

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 27th November 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

Councillors Present:- Cllr A Lake, Cllr K Crudgington, Cllr S Wilson,
Cllr P Richardson, Cllr A Cutcher, Dist. Cllr. G Bambridge and
County Cllr Bill Borrett

Other Members Present:- 4 Elector^s and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to consider accepting apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed those present. There were no apologies to be received.

2. To declare any Interests re items on the Agenda.

There were no interests declared.

3. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2024.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Cutcher proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Richardson, and carried. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the minutes.

4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of September (not on the Agenda).

There were no matters raised.

Matters Raised by The Public.

Those present discussed the problem in the village because Bintree Road is too narrow and some very wide vehicles following their SatNavs have become stuck on the road and have had to reverse long distances causing disruption and hazards to traffic. A sign erected stating the road is narrow, to deter wide vehicles would be beneficial from a safety point of view. Cllr Borrett suggested he be sent an email on this subject.

A resident asked about events being advertised on the website and was assured any events mentioned during the meeting would be put on the website in a day or two.

5. To submit any required questions to Dist. Cllr Gordon Bambridge and County Cllr Bill Borrett.

Cllr Wilson spoke to Cllr Borrett about the S bends and the near miss accidents that have occurred. Cllr Borrett suggested he be sent an email from the Parish Council, outlining exactly what they want and outlining the safety issues etc. Any information from the SAM2 sign data would be helpful.

Cllr Cutcher said he had read the reports of Cllrs Bambridge and Borrett and said he was surprised there was no mention of the mega solar farms proposed for Norfolk.

Cllr Borrett spoke about the solar farms and reported that none of the electricity generated will be used in Norfolk. It will all go to London. Breckland Council are fighting the case about solar farms. Cllr Lake spoke about the paint amnesty at the recycling centre at the



weekend and asked if it could not happen also during the week. There will still be no charges for going to the recycling centre but an appointment slot now needs to be made.

6. To discuss any necessary correspondence received.

There was no correspondence to discuss.

7. To discuss any Planning Issues.

3PL/2024/0813/VAR Burfield, Bintree Road, Variation of condition 2 on pp 3PL/2017/1613/F, amended access, passing bay location and associated drainage. The Parish Council has submitted comments. Cllr Crudgington read out the reply which was placed on the Breckland Council website. The comment stated was 'Billingford Parish Council understands that a drainage expert from the Water Management Agency is working with Breckland Planning Department on this matter and due to the complexity of what is involved, the Parish Council has no comment to make and will rely on the judgement of the experts and authorities where this matter is concerned.' It is expected there will be a planning meeting at Breckland Council soon and Cllr Bambridge suggested that, if possible, someone be present. There was some discussion regarding the passing place issue. The Parish Council needs some understanding from the authorities as to what impact the widening is going to have regarding the drainage. Cllr Bambridge said that if it was essential, then it may be something to do with the drainage system. If many residents do not wish for the passing place to be installed, then the Parish Council needs to take note of this. It may be that it will have an effect on speeding.

Festival Road is now in the hands of Breckland Council and the Parish Council will await the outcome. The Secretary of State are now involved. Residents will continue to make their comments known. The Parish Council has to be careful not to prejudice itself.

8. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments.

Cllr Richardson proposed the following financial transactions be authorised for payment, seconded by Cllr Wilson and carried.

Clerk's net salary for Oct. – Nov. £501.56 HMRC tax for Oct. – Nov. £65.80

9. To discuss the Financial Update and raise any queries.

This document had been circulated. The Parish Councillors did not have any questions to ask regarding the figures.

10. To discuss the budget document and set the precept for 2025 – 2026.

The budget document was discussed. A decision regarding the precept amount will be made in January.

11. To discuss the letter from CPRE concerning proposed mega solar farms in the district and the joining of the CPRE alliance against these proposals; to also discuss the possibility of joining CPRE Norfolk.

Cllr Cutcher reported that he had spoken with Mr Rayner of CPRE, who has said he will sign up Billingford Parish Council to the Alliance. Cllr Cutcher proposed that the Parish Council becomes a member of CPRE at a cost of £5.00 per month, seconded by Cllr Richardson and carried. The Clerk will organise it being paid by direct debit.

