

## **Billinge Chapel End Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 17 January 2022**

Present: Councillors D McDonnell (Chair) D Clift (Vice Chair)  
Councillors B Bradbury, H Craig, S Gardner, T McEvoy, S Rahman  
H Broatch (Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer)

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

*23 Members of the Public were present. They had specifically come to raise their concerns about the flooding that had taken place and which was so damaging that some of the householders present at the meeting had had to be rehomed whilst their homes were renovated. Many others had also suffered significant damage to their properties. The key concern was that it might happen again because they had no confidence that the sinks, culverts, trees, etc would be maintained properly. This was because no-one knows who actually owns the land and therefore who is responsible for these works and therefore liable for any damages. Councillor D McDonnell stated that he was actively addressing these concerns. As a Councillor for St Helens Borough Council, he had raised this matter as a matter of urgency with the relevant Portfolio holder and Senior Officers. They had authorised a search of the Land Registry to identify the landowner. Once the landowner was identified action would be taken to advise them of their responsibilities for ensuring the land drainage system and the trees are maintained. There was some debate about what would happen if the new landowner felt that the previous landowner had not maintained the land properly. The Parish Council was advised by a Member of the Public who had expertise in insurance that the previous landowner could have liability for damage. Cllr D McDonnell would raise this concern with St Helens Borough Council.*

*The Clerk was given evidence gathered by a Member of the Public of the historical damage that pre-dated the sale of the land.*

All Members of the Public left at 8.25pm.

The Chairman called a recess to enable them to leave safely.

The meeting re-opened at 8.30pm

#### **No 80**

##### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Murphy and P Peers and reasons for absence approved.

## **No 81**

### **Declarations of Interest**

Noted: There were no declarations.

## **No 82**

### **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved: The press and public be excluded from Agenda Item 10 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

## **No 83**

### **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Resolved: The Minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 20 December 2021, were confirmed as a true record. The Minutes were signed by the Chair.

## **No 84**

### **Financial Matters**

1. Resolved: To authorise the payment of the accounts for January (numbers 89 to 95 totalling £2,345.94).
2. Noted Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 December 2021.
3. Resolved: To approve the revised asset register.

## **No 85**

### **Council Meeting Date**

Resolved: Date of Meeting in April to be changed to Monday, 11 April 2022 at 7.30pm.

## **No 86**

### **Queens Platinum Jubilee (2-5 June 2022)**

Noted: The Residents Association (in conjunction with the Parish Council) were planning a picnic in Bankes Park on Sunday 5 June 2022 that would include all-day entertainment, stalls etc. This event would be open to the public. This would enable the public to view the lighting of the Beacon on Billinge Hill. The Beacon would be part of a national programme of Beacon lighting across the UK in celebration of the first ever Platinum Jubilee. The Residents Association are planning a fund raising event towards the costs.

Resolved: The Parish Council allocate up to £1000.00 ( for hiring porta-loos, setting up and lighting the beacon and other costs/activities).

## **No 87**

### **Implications of Greater Manchester Zoning for the Parish**

Noted: The potential impact on local businesses and the subsequent potential for costs to be passed onto consumers following the introduction of the pollution charges by Greater Manchester (which includes Wigan) from May 2022. Members also questioned the effectiveness on what is a major environmental concern.

Resolved: The Clerk to look into and report back on the Parish Council on the potential for and implications of measuring the impact of emissions in the Parish.

## **No 88**

### **Council's Budget and Precept for 2022/23**

Resolved: The Council adopted the recommendations from the Estimates Committee on the Council's Budget and Precept for 2022/23. The recommendations were:

1. that the proposed budget for 2022/23 was for net expenditure after reserves of £52,276;
2. that the level of charges for The Public Hall for 2022/23 would remain at the same level as 2021/22; and
3. that the Precept for 2022/23 would not be increased and would remain at the 2021/22 level of £52,276 (£25.79 per annum per Band D equivalent property).

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chair

21 February 2022