

## **Billinge Chapel End Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 21 February 2022**

Present: Councillor D McDonnell (Chair)  
Councillors B Bradbury, H Craig, S Gardner, T McEvoy, S Murphy, P Peers  
H Broatch (Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer)

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

*The crime statistics for Billinge (provided by Merseyside Police) were noted. Concerns were raised about speeding in Billinge and the risks it presented to vulnerable pedestrians (the elderly and the young) crossing Main Street and Rainford Road. The public present also raised issues about the parking in Belilan Avenue and its impact on households. The Clerk was asked to write to Merseyside Police/Highways and raise these concerns with them.*

*25 Members of the Public were present. The majority had specifically come to find out about what progress had been made regarding the flooding and about the concerns regarding the performance of Billinge Medical Practice. The Clerk was given further evidence gathered by a Member of the Public relating to flooding.*

*The Chair decided to share his reports for Agenda Items 4 and 5 with the public.*

All Members of the Public left at 8.48pm.

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

#### **No 89**

##### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Clift and S Rahman and reasons for absence approved.

#### **No 90**

##### **Declarations of Interest**

Noted: Cllr Dennis McDonnell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 as a Member of St Helens Borough Council's Planning Committee.

#### **No 91**

##### **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Resolved: The Minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 17 January 2022, were confirmed as true record. The Minutes were signed by the Chair.

## **No 92**

### **Flooding**

Noted: The Chair's report. He advised that Nugent Care Society are the landowners following close examination of the land registry maps. A site meeting (including Highways Engineers from St Helens Borough Council) had taken place and an action plan agreed for improvements including replacing flash guards; digging a water pit for overflow; improving inspection regime (including keeping evidence of works undertaken); and inspecting the pipeline including manholes which may be in private gardens.

Resolved:

1. A meeting to be set up with representatives of Nugent House, the Diocese, St Helens Borough Council and the Parish Council to confirm planned action and timelines.
2. The Parish Council to escalate up and to write to the local MP.
3. The Clerk to write to St Helens Borough Council about the need for maintenance of the public footpath and concerns about its current state.

## **No 93**

### **Billinge Medical Practice**

Noted update/report from the Chair following the meeting between representatives of the Parish Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and the Medical Practice.

Resolved to write to local MP about action taken amidst continuing reports of failing; and the need to ensure the Practice make the improvements, as agreed, especially to telephone and other services relating to the appointments system.

## **No 94**

### **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

Noted:

1. Picnic in the Park with entertainment and food to be held at Bankes Park on Sunday 5 June 2022. The Residents Association were taking the lead on the arrangements supported by the Parish Council.
2. St Helen's Borough Council had said that Parish Council could go ahead with Beacon on Billinge Hill subject to risk assessments being submitted. The Borough Council would continue with the plans for Taylors Park which would include a Beacon being lit on 2 June 2022.

Resolved: that if additional funds were required for the Picnic in the Park that the budget could be increased from £1000.00 to £1500.00.

## **No 95**

### **Library Service**

Noted: St Helens Borough Council consulting about community run library services. The Parish Council had written to St Helens on 26 July 2021 with the key message that it was essential that a library was maintained in Billinge. They went on to say that the Parish Council and local community were open to discussions on the best way to achieve this.

Resolved: Representatives of the Parish Council would meet with the Library Service. The Clerk was asked to set up this meeting as soon as possible.

## **No 96**

### **Planning**

Resolved:

- 1.To submit no observations on applications P/2022/0078/HHFP and P/2022/0085/HHFP.
- 2.To object to P/2022/0076/TPO in light of the technical observations of St Helens Tree Officer and his recommendation to the Borough Council to object.
- 3.To seek the expert advice of the Tree Officer regarding application P/2022/0086/TPO and to delegate the decision to the Clerk in consultation with the Planning Sub Committee.
- 4.To ask the Clerk to research if there was a map for the Parish identifying all the trees that have TPOs and if there is, to share with the Parish Councillors.

## **No 97**

### **Financial Matters**

Noted: that the Clerk/RFO has advised St Helens BC that the Parish Council Precept for 2022/23 will be not increase and be set at £52,276.00. St Helens BC advise that the Precept will be paid to the Parish Council in two halves – one half of 14/4/22 and the other on 16/6/22.

Resolved: to authorise the payment of the accounts for February 2022 (numbers 96 to 109 totalling £6160.41).

## **No 98**

### **Code of Conduct**

Resolved: To adopt the revised Code of Conduct.

**No 99****Community Governance Review**

Noted that a community governance review would be undertaken by St Helens Borough Council after the Elections on 5 May 2022 and it could take up to 12 months to complete.

Resolved that Members would advise the Clerk about Terms of Reference by 25 February 2022.

**No 100****Risk Assessment 2022/23**

Resolved to approve the revised Risk Assessment for 2022/23 including changing the notice required in Clerk/RFO Contract from one month to three months.

**No 101****Non-Animal Circus Provider**

Noted that the Parish Council does not own the amount of land they require for the circus and Clerk asked to advise them that they should be contacting the Eddleston Trust.

**No 102****Clerk of the Council's Report**

Noted the Report.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm