

PC Annual meeting – Cllr Chris Woodhead was elected as chair and Cllr Ari Volanakis as Vice Chair. All Councillors' contact details can be found on our website. **Annual Village Meeting** – it was good to see such a strong turnout. Our thanks go to all who attended and also to those that gave reports, which can be viewed on our website along with the Chair's annual report.

Could you be one of the missing voices on the Parish Council? – to be a councillor you don't need a background in politics, be a public speaker, have any special qualifications or previous experience. All you need is a genuine passion/interest in your community and a willingness to get involved. Parish councillors come from all walks of life, bringing different skills, perspectives & ideas that help ensure that the Council reflects the needs of the people it serves. **Being a parish councillor offers you the opportunity** to make a real difference to your village, to represent the views of its residents, influence decisions that affect it, to initiate/support community projects & local initiatives, help protect its character & future & community assets, to meet new people, to work as part of a team for the best interests of the village & to gain new skills & experience – quite a lot on offer. So why not come along to our meeting on 14th July to see what we're all about? Or if you've decided it's for you, complete our online application form. Interviews for any applications will be at our September meeting & selection will be by co-option.

Don't forget to vote for the Aveland Hub- Sports, Nature & Heritage Park – a project that will bring improved recreation, wellbeing, wildlife conservation & heritage opportunities to our community. Every vote counts & will help make this exciting vision a reality so please give yours by going to <https://Billingsborough.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parish-information/Survey/1>

The Billingsborough Flood Group (BFG) Strategic Plan Update — 1) **Controlling water west of the village** -1) DEFRA Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Funding, - DEFRA arranged a webinar which they attended on 12th May, that explained in more detail the purpose of funding and qualification. 2) DEFRA are keen that Community Groups (like BFG) lead and develop natural flood management solutions in collaboration with Risk Management Authorities (Like Lincolnshire Lead Flood Authority here in Lincolnshire) as well as Env Agency and Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board. 3) They've received a progress update from LLFA regarding the STANTEC consultancy project who have been commissioned by LCC to undertake a detailed investigation into all the high risk catchments (Billingsborough is one) into the natural and asset drainage systems in each catchment and are well on with the our investigation and they hope to receive more detailed outcomes within the next 6 months, from which we will work with LLFA/EA/IDB to develop natural flood management solutions for holding back and slowing water west of the village and significantly reducing the risk of a repeat of Jan 2026. 4) Based on current information, timelines suggest that by mid-2027 BFG will have developed proposals ready to present to DEFRA for funding approval. This would mean that they would be targeting implementation by winter 2028. BFG appreciate that is another two winters but unfortunately our village is just part of a wider flooding problem not just in Lincolnshire but nationwide and the role of the BFG is to fight our corner and raise our profile! **Drainage System in and around Billingsborough** – their main efforts at this stage are to concentrate on Folkingham Rd and Vine Street. 1) **A** - following an from the onsite meeting on the 7th May with LCCV Highways & the riparian owner, Highways have confirmed that they will reinstate the drain out 1de 1 Folkingham Rd back to an open drain & will undertake further investigations in the section under Grimer's yard, to determine why water appears not be flowing through & onto Station Rd. **B** - to agree a way for the pipe under the railway embankment and under Grimers Yard entrance to be maintained by Highways due to its length and complexity of land ownership. **C** - to clarify with Highways that the main surface water drainage system that runs out of Blasson Estate has not been maintained since its construction in 2005 by Highways and to confirm that it is Highways responsibility. 2) BFG continue to pressure AW to deal with the blockages on their surface water drains on Vine Street, especially since the collapse of the drain at the end of Station Rd recently which following an inspection of the manhole by the AW engineer and Murray just down from the collapsed drain showed 2 ft of water which further confirms that Vine Street is blocked and will added to flood problems we experienced in Jan 2025. **Removing Flood Water from the Village to the East -1)** Following further discussions with Crown Estates and the tenant farmer, they plan to clear the Hurn Drain and reinstate the culvert and pipe connecting Cowgate drain before winter 2026. 2) They're also negotiating with Crown Estates and Mr Mair for a bigger diameter pipe to be installed to enable maximum water flow to pump out of Vine Street when pumps are used during a flooding event. The chair can be contacted on k.szokalo@billingsboroughfloodgroup.co.uk. & updates as they happened will be posted on their website. Our **thanks** go to BFG for all their hard work! **NB** to enable the group to apply for grant funding the Council has offered to act as the accounting body for them. (June meeting agenda item 10j).

Billingsborough Emergency Community Group (BECG) – is still accepting volunteers willing to help in an emergency (but without being involved in the committee). If you'd like to be such a volunteer please contact **Rob** on **07972 383257** or at hifivephoto@gmail.com. Joining doesn't commit you to anything other than helping when you can should an emergency occur. It also gives you the protection of being covered by their volunteer indemnity insurance & access to training. Being a **BECG** volunteer will help build a strong resilient community.

Village Hall 70th birthday celebrations – we'd like to say a **MASSIVE THANK YOU** to the committee & all who helped make this such an enjoyable and memorable occasion!!!! **Thank you!!**

It's blooming marvellously – time & patience has paid off as our wild flower patch is in full bloom & looking amazing!

