

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 17 October 2022

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

PUBLIC SESSION

8 Members of the Public were in attendance.

The PCO had given his apologies. He had asked the Clerk to advise that Merseyside Police were providing support for businesses by offering free cyber security memberships. The Clerk advised that she would publicise this as widely as possible.

Borough Cllr P Peers advised he was proposing to set up a meeting with the Eddleston Field Society and Billinge Football Club about how to resolve the car parking and road safety issues at the Playing Fields. He went on to ask the Parish Council to be represented at this meeting. On the matter of the library he advised that he thought the village should be more ambitious and look at community hubs in other areas such as Warrington which provided a much broader range of services.

The meeting was opened up to the public most of whom were in attendance to discuss progress with the S19 Investigation and to express their continued concerns about the length of time this was taking. They were advised by the Chair that unfortunately St Helens Council (Lead Local Flooding Authority) had not provided an update as requested but had asked for an extension of 2 weeks. The Parish Council reported that they understood that the consultants who would do the research had been appointed. Another issue raised by a member of the public was how the Parish Council ensures that all the initiatives being considered/that it is involved in are inclusive and do not discriminate but enable participation by all.

8.12pm Public Session Closed

No 60

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Armstrong, B Bates, S Murphy and the reasons for absence were approved.

No 61

Declarations of Interest: Cllr B Bradbury declared an interest as a Governor of Nugent House School in item on flooding. He reminded the Parish Council that Governors had no authority over property matters.

No 62

Minutes of Last Meetings

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2022 were confirmed as a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them. The Clerk was advised of an error and apologised. Cllr S Wainwright had also been appointed to the Working Group looking into providing a food bank in Billinge.

Noted the verbal update on progress with the Action Log.

No 63

Library Service

Interim Library Service

Resolved that a photocopier service be offered asap in The Public Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2pm – 3pm. The charges would be the same as in operational libraries. The service would be kept under review.

Resolved that two additional weather proof book hutches be purchased.

Resolved that the Parish Council would go back to the Library Service (in light of decision to keep all libraries open beyond 31 October 2022) to ask that the Billinge Library Service (books, photocopying, ICT) be reinstated as a matter of urgency. The library in Billinge was closed because of the unsafe condition of the existing building. The Parish Council has identified an alternative location in The Eddleston Centre and can see no reason why the library should not be re-opened as a matter of urgency.

Long Term Library Service

Resolved to action consultation which would seek to identify whether the public want a library service and if they do would they have the skills/experience, availability/willingness and time to develop and then run a community led library service. Chair/Clerk to design consultation exercise; consult Councillors and then action.

No 64

Flooding

Noted letter to and email from St Helens Council asking for two more weeks to reply.

Resolved that the length of time taken to organise the S19 Investigation was already not acceptable and to escalate up the Parish Council's concerns about this to the Chief Executive of St Helens. The Chair reported that back in June/July 2022 emails and meetings had been discussing; requesting and getting agreement to do a S19 Investigation.

No 65

Billinge Medical Practice

Noted that Care Quality Commission had published its inspection report which concluded that the Practice "requires improvement". The Care Quality Commission will now give time for improvements to be put in place and then will re-inspect in around six months' time.

Noted that representatives of the Parish Council were meeting again with the CCG on 9 November 2022 and would report to next meeting.

No 66

Community Governance Review

Noted consultation period was now open and would close on 30 December 2022. This will be on agenda item for the next meeting.

No 67

St Aidans Church Christmas Tree Appeal

Resolved to sponsor a Christmas Tree for £26.00.

No 68

Pupil Council

Resolved that Cllr J Barnes explore what the schools think of the proposal; how it might work; and report back on the aim to have a Pupil Council after Christmas..

No 69

Food Bank

Noted the report from Cllr F Gill on behalf of the Working Group. The main food bank in St Helens is at the Hope Centre and there are collection points at Spar and Coop in Billinge. However there is not a food bank in Billinge itself. The Working Group would like to look at a food bank with non-perishable goods that would be open to all and would also include pet food.

Resolved to support in principle subject to a more detailed report to the next meeting.

No 70**Community Grants**

Noted the Chair's report.

Resolved to support in principle the request for funding (maximum £450.00) towards the cost of setting up a music club in Billinge which would be free to children living in Billinge. The Clerk to meet with organisers and talk through the proposals and ensure they are compliant with safeguarding and other legal requirements. The monies would not be paid until invoices received along with evidence of best value.

No 71**Events Calendar**

Noted.

No 72**Parish Councillor Surgeries**

Resolved to approve Calendar; rename; and to promote on website and noticeboards.

No 73**Green Spaces**

Noted Clerk will report to next meeting on tree works needed in The Millennium Garden.

No 74**Financial Matters**

Resolved to authorise the payments on the Schedule for September 2022 (VN60-71 totalling £4,462.54)

Noted the 2nd Quarterly Report for period April to September 2022.

No 75**Billinge Beacon in Local Life**

Noted Clerk will consult with Cllrs Gill and Wainwright and submit content by 19 October 2022. This will complete the commitment given to Local Life for 3 editions.

No 76

Clerks Report – noted.