive flooding is becoming a greater threat to many areas and even if answers are found and solutions quickly implement there is no guarantee that our village will be free from the risk of flooding. Therefore we all need to be aware and vigilant and take notice of flood warnings, which you can sign up for at– <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. You can receive warnings via phone, mobile, email & text. You can also check your long term risk at [www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk](https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk). If you receive an alert prepare by packing a bag with essentials, meds & insurance docs. If you receive a warning turn off all utilities, move valuables upstairs (if feasible) & swiftly move family, pets & vehicles to safety. You can report **surface flooding** – to LCC on **01522 782082**, for small rivers call the Environment Agency on **0800 807060**, for sewers call Anglian Water on **0345 145 145**. If your property should be unfortunate to be flooded call **999 if in immediate danger**. Unfortunately we all need to be more flood aware & if at direct risk, perhaps start considering installing some flood defence items (many of these can be improvised) & have a plan should we unfortunately become at risk of immediate flooding. We also need to ensure that we carry out our riparian duties. Unfortunately in January our sandbags were stored in the area that flooded so were inaccessible to us. To prevent a similar situation occurring again Wayne Chessum has secured the use of a shipping container at the WW Logistics site, where there is now a supply of pre filled sandbags, provided by SKDC. It is hoped that in time other items will be acquired to help should we have any threat of flooding. Wayne's also recruited several volunteers to help should such a situation arise. If you'd like to volunteer please contact him on **07717 281817**. The Council supports the Flood Action Group & is working with them & with Wayne, however; we also feel that it would be beneficial for the village to have a general emergency response team, which would be supported by Steve Eason-Harris, the Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Officer, with Lincs Fire & Rescue, so if you'd like to help form/be part of a general emergency response team, please contact our clerk.

**Your Annual Village Meeting** - will be held on **13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**New Councillors** – we are very pleased to announce that we have two new Councillors Julie Green & Andy Sharpe, whose contact details can be found on our website. Their joining our team means that we now only have one vacancy. So if you've been considering joining us, best get your application in before the opportunity to help shape and support your village is no longer available. A brief application form can be found on our website. **NB** Selection will be by co-option at our meeting on **11/3/25**.

**Precept for 2025/26** - was set at **£19,500** an increase of 9.7%,(last year it was 10.9%), which equates to an extra **3.45p** on a Band D property, ie.**39.38p**, last year this was 35.93p. **Budget** – income **£43k**, (£23k + precept of £19,500) expenditure **£72k**, reserve of **£29k**, full details can be found on our website.

**“No waiting at any time signage”** – a proposal to extend this on the High St opposite the Fire Station was discussed at our February meeting & there were no objections from the Council in regard to this proposal.

**Bio diversity project** – the Council's application to SKDC's bio diversity fund was successful, so sowing of wild flower seeds will take place in the far north eastern corner of the recreation ground playing field once the weather improves – it will be **‘blooming marvellous!’**

**Low St Paddock** – recently the Crown Estate planted six trees, that it kindly donated to the village to commemorate the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd. We are currently in the process of commissioning a plaque to recognise this donation and also Her Majesty. The plaque will be displayed on the railings to left of the gate on Low St.

**Land registered** – we are pleased to announce that our recreation ground is now registered with Land Registry. Applications to register all our other unregistered land are currently in progress.

**Newsletter** – in response to public demand it was agreed at our January meeting to continue with a hardcopy of our newsletter.

**Great British Spring Clean** – runs from **21<sup>st</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> April**, if you'd like to take part either individually or as part of a team please let our clerk know, as she can provide the necessary litter picking equipment. **NB** – this equipment can be also borrowed at any other time.

**Church News** – a service to celebrate Mothering Sunday will be held at **10.30am on 23rd March** & all Mums will be given a small posy of flowers. For all other services please see the pew sheet, which can be found in the church or visit [lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk](http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk). **PCC AGM** which is open to the public is being held on **12<sup>th</sup> April**, in the church. **100 Club** – is back, it's **£52 pa** you can pay weekly, monthly or yearly. If you'd like to join please contact Georgina Colyer [gecolyer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gecolyer@hotmail.co.uk). **Church Treasurer required** – this is a voluntary post. If you're interested or would like more information please contact Trevor Wells on **01529 241325** or email [trevor\\_wells@btinternet.com](mailto:trevor_wells@btinternet.com).