Dogs in the recreation ground – in response to a request from the public, in respect to the amounts of discarded dog poo in the recreation ground, we discussed at our May meeting (agenda item 17e) implementing an **ALL DOGS BE KEPT ON A LEASH** policy. While most dog walkers act responsibly & clean up after their dogs when using the recreation ground, regrettably there are some who don't & thus create an unpleasant & potentially unsafe environment for all users. The recreation ground is a valued community space for everyone to enjoy and we'd like to keep it that way and not have to impose restrictions that would affect **ALL** dog walkers. So we say to the irresponsible few **please don't spoil it for everyone? CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG**. The situation will be monitored & hopefully we'll not have to take this step. The **outcome is in the offenders hands**, so if you know who they are, please encourage them to change their bad disrespectful habit. **Thank you!**

Yellow lines – in response to residents' requests we intend to approach LCC re installing some additional double yellow lines on the High St. (June meeting agenda item 10k).

Could you be our next School Traffic Attendant? – we are looking for someone to help pupils & families cross busy Victoria St at the start & the end of the school day. This is a rewarding role at the heart of our community, providing a friendly face while helping & ensuring our children get to & from school safely. The hours fit around the school day, training is provided & you'll be making a genuine difference to local families every day. If you enjoy meeting people, care about your community & would like to play an important role in keeping our children safe, please call Cllr Martin Hill on **07939130665** or apply via the job section on LCC website. *It's a role with big impact!*

Village Hall – Pop up cinema – on **23rd July**. This is a pop up event organised by SKDC. **How to Train your Dragon** will be shown at **2pm** & **Hot Fuzz** at **5.30pm**, tickets are **£6** & can be obtained via SKDC's website. **Bingo** is taking a break until the **1st Friday in October**. **VH Lottery** – don't forget that you can help raise funds for the VH by doing the SKDC lottery. For just **£1pw** you'll have a chance to win up to **£25k** in the weekly draw, while supporting the hall, as 60p of every pound goes local causes like our hall. To buy a ticket, please go to <https://www.lotterysk.co.uk/.../billingborough-village...> For information & hall hire which is **£20 ph**. call **07704 298402** or you can book direct at hallbookingonline.com

Our Community Gym – if you're **18 or over** & you've been thinking of joining but pondered & hesitated – hesitate no more, the friendly trained volunteer staff will put you at your ease and you'll wonder why you've waited so long. Its sessions are at **9am, 10am, 11am, 5pm, 6pm & 7pm** on a **Monday & Wednesday. Tuesday 5pm, 6pm & 7pm. Friday 9am, 10am & 11am**. You'll receive an induction (**cost £5**) with a qualified instructor, afterwards you'll be ready to go. Going forward you can PAYG at **£5 per session** or **£16pm**, (from the start of a month). Payment is currently by cash or bank transfer. To set the ball rolling or for more information call **07577 03054**, if no answer, please leave a VM & they'll call you back.

Feel the Miller magic!! – the rhythm is building & the excitement is growing as the Miller Magic Band prepares to bring its unmistakable energy, swing & timeless tunes from 1940s to 80s to our church on **18th July**. Whether you're a lifelong big band enthusiast or simply looking for an evening of fantastic live entertainment, this promises to be an evening to remember! From toe-tapping classics to dazzling musicians, the band will have you smiling, singing & dancing along. So gather your friends & get ready to enjoy a wonderful celebration of music & community. Tickets **£15**, to include light refreshments are available from Trevor **01529 241325**, Karen **07375 416505** or from Post & More. Drinks will be available to purchase & all proceeds will go towards the restoration of the west stain-glass window.

Church News – GARAGE SALE – 22nd August 10 to 2pm. 100 Club has availability for new members - cost is **£52 pa** & you can pay weekly, monthly or yearly. If you'd like to join please contact Georgina Colyer gecolyer@hotmail.co.uk.

Billingborough Cricket Club - committee details - Chairman – Barriey Light, **Vice Chair & Secretary** – Shane George. If you wish to join or would like more information please call Barriey on **07506 739413** or email at barrieylight@yahoo.co.uk.

Our Allotments – if you'd like to be added to the waiting list for an allotment please email consultcara@gmail.com

Could you answer the call? – Our fire station needs- **on-call firefighters**. These are ordinary people who come from all walks of life & who ideally **live within 5 to 10 mins** of our fire station. **Is that you? Then read on**. No previous experience is necessary as you'll receive extensive initial & ongoing training to enable you to respond to fires, road traffic collisions, floods & rescues. So it's an amazing opportunity to gain new skills, expand your confidence & make a real difference – while getting paid for your time, as on-call firefighters receive a retainer fee for being available, plus additional pay for each incident or training session. **Interested?** – Then call **08003580204** or go to recruitment@lincoln.fire-uk.org to take your first steps to a new exciting, rewarding step in your life.

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**. **1st July visit to the Bothy, Folkingham** & on **5th August** its **Liberty's Family, Firm & Fashion** with **Horace Liberty**.

Pop in too – is celebrating its **5th** birthday on **1st July** when a bring & share party will replace the monthly lunch. If you'd like to go but are restricted by your mobility, transport can be arranged by contacting **Trevor** on **01529 241325**. **Village Pals**, meets every Tuesday in The Fortescue Arms from **12 noon**

Library van dates - Vine St – 15th July and **17th August** 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall – 15th July** and **12th August**, 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**.

Painting of the playground equipment – will take place over the next few months. We'll try to keep distribution to the availability of use to a minimal & apologise in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause. **Our Memorial Stability Testing** – will take place week commencing the **8th July**. A month's public notice has been given.

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

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