

Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter September/October 2026

Have your say on next year's budget – we will be planning our budget for 2027/28 in November & we'd like to hear from you. With Council finances being under increasing pressure & spare funds limited, it's important that any available money is spent on projects and services that matter most to our community. So if you have an idea that could improve village life or something that you feel the council should prioritise, maintain or invest in, please let our Clerk know by **30th October**. While we cannot promise that every idea can be funded, all proposals will be carefully considered as part of our budget setting process. So please share your thoughts to help us make the best use of our resources – we can make decisions on your behalf but **it would be much better if our decisions were based on your desires!**

If you think the Parish Council is all about meetings - think again as it's about much more than that. It's about maintaining & improving your village, supporting local projects, solving problems & bringing good ideas to life. So if you care about your community, have a passion for your village, want to make things happen alongside a desire to help make the village the best it can be for everyone **we have a seat for you** as your Parish Council is looking for new members to bring fresh ideas, new energy & different perspectives. No qualifications necessary just enthusiasm & time to attend nine meetings a year. **Don't just live in the village – help shape its future!** So why not come along to our meeting on **8th September** 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.

Improvements at the recreation ground – in response to public feedback there is now a shorter & quicker survey that you can access at <https://www.menti.com/aldpgi6n3igx>. We'd particularly like to hear from children & families – **thank you.**

Brilliant news – our grant application for **£500** to LCC to purchase materials to paint the play equipment was successful!

Not so good news – we are sorry to say that Hayley our Parish Clerk/RFO has advised us that she wishes resign from the role. Consequently, the position has been advertised and candidates have been selected for interview. To ensure a smooth transition, Hayley has kindly agreed to remain in the role to support the successful candidate while they familiarise themselves with the role of Clerk & RFO. We can't say a **BIG ENOUGH THANKS** to Hayley for all her hard work, professionalism, dedication, patience and support to the Council & the wider community during her time in post. **Hayley you've been amazing and you'll be greatly missed!!!**

Local Government Reorganisation – it was recently announced that SKDC will be part of the Lincolnshire Unitary Authority, which covers a vast area, including parts of West Lindsey & North Kesteven, as well as all of Boston, East Lindsey & South Holland & will encompass 570,000 people. The general consensus from SKDC is that the current SK area will not fare well in this set up & they are considering taking legal action to challenge this decision. MP Alicia Kearns has also set up an electronic petition. You may be ok with this plan but if you're not, now is the time to voice it by contacting your MP, signing Alicia's petition or starting one of your own.

The Billingborough Flood Group (BFG) Strategic Plan Update — The drain outside 1 Folkingham Rd has now been reinstated back to an open drain. Other consultations & negotiations are taking place, re further ways to ensure Billingborough is more flood resilient, the outcomes of which should be available for our next Newsletter. The chair of the group can be contacted on k.szokalo@billingboroughfloodgroup.co.uk. & updates as they happened will be posted on their website. Our **thanks** go to BFG for all their hard work!

A little reminder if you have riparian responsibilities – please ensure that you keep ditches etc. free from foliage, weeds, debris & litter – **thank you!**

Billingborough 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.

A Huge Thank You to our On-Call-Firefighters – while most of us have been enjoying summer, our firefighters have been busy responding at all hours, often in challenging conditions to protect lives, property, farmland & livelihoods. They attended an unprecedented number of fires in July, several of which had to have crews on site for several days. For their dedication, commitment & keeping us safe we say a **massive - Thank You!** The service is still looking to recruit - **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 please call **08003580204** or go to recruitment@lincoln.fire-uk.org.

We have two fantastic fayres heading our way – **Saturday 3rd October** Debbie's charity craft fayre in the Village Hall from **10am to 2pm**. It'll be the perfect opportunity to enjoy cake & tea & pick up something special while supporting charity. **Sunday 1st November** – the **Aveland Art Club's Autumn fayre** in the village hall, from **10am to 2pm** in support of the village hall refurbishments. – **25 stalls** featuring a wonderful mix of **new & returning crafters**. There will plenty to browse, admire & buy from handmade gifts & unique creations to seasonal treats at both events -there'll definitely be something for everyone! So make sure **BOTH DATES** are firmly in your diary.

