

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022

Present: Councillors S Gardner (Chair) and S Wainwright (Vice Chair)
Councillors A Armstrong, J Barnes, C Betts, B Bradbury, F Gill,
S Murphy
H Broatch (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council)

PUBLIC SESSION

The crime statistics since the last meeting and an update on volunteer speed gun scheme were reported by Merseyside Police. Jonathan Mitchell-Chard explained the 2 instances of hate crime following a question; he also explained Operation Brookdale which is tackling the instances of scrambler bikes being used inappropriately

Borough Councillors Betts and Murphy were in attendance. Borough Cllr Peers gave his apologies.

The session was then opened up to residents. Residents were unhappy and concerned that the Section 19 investigation by St Helens Borough Council into flooding in Brownheath Avenue had still not started despite being agreed in July. Borough Cllrs Betts and Murphy reported that this matter was being dealt with by Officers, Their understanding was that the investigation work would be done by expert external bodies and was currently out to tender. The residents felt the matter was not being given enough urgency. They were concerned the flooding would occur again this winter. They advised that they were very upset, disappointed and frustrated.

A member of the public raised questions about the Library and these were picked up under the agenda item

The Public Session closed at 8.00pm.

No 46

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Bates and the reason for absence was approved.

No 47

Declarations of Interest: Parish Cllrs Betts and Murphy declared an interest as Borough Councillors in item on flooding particularly relating to Section 19 Investigation. Cllr B Bradbury declared an interest as a Governor of Nugent House School in item on flooding and on parking.

No 47

Minutes of Last Meetings

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 July 2022 were confirmed as a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

No 48

Library Service

Cllr S Gardner read out an announcement (following a meeting with D Boocock, Head of Library Service). He then advised the Parish Council that:

1. St Helens Borough Council was reviewing the decision they had made to permanently close Billinge Library (and others) on 31 October 2022 and had decided to undertake further community consultation.
2. The existing library building and land would not be put on the property market for sale and time would be given to enable communities (if interested) to develop Service Level Agreements with St Helens Borough Council to provide a community library service.
3. St Helens Borough Council recognised that developing a community library service could take up to 18 months to reach the stage where a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with St Helens Borough Council could be agreed.
4. St Helens Borough Council were open (once the stage was reached where a SLA could be signed off) to making a capital contribution to enable Billinge to have a library building that was fit for purpose.

Interim Library Service

The Working Group reported (in the context that Billinge Library is already closed as a building which is not fit for purpose) on their proposals for an interim Library Service. It was resolved that a report come back to the next meeting with detailed costings and proposals for a minimal service which would include public access to photocopying facilities and book hutches at suitable locations in the Village. The Working Group had been advised by St Helens Council that they could not provide the support required for the interim provision of ICT.

Long Term Library Service

The report was noted. The consultation (which was agreed at meeting on 18 July 2022) would be actioned and the outcomes reported back to the meeting on 21 November 2022 now that St Helens Borough Council has extended the date for closures.

No 49

Flooding

Resolved that:

1. The Parish Council would write to the relevant Officer and Portfolio Holder at St Helens Borough Council to express concerns about progress with Section 19 Investigation and to ask for an urgent update in time for next Parish Council Meeting on 17 October 2022.
2. To seek advice on what powers the Parish Council had to take legal opinion or any other action to ensure the Section 19 Investigation was done in accordance with the legislative requirements.

Cllr C Betts left the meeting at 8.35pm.

No 50

Road Safety

Noted report from the Chairman and resolved that he get quotes for the supply of a Speed Indicator Device which would be mobile. The Chairman would also get agreement that St Helens Borough Council would be responsible for moving it around the village to improve road safety.

Noted report from Cllr A Armstrong and resolved that Clerk write to St Helens Borough Council to request drop-off lines be installed in the vicinity of St Nugent House School to improve road safety in Carr Mill Road.

No 51

Billinge Medical Practice

Noted reports from Chairman and Cllr F Gill on meetings they attended with Patient Participation Group and Clinical Commissioning Group. They also reported on the latest letter to all patients from the Doctors at the Medical Practice.

