

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 18 July 2022

Present: Councillors S Gardner (Chairman), S Wainwright (Vice Chairman)
Cllrs A Armstrong, C Betts, W Bradbury, F Gill
C Bolton (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Statement (if any) from Merseyside Police: none received

2. Statements (if any) by Borough Councillors Betts, Murphy and Peers: Cllr Peers reported that he had contacted every Member of St Helens Council re the (at the time) pending decision on Libraries and he read his email to the meeting. He further commented the closure of Billinge Library was subsequently agreed by St Helens Councillors.

3. The session was then opened up to residents and comments were made re the difficult choices available to St Helens Council in considering library provision against other budgetary demands for children/vulnerable adults. Queries were then made to Parish Council and at this point Cllr Gardner invited Cllr Armstrong to give a synopsis of working group options and these included: fight to save library building/provision; investigate Community Asset transfer of current building but with necessary repairs carried out; If first two options were unsuccessful then there would be a need to identify what kind of a service residents would like – simple book swap with basic training for volunteer duties or for more extensive training for volunteers to provide the same service as St Helens Library Service providing IT equipment, support and printing. The Working Group would be bringing their report to the Agenda to ask guidance on which avenue to pursue but was very aware residents as well as councillors need to be consulted. Residents' queries included what would happen to the proceeds of any sale of the current library building/land if attempts to save were unsuccessful. A suggestion to apply for levelling-up funding to support was made; Cllr Armstrong commented this type of funding needs a business case to access and this is not a short procedure. She also commented that other funding could be accessed more quickly by a constituted group.

A resident presented complaints re Nugent House access/egress and commented it has been operating since 2019 as the main access/egress to the school with no road markings and no safety signage or indication that there is a concealed entrance. This issue is with Planning Enforcement at the moment. Resident expressed concern over the crime rate increase in Greenfield View. A query was made over why the main entrance had been moved. Cllr Bradbury commented on an OFSTED report that had stated segregation of pedestrians and vehicles on site had to be instigated and that this had led to the change.

Flooding: resident spoke about a significant number of officers attended a meeting intended to find a resolution for the problem. Concern was expressed over the lack of information/notice of the

meeting that was held so residents were unaware of it. Cllr Bradbury reported regular inspection of culvert is being carried out and had inspection records with him. Cllr Betts commented on the Section 19 procedure which is in process. He also commented gates are to be installed to prevent blockage. Agreement to clean out culverts, do the forestry etc. to help prevent further flooding had been reached and he said he would monitor Section 19 to ensure the work is being done.

The Public Session closed at 8.30pm. The Chair called a recess to enable Members of the Public who wanted to leave to do so safely

No 32 To receive any apologies for absence and approve reasons for absence. : Cllr S Murphy, Cllr W Bates, Cllr J Barnes

Resolved: to receive above apologies and approve reasons for absence

No 33 To receive any declarations of interest from Members. Cllr Bradbury re Agenda Item 7 - Nugent House Entrance. Cllr Stuart Wainwright (query re St Aidan's event)

Resolved: to receive above declarations

No 34 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 20 June 2022 and 30 June 2022

The above Minutes were proposed as a true record. Update on Action Log was not given due to Clerk/RFO absence due to illness.

Resolved:

To approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 20 June and 30 June 2022, and for the Chairman to sign as a true record

No 35 Library Service

The Library Working Group had submitted their report to Members and further comments made re how to get a temporary provision in place in the short term whilst community asset transfer option is fully explored. There were discussions spoke about the possibility of using the Public Hall and other Councillors commented on a community hub option that would support those who need it the most, as these are often the people without IT facilities/transport. It was reported some residents have been contacted by St Helens Council to gauge interest in a home service which is a good thing but does not address the social aspect of using libraries.

Resolved:

For Libraries Working Group and other interested Members to work with Dave Boocock to find an interim solution.

To consult residents using a number of questions agreed by the Libraries Working Party (to be sent to all Members for information prior to publishing/distribution). Circulate via hard copy with QR code for those wishing to complete online (budget of £300 for this approved)

To create a definitive statement about preferred options and then to agree priority of action at the next Parish Council meeting

No 36 Flooding

Members were asked to note that, in line with request from residents at last Parish Council Meeting, Borough Councillors Betts and Murphy have requested that the Section 19 Notice be actioned. St Helens Borough Council has a duty to undertake investigations for flood incidents/events. The report will be public statement of the circumstances of a flood event; what parties have a role in managing the risks; and what their role is.