Village Hall – Refurbishment work has been continuing, with both the main hall and the cafe/bar area being redecorated and new fire-resistant noticeboards being installed. Refurbishments will continue in September, when the foyer will be decorated. **The Community Garden project** is underway and clearing the area has started. The garden will be planted with pollinator-supporting plants and shrubs and will have benches and raised flower beds for hall users to enjoy. There will also be boxes for birds, bees and hedgehogs to encourage our local wildlife and support the environment. The Village Hall committee **would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time so far, or have agreed to help further along into the project.** Anyone else wishing to volunteer should

email billingboroughvillagehall@gmail.com. **Dobbers at the ready** as their **very successful cash bingo returns on Friday 2nd October, doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm**, (Over 18s only). Bar & refreshments are available **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

If you're 18 & over & Looking for more energy, new friends or a reason to wear those workout clothes you bought way back – then why not give the **Community Gym ago?** – The friendly volunteer staff are fully trained & will put you at your ease. 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 to take the first steps to a fitter YOU or for more information call **07577 03054**, if no answer, please leave a VM & they'll call you back.

Church news - The Miller Band evening – thanks go to all that helped make this a roaring success, raising a fabulous **£3234** via ticket sales & sponsorship, much needed funds to help restore the stain glass windows. However as fantastic as this is **£2394** is still required to enable all works to be undertaken. So if you'd like to see the windows return to their original glory for generations to come to enjoy, why not make a donation? Everything helps no matter how small. Donations can be made by cash in the blue post box (this is emptied every day), via the card machine in the church or direct to the church Lloyds bank account, sort code is **30-98-02**. Account no. **00686138. Harvest Festival Service** – will take place at 11am on Sunday **4th October**, followed by a **Harvest Lunch** in the Village Hall. Tickets are **£15** for an adult & **£10** for 12 & under & are available from Post 'n' More or from Liz on **01529 240839**. Have you visited the **Church Thrift Shop** lately? If not you'll be pleasantly surprised by the variety of items on sale. **A fond farewell to Trevor who is stepping down from the role of Church Warden** – Although Trevor's only been in post a short while his contribution has been invaluable and he's made a lasting difference to our church. On behalf of the village we say **Thank you Trevor!!** If you're interested in becoming a church warden or helping in the church in any way please email Rebecca.Rock@lincoln.anglican.org. The **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.

Fancy growing your own? – if you've ever thought about growing your produce or discovering your inner green-fingered guru – why not put your name on the waiting list for one of our allotments, you can do this by emailing Cara at consultcara@gmail.com

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**. **2nd Sept** it's a **Bring & Share Tea** at **3pm** at 1 Genova Court, Billingborough, on **7th Oct** it's **Ayurveda (The Science of Life)** with Diane Roberts.

Pop in too – is hosting a **Macmillan coffee morning** on **16th September**, donation of cakes welcome, please contact Liz on **01529 240839**. If you'd like to attend this day or any other Wednesday 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 – 14th September and **12th October** 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall – 9th September** and **7th October**, 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.

The Next Springwells Patient Participation group – is on **15th October at 6pm in the waiting room**. This is your opportunity to hear what's being going on in the practice, give ideas, feedback & suggestions to help improve the patient experience. Join via the Patient Reference Group form on their website www.ruralmedical.co.uk, by contacting reception or just come long on the night.

Our Village entry grass verges – are not there to collect your rubbish! So if you're one of those that think they are please desist from using them as a convenient dumping ground for litter, bottles, bags or anything else! **Thank you**

Tennis Courts – a little reminder that our tennis courts and basketball area will be **closing for use** at the close of day on **Sunday 25th October** & will reopen on **Sunday 28th March**.

Clerk clerk@billingborough-pc.gov.uk 07415 842591 Chairman bwoodheadbillingboroughpc@gmail.com 07810 861089

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

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