

Minutes of the Billingford Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19th February at 7.00 p.m. in Billingford Village Hall

Councillors Present:- Cllr A Lake, Cllr S Wilson, Cllr K Crudgington and Cllr A Cutcher

Other Members Present:- 2 Electors and Mrs G Hubbard, Clerk

1. Welcome and to receive apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed those present. There were no apologies for absence received from Parish Councillors but Cllr P Richardson was not in attendance. Dist. Cllr G Bambridge had sent his apologies for non-attendance.

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

There were no interests received.

3. To confirm and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2023.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Cutcher proposed the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Crudgington and carried.

4. To confirm and accept the minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting held on 7th February 2024.

The minutes had been circulated. Cllr Crudgington proposed the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Cutcher and carried.

5. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of December (not on the Agenda).

There were no matters arising.

6. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of February (not on the Agenda).

There were no matters arising.

Matters Raised by The Public

A resident raised the subject of the proposed Litter Pick, planned for Sunday 25th February, as there had not been a great deal of advertising carried out regarding this event. The Parish Council decided to go ahead and the Clerk will collect the 2 bags required from Breckland. Cllr Crudgington will collect the bags from the Clerk's residence.

The Clerk will report that there is damage to the footpath, which is situated on the south side of Elmham Road, outside the properties Petworth and Tamarisk.

7. To discuss any necessary correspondence received.

Mrs Brahimi had sent an email stating there was a drainage problem at her residence. A site visit has taken place with Cllr Cutcher and Cllr Crudgington in attendance. Water is coming off the road and flowing through her property. All the water that comes down Bintree Road currently has to go through an inadequate ditch. The Independent Drainage Board has visited her. Cllr Cutcher asked that the Parish Council be kept up to date regarding what happens. There are other drainage problems in the village, such as at the junction of Short Lane and

Bintree Road, due to blocked drains but no-one knows for sure who is responsible for dealing with this and whether it is the land owner or Norfolk County Council.

8. To receive an update re Big Lottery Funding for the repairs to the play equipment.

The Clerk had contacted the Awards For All Big Lottery and was told the organisation will now fund up to £20,000.00 for play equipment. Cllr Lake will obtain a brochure from NGF Play Ltd.

9. To authorise any necessary Financial Payments.

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

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| Clerk's net salary January and February | £436.92 | HMRC tax Jan. and Feb. | £49.80 |
| Clerk's expenses for Jan. and Feb. | £57.15 | Gressenhall P. C. ¼ cost of SAM2 repair | £33,75 |
| Breckland Council – dog fouling & fly tipping signs | £83.00 | Open Spaces Soc. Sub. | £45.00 |
| Donation to the Village Hall | £100.00 | Donation to Dereham Cancer Care | £25.00 |

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

No one had any questions regarding the document which had been circulated.

11. To receive an update on the bank signatory situation.

No update was available. All the paperwork had been sent to Barclays Bank so hopefully the Clerk will hear something soon.

12. To discuss any Planning Issues – response to Breckland Council re 3PL/2023/1058/F – land at rear of 8a Festival Road, Billingford

The applicant's Planning Agent has responded to the comments and objections raised by residents. As a result, the Parish Council has sent a second reply in response to the applicant's agent's comments. In addition, Cllr Crudgington informed members that the complaint letter concerning Breckland Council's sale of this land is nearly completed. It's currently 5pages long, but it needs to be that length as there are many points to cover. Once a few tweaks have been made, it will be sent off.

13. To receive an update on our response to the Breckland Local Plan, including the Dereham meeting held on 16th February.

The Development Strategy Consultation closed for comments today. Cllr Cutcher attended a meeting held in Dereham last Friday and Cllr Cutcher gave the views of the Parish Council, which were similar to the views of the C.P.R.E. organisation. It will be adopted in 2026 and hopefully it will not mention the New Town Development.

The Chairman, Cllr Lake wished for it to be minuted that the Parish Council gives a huge vote of thanks to Cllr Cutcher, Cllr Crudgington and Mrs Crudgington for the work they carried out dealing with items 12 and 13 on the agenda.

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

At the moment a Quiz Night is scheduled to take place on Saturday 6th April, starting at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall but there is a chance that the date will have to be changed. There was some discussion as to whether it was a good idea to have a Crib Night in the Village Hall at some point.

On 21st December there was a Carol Service in the School Room, which was well attended, and then everyone went to the Village Hall for refreshments.

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

The Church is looking very good and is cleaned up. The flooring is now visible and everything is clear of bird droppings. Norfolk Churches Trust had a meeting with Cllr Crudginton, Alice Richardson and Revd Sally Kimmis recently at St Peter's Church. The windows have to be monitored and continued to be kept safe from blowing out and the guttering and down pipes need attention to ensure water flows away from the Church. The guttering and downpipes are no longer able to cope with the volume of rain water and will need replacing with new ones in time that are able to discharge a higher amount of water i.e. storm gutters and downpipes. The cracks in the South West corner of the building needs filling with lime mortar and monitored for any possible signs of subsidence. The North East corner also needs possible monitoring as there are cracks in this area as well. South porch itself needs some guttering to alleviated further water damage and the floor also needs attention. The Church can now be opened, using the North entrance and there is every hope that the Church will hold a service in June or perhaps earlier to celebrate its re-opening. The priority is getting the cracks dealt with and this is in hand. The other priority is to ensure water is draining away from the church building itself as much as possible and some quick cost-effective measures have been suggested by the church's surveyor.

16. To discuss the old notice board.

It needs to be dealt with so that it looks more respectable as it does not look very good at the moment. The legs on the board do not need to be replaced. Cllr Lake will look into dealing with it.

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

A speed watch exercise was carried out at the east end of the village but the battery did not last all the time. Cllr Wilson has the data and one driver travelled at over 85 m.p.h. On the whole, there is a slight decrease in speeders from 2 years ago. 31.45 p.m.h. is the average speed. The sign was in the village on 18th January up until February 4th. One person was travelling at 37 m.p.h. so the sign is doing its job.

18. To receive an update on the delivery of the Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping Signs.

The Clerk is still trying to find out from Breckland Council when they will be ready for collection.

19. To discuss progress on the Restricted By Way Sign, which has toppled over.

Cllr Lake has dealt with this now.

20. To discuss the success of the grant for tree planting and to discuss the way forward on this.

Cllr Cutcher successfully obtained a grant for £825.00 from the Kings Coronation Fund for Orchards. The trees will have to be bought from either Westacre Farm or Felthorpe Nurseries and then the best site will have to be found. He intends to try to get a mixture of trees and they will be planted in October or November.

21. To receive items for next agenda.

Update on the new play equipment project.

Fuel Allotment Trustees

22. To set date and time of next Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 15th April at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

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Chairman

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Date

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Clerk

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Date