12. Update on the situation regarding the Parish Council's complaint to Breckland Council re the sale of land at Festival Road, correspondence to and from the Ombudsman and the next step.

The reply received was discouraging as the Ombudsman is not able to help. The recommendation is that the letter is signed by residents. Cllr Crudginton proposed that the letter be signed by residents and it is then the residents, not the Parish Council, complaining. The letter will have many signatures on it.

13. To discuss the Breckland Open Spaces Assessment (Smaller Villages).

The Parish Council has submitted its response and nothing further has been said. The hold up of the Local Plan has caused a delay on this. The Breckland Council Local Plan is out of date, so Breckland Council is waiting for accurate information from the Government. There will probably be a need for a call for more development sites.

14. To receive an update regarding the purchasing of the trees from the Community grant.

The grant for £825.00 has been deposited into the Parish Council's bank account. They will arrive at the end of January to early February. Three rows of ten will be planted at the top of the playing field. Thirty trees have been ordered, along with the necessary materials. The trees cost £540.00 and the extras making the total £825.00.

15. To discuss the Invitation to bid for the Parish Partnership 2025/2026.

As Cllr Borrett had departed from the meeting, it was not possible to discuss this topic with him. There will probably not be any items funded through the Parish Partnership Board that could benefit the village of Billingford anyway.

16. To receive an update on forthcoming events at the V. Hall and events that have taken place.


The quiz will be taking place in the Village Hall on Saturday December 7th and full details are on the website. The Carol Service will be taking place on 23rd December at 3.00 p.m. in St. Peter's Church and refreshments will be served in the Church at the end of the Service. The winter Solstice walk will take place on 21st December, leaving the Village Hall at 12.30 p.m. heading for the Bintree Oak Pub, arriving between 1.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.

17. To receive an update on St. Peter's Church.

The electrician is coming next week and it is hoped that there may be electric available for the Christmas Carol Service on 23rd December.

18. To discuss the grass cutting situation in the churchyard and playing field.

The grass cutting at the churchyard is still being carried out. Cllr Lake will be speaking to Norse soon regarding cutting the playing field. Cllr Lake had spoken to someone who would charge £100.00 per cut. Norse would charge £75.00 per cut plus VAT. A resident had commented that the grass area near the bus stop looks very overgrown and she enquired whether it could be cut. Cllr Lake will speak to Mr Golding to enquire whether he knows who owns it.



19. To receive an update on the application success of the Big Lottery application and the new play equipment project.

The funding has been deposited in the Parish Council's bank account. The play equipment h installation has started and, weather permitted, should all be in place by the end of next week.

20. To discuss the SAM2 sign and Community Speed Watch (if any reporting available).

No reports are available for this. The Community Speed Watch events took place in September. There were 4 people caught speeding. A speed watch exercise was carried out last week.

21. To receive information on any progress on the idea of moving the 30-m.p.h. limit to the other side of the S bends near the Billingford Lakes.

An email will be sent to Cllr Borrett regarding this.

22. To receive an update on the idea of purchasing 2 new grit bins.

The Clerk discovered that she had been given incorrect information regarding the person to contact on this subject. She is now awaiting to find out who the correct person is and to send them the photos.

23. To receive items for next agenda.

Update on the work Highways have carried out in the village.

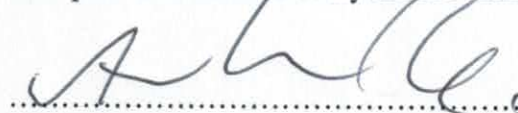
Date of the litter pick to be done at the end of February.

Grit Bins funding.

24. To set date and time of January Parish Council meeting.

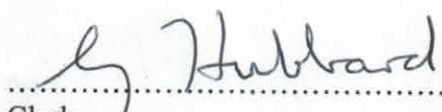
The next meeting will take place on Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. The following meeting will take place on Monday 10th February at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.



Chairman

10-02-2025
Date



Clerk

10th February 2025
Date