The Chairman advised that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report had been published and concluded that the Medical Practice “requires improvement”. Resolved that the Clerk put the CQC report on agenda for next

meeting and ask the Clinical Commissioning Group to present the report to that meeting and explain what the conclusions mean for the Medical Practice.

No 52

Community Governance Review

Noted that St Helens Borough Council are undertaking a review of the Parish Councils within the Borough. A public meeting was held in The Public Hall on 26 September 2022. A consultation period from 3 October to 30 December 2022 would be open to all residents and interested parties in the Parish.

No 53

Food Banks

Resolved that Cllrs Murphy and Gill explore options for food banks and report back.

No 54

Events

1. Noted that the Open Mike Night had raised £1,300.00 towards the cost of repairing the organ at St Aidans Church. Chairman thanked the Events Group for organising this successful event.
2. Resolved to arrange a Children's Remembrance Service at the Memorial Garden on Friday, 11 November 2022 and provide refreshments for teachers and children in attendance.
3. Resolved to be represented at the Remembrance Service at St Aidans Church at 4pm on Sunday 13 November 2022 and to provide a cold buffet to invited guests after the Remembrance Service.
4. Resolved to put up Remembrance Poppies on lampposts and that Cllrs Armstrong and Wainwright would liaise with Clerk.
5. Resolved that Clerk would purchase wreaths, poppies etc as required.
6. Noted that Billinge Residents Association intended to organise the Christmas Tree Lighting Event (9 December 2022) which would be held in the Public Hall.
7. Resolved that the Clerk explore with Events Coordinating Group the options for Christmas Tree and decorations for display in the Millennium Garden and report back.
8. Resolved to hold the annual Parish Council Christmas Window Competition and delegated to Clerk to organise leaflets, trophy etc and Events Co-ordinating Group to identify who would judge the windows.
9. Resolved to hold Parish Council School Christmas Poster Competition.

10. Noted that Events Coordinating Group yet to finalise Calendar of Events and would report to future meeting.

No 55

Review of Appointments

Resolved that Cllr S Murphy appointed to the Events Coordinating Group.
Noted that Cllr A Armstrong resigned from the Events Coordinating Group.

No 56

Parish Council Surgeries

Resolved that the surgeries would continue on a monthly basis; that a Calendar of Surgeries dates and times would be published; and the surgeries would offer tea/coffees to attendees and be run as drop-in events. The Clerk to liaise with Members and bring a Calendar to the next meeting.

No 56

Green Spaces

Resolved

1. Approval be given to Billinge in Bloom to plant bulbs in the Millennium Garden close to the stone wall at its highest point to minimise maintenance issues and maximise visibility.
2. Noted that Dam Slacks playground equipment is being inspected by St Helens Borough Council as part of their Service Level Agreement.
3. Noted that Borough Councillor P Peers had advised the Chairman that winter planting in October 2022 and summer planting in 2023 would be paid for out of the Borough Councils Council Improvement Fund.

No 57

Financial Matters

1. Noted that Minute 44 to fund up to £250.00 for food/publicity for Open Mike Night and resolved this was approved.
2. Resolved to authorise the Schedule of Payments for September 2022 (VN45-50 totalling £8046.52) and noted that in light of cancellation of scheduled meeting on 19 September 22 VN45-56 were paid on 20 September 2022.
3. Noted the typing error on Schedule of Payments for July 22 and that it should have totalled £6255.99 and VN32 should have read £125.82 not £125.00.
4. Noted that consideration of bids for community projects was deferred to next meeting.

5. Noted that Zurich Insurance had approved the claim for repairs to stone wall in full.
6. Noted that the Parish Council had received the final settlement from the estate of the late James Doyle. Resolved that a plaque be installed in recognition of the late James Doyle.
7. Noted the conclusion of the Audit 2021-22 and that the Notice has been published and made available to inspection.

No 58

Planning

Resolved to make no observations on planning application P/2022/0653/HHPA.

No 59

Clerks Report

Noted.

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