Resolved:

To monitor the actions of Section 19 to ensure they are carried out in a timely manner

For Cllr Bradbury to keep Members informed re any developments relating to this involving Nugent House School (as far as possible as a School Governor) noting that Nugent Care Society were responsible for property matters not the School.

To keep residents informed re meetings/progress and for Cllr Betts to lead on this/liaise with the Clerk

No 37 Billinge Medical Practice

Members were asked to note the Chairs report on meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group on 12 July 2022 and to resolve whether any further action is needed. It was further reported that a Patient Participation Group is to be set up by the Practice and it was requested a Councillor become Parish Council representative on that Group Cllr F Gill was proposed.

Resolved:

For Cllr Fiona Gill to become Billinge Parish Council representative on the Patients' Participation Group

For the 'Message for our patients from Dr Sood and Dr Shah' to appear on Parish Council website and noticeboard

For a further monitoring meeting to be held with CCG in September

No 38 Nugent House School Entrance

Members were asked to note issues raised by resident of Greenfield View and to identify the next steps.

Resolved:

To write again to Nugent House School re concerns relating to parking, signage, road markings.

Also to express additional concern over reports of drop off/pick up of pupils 'on road' and not within the car park.

No 39 Proposed Changes to Bus Service

Members were asked to note that the deadline for feedback on proposed changes was 10 July 2022 so Parish Councillors responded as individuals and the Clerk had requested an extension to enable the Parish Council to discuss and submit observations as soon as possible after this meeting

Resolved:

For Members to email chairman for him to compile response to bus service consultation – he will circulate his response to Members.

No 40 Review of Appointments

Members were asked to review the following appointments-Billinge Residents Association – the Association meets from 1400-1500. Unfortunately Cllrs Barnes and Bates (who were appointed in May 2022) both work so cannot attend. Two alternative representatives are required.

Bank Signatories – authorisation normally takes place on the Tuesday after the Parish Council during bank hours (0900-1500). An additional appointee who is available during these hours is therefore needed.

Resolved:

For Cllr Bradbury and Cllr Betts to attend Billinge Residents' Association meetings

For Cllr S Wainwright to become the additional online signatory

No 41 Financial Matters

Members were requested to consider authorisation of payments on supplied schedule for payments in July 2022 and also for August 2022 (the latter to be authorised with bank 15/16 August)

The Quarterly Financial Report had been circulated to Members.

It was proposed for £600 to be vired from Chairman's Allowance into an analysis heading of community projects and for Community representatives to make written submissions for how the amount could be spent by 6 September 2022. Any submissions would be reported to the Parish Council meeting on 19 September 2022 for discussion and resolution whether to support or not.

Resolved:

To authorise the schedule for payments for July 2022 (£ 6255.17) and August (1827.64)

To note the quarterly report and note that any queries relating to this should be taken up directly with the Clerk.

To agree the above proposal to vire of the £600 Chairman's Allowance into an analysis heading of community projects

No 43 Planning

Members were requested to resolve whether to make any observations on the following applications P/2022/0411/HHFP 13 Lilac Grove Conversion of existing garage with 1st floor extension above and a pitched roof to the existing rear extension. Use of render on both front and rear elevations P/2022/0427/HHFP 14 Lilac Grove Two storey side extension with dormer and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory.

Resolved: not to make any observations on the above applications

No 44 Event Update

Cllr Wainwright reported on the poor state of the organ at St Aidans (originally funded by community and is also an official war memorial) £9,000 has been raised already and an event in September is planned at St Mary's Club. A request for Parish Council to fund the food/publicity (£250) for this event was made.

Members were also asked to resolve whether to approve that the Farmers Market can use the area at the bottom of Dams Slack and if approved, that they provide a risk/impact assessment to the Parish Council relating to their use; that of users of the play area; and what happens if any reinstatement is necessary.

Resolved:

To note verbal report from the Events Working Group

To agree £250 donation (pos S137) in principle for final resolution at the Parish Council Meeting on 18 September 2022 due to the fact there is no meeting in August and food/publicity needs to be organised in advance of 18 September 2022.

To agree use of area at the bottom of Dams Slacks subject to the above conditions

No 45 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report had been circulated to Members

Resolved: to note the above report

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 19 September 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Public Hall, 216 Main Street, Bilinge, WN5 7PE