**The Big Poppy make** – has got off to a flying start! Lots of people are already busy making poppies but as poppies will be collected up to October you still have time to knit or crochet some poppies if you'd like to help create a magnificent display in the church & Spring Wells area to commemorate this year's Remembrance Day. If you require a pattern please call Debbie on **07709 198524**. There is a collection box in the church for you to drop off your completed poppies & you can also drop them off at the village hall on a Wednesday at 'Pop in Too'. **NB** A meeting is being held in our church at **11am on 19<sup>th</sup> April**, which is open to anyone who'd like to be involved in the design or assembly of the finished Poppy Project.

**HURRY, HURRY, HURRY as Mr Bunny** - is nearly here in Billingborough to take you to Wonderland. Tickets for this year's BATS pantomime 'Alice in Wonderland' are now on sale at Post 'n' More, High Street, Billingborough **£7.00 each**. Show times are Saturday **15<sup>th</sup> March 2pm & 7pm** and Sunday **16<sup>th</sup> March 2pm**. Don't be late getting your tickets, as it's sure to be a **sell out!**

**Horbling & Billingborough Scout Group** - will be hosting their Spring family prize bingo night on **Fri 21st March** at Billingborough Village Hall - All ages welcome. Doors open **6pm**, Eyes down **6.30**. Cash bar, snacks, and raffle. **All proceeds to Scout HQ renovations**

**Aveland Art club are holding a Spring Market on 5<sup>th</sup> April** – where you'll be able to buy a vibrant selection of goods, enjoy a cuppa and delicious homemade cakes & have the opportunity to win amazing raffle prizes. Not only save the date but also spread the word, as all proceeds will go towards the Village Hall refurbishment fund.

**Billingborough 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** or email at [barrieylight@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barrieylight@yahoo.co.uk). This year there will be an **Australia overseas player** joining the club. **April fixtures** – **26<sup>th</sup>** – 1<sup>st</sup> playing Moulton Harrox 2nd **Away**, 2nds playing Grantham 3rds at **home**. Save the date for their **Family Race Night** which will take place on **12<sup>th</sup> April** in our village hall, doors open at **6pm**, first race at **7pm**. Food available & a bar, with a raffle and auction prizes also!

**A Spring Fair & Coffee Morning** – raising funds for **Brain Tumour Research** is being held in the Village hall on **8<sup>th</sup> March from 10am to 2pm**. There'll be a great selection of stalls with a variety of crafts to suit all taste, plus a raffle. So make sure to save the date!

**Village Hall Bingo** – the next sessions of their **very successful cash bingo** will be held on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March & 4<sup>th</sup> April**, doors open **7pm**, eyes down **7.30pm**, (Over 18s only). Bar & refreshments are available. For information & hall hire which is **only £15 ph**. call **07704 298402**.

**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**. **5<sup>th</sup> March** the speaker is **Graham Eames** of the Springwells Medical Fund & on **2<sup>nd</sup> April** it's the AGM & the speaker is **Keith Talbot** who will be giving a talk on Vintage Shop Advertising Figures.

**The New Springwells Patient Participation group** – will next meet on **27<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30pm in the waiting room**. **So why not save the date?** This is your 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](http://www.ruralmedical.co.uk), by contacting reception, or you can just come along on the day.

**Library van dates - Vine St** – **3rd & 31st March** and **28<sup>th</sup> April** 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall** – **26<sup>th</sup> March** and **23<sup>rd</sup> April**, 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](mailto: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](mailto:Jennifer.pitt3@nhs.net) or call **07789 533703**.

**Our tennis courts re open on Sunday 30th March 2025** – 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

**Ongoing dog fouling** – unfortunately despite repeated requests we continue to have dog walkers who just **DON'T CARE** about our village, as they just leave their dog's excrement, where ever the dog chooses to go. So we once again say, **PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG!!** We ask anyone who witnesses an offender to please report them to SKDC, with as much supporting evidence as possible. **Thank you**

**If you think your online account has been hacked** – you should report it as a crime to Action Fraud <https://actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling **0300 123 2040**. There is a step by step guide on the National Cyber Security Centre [@NCSC](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk) on how to recover hacked sites.

**A gentle reminder** – that anyone can report a concern re roads, pavements, abandoned vehicles, leaks etc. by going to [fixystreet.com](http://fixystreet.com), LLC, SKDC & Anglian Water websites. The more people that report something, the greater the chance of a quick resolution.

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