



Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

The Public Hall, 216 Main Street, Billinge WN5 7PE

tel: 01744 902738 mob: 07483 325064

e-mail:clerk@billingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

15 February 2023

Members are summoned to attend a Parish Council Meeting of the Billinge Chapel End Parish Council, on Monday 20 February 2023 at 7.30pm.

This will be held in The Public Hall, 216 Main Street, Billinge WN5 7PE.

Hazel Broatch

Clerk to the Council

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Statement (if any) from Merseyside Police
2. Statements (if any) from Borough Councillors Betts, Murphy and Peers
3. The public may speak of any matters of concern, but the Council may not make any lawful decision during the public session. The public cannot take part at any other time in the meeting.

Please note that Council Meetings are filmed.

Please note that The Clerk is publishing any reports attached on the website along with Agenda unless they are of an exempt nature (Local Government Act 1972).

AGENDA

1. **To receive** any apologies for absence and approve reasons for absence.
2. **To receive** any declarations of interests from Members.

- 3. To approve** the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2023 (attached) as correct record

To note the verbal report from the Clerk on progress with the Action Log.

4. Flooding

To note two drop-in sessions (7 and 15 February 2023) were held by St Helens Council in The Public Hall. Local residents (both those who were directly affected by the flooding and those in the vicinity of it) were invited to attend by a letter drop. The Parish Council has invited a representative of St Helens Council to attend and report back to the meeting.

5. Carr Mill Road Car Parking

To note update from The Chair.

6. Library Service

To note a further meeting of community volunteers was held on Monday 6 February 2023. The sub-group of volunteers who had been looking into locally run community led library services reported on their findings. It was agreed the next step was to identify a suitable building and it was agreed that a visit to the Eddleston Centre be made to assess its suitability.

To note that the supplier of the two book exchange boxes has advised that he aims to install them on Tuesday 28 February 2023. One will be installed at the Millennium Garden and the other at Dam Slacks (unless in the meantime the ownership of the land at the top of Main Street near entrance to Ashfield Crescent can be identified and an agreement reached).

7. Billinge Medical Practice

To note that the report from the St Helens Integrated Care Board at the latest joint meeting with representatives of the Parish Council was that the statistics and the feedback received from the public engagement event (held by the Practice) gave some confidence that progress was being made. The next key event would be the follow-up inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The Practice would only receive two weeks' notice from CQC - so no firm date yet. It was agreed to meet again after the follow-up inspection report was published.

8. T Junction Upholland Road

To note that Cllr Betts is making representations to St Helens Council regarding the road safety issues caused by the lack of signage at the T Junction and **to resolve** whether the Parish Council would also write to St Helens Council Highways Authority asking them to improve the signage warning drivers about the dangers at this T Junction.

9. Parish Council Surgeries

To note two more surgeries are planned (Saturday Afternoon 25/2/23 and Thursday Evening 30/3/23) and to **resolve** whether to continue with surgeries and if so, to identify frequency for next six months and which Members will attend.

10. Food Bank/Pantry

To note that St Aidans Church are discussing developing a food pantry at the Church. Unlike "Food Banks" food pantries are open to all. Normally they involve people paying a small membership fee and then being able to buy food at significantly reduced prices. St Aidans Church are in talks with experienced parties who operate food pantries in Wigan and St Helens. They will keep the Parish Council informed on progress. If they decide to progress they are aware that, if it is needed, they could apply to the Parish Council for a grant.

To resolve whether to earmark the £600 that was transferred from the Chairmans Allowance Budget line into the S137 Grants to support food banks/pantries provided by St Helens Food Bank (Hope Street), VCA Mobile Service, and potentially St Aidans Church.

11. Events

11.1 Billinge Community Music Group

To note that at its recent community music event that the Music Group thanked the Parish Council for allowing them to use The Public Hall free of charge which helped them to provide children from the local community with music lessons free of charge. They also thanked the Parish Council for the grant to buy additional music equipment for use by the Music Group.

To note that pre-COVID there was an annual Walk of Witness (Billinge Walking Day) and **to resolve** whether the Parish Council should explore the feasibility of resurrecting this annual event.

To note Parish Cllr B Bates has donated an organ to the Parish Council in memory of his father. He is happy that this is also used by the Music Group to give children free lessons.

11.2 King's Coronation

To note attached letter.

To note that Billinge Residents Association are organising a celebration on Sunday 7 May 23 in Bankes Park.

To resolve whether to contribute by paying for portable toilets at the event at Bankes Park. The estimated cost of £500.00 is based on what the Parish Council paid for portable toilets for the Queens Jubilee Picnic in the Park in 2022.

To resolve whether the Clerk (as she has done in the past) should help Billinge Residents Association to complete the events paperwork required by St Helens Council for events of this size.

To note the Clerk has been asked about lighting Beacons but has been advised that Beacons will not be lit across the UK for the Coronation.

12. Garswood Railway Station

To note that Borough Councillor P Peers will talk about his emerging proposals for developing and improving Garswood Railway Station.

13. Review of Policies for 2023/24

To resolve to identify the key policies for review and to start the process of doing this over the next two meetings so that any recommendations for change can be reported and discussed at the Annual Meeting on 15 May 2023 when all policies and procedures have to be approved for 2023/24.

14. HASAW

To note that the Clerk has had a quote to provide on-site manual handling and fire extinguisher training for 66% less than any quote for online training and **to resolve** whether to approve. **To note** the Clerk continues to get advice and quotes on the other recommendations in the report and will bring these back to the Parish Council for resolution.

15. Training

To note that Cllrs Frank Gill and Fiona Gill are booked onto the training for New Councillors provided by Local Association of Local Councils (LALC). The Clerk has also advised Cllr A Armstrong about this training.

15. Financial Matters

15.1 To note the typing error within the Budget Report brought to the Meeting on 16 January 2023 (Agenda Item 9.2) which states £5784 for S137 grants and should have read £5184. The overall total is correct. This error had no impact on the resolutions.

15.2 To resolve whether to authorise the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments for February 2023 (attached VN112-124 totalling £4,871.14) and **to note** they include S137 payment to Billinge Music Group.

15.3 To note Budget Monitoring Report up to 31 January 2023 (attached).

15.4 To resolve to approve the specifications for Grounds Maintenance 2023/24 (attached) and to authorise the Clerk to seek quotes (to include an invitation to St

Helens Council who have historically maintained both the Millennium Garden and Dam Slacks) with aim to bring report to next meeting for approval.

15.5 To note request and **to resolve** whether to make a donation to the Valley Brass Band (registered charity) who provided the bugler for the Children's Remembrance Service.

15.6 To resolve whether to renew agreement with Local Life to take a page in three editions delivered 4 May 23, 31 August 23 and 4 January 24 to 2017 properties in Billinge. The total cost would be £275.00 plus VAT.

16. The Public Hall

To note, the Clerk (in consultation with Cllr C Betts) has undertaken a review of the roofing tiles, insulation, emergency lighting, lighting generally in the Hall and they have asked for an indicative quote for the cost of doing the works and for painting after completed. The ideal time to do the works would be in the week leading up to Easter Weekend as the majority of the groups who hire The Hall do not do so that week. Therefore the intent would be to bring this matter back to the Parish Council Meeting on 20 March 2023 for a decision.