

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Council Meeting on 20 February 2023

Present: Councillor S Gardner (Chair) J Barnes (Vice Chair)
Councillors C Betts, Fiona Gill, and Frank Gill,
H Broatch (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council)

PUBLIC SESSION

7 Members of the Public were in attendance.

Parish Cllr S Gardner advised that Borough Cllr S Murphy had asked him to confirm that Torus Housing were developing the Stork Inn Site. Concerns about this had been raised by local residents. She had talked at a senior level with Torus and with St Helens Council. The development was 14 months away from letting properties and the aim was to put in place a Local Policy which would mean that people with a local connection would have precedence. Borough Cllr Betts reported that he too had been made aware of local concerns about this matter and was also looking into it. Parish Cllr S Gardner asked the Clerk to put this matter on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting. Borough Cllr P Peers congratulated Parish Cllr Frank Gill on his co-option to the Parish Council.

The meeting was opened to the public. A resident raised her concerns about the applications for alcohol and music licenses from The Varini. She felt this could only add to the noise and disturbance by local residents. There were already issues because of the noise etc from the local pub and this would only increase this disturbance. The deadline for feedback to the licensing authority was 1 March 2023. Borough Cllrs Betts and Peers said they would also look into this and report the concerns to the Licensing Sub-Committee at St Helens Council.

Residents reported back on the flooding drop-in sessions for residents. The S19 Investigation was underway and the report was on track to be published in April 2023. Nugent Care Society had been represented and reported on works due to be done in June 2023 which included tree felling and bank clearing etc. They had given assurances that culvert clearing would continue in the meantime. St Helens Council had stated that they would come to the Parish Council once the investigation was complete to report the findings/recommendations.

The public session closed at 8.05pm

No 119

Apologies for Absence

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

No 120

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

No 121

Minutes of Last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting on 16 January 2023 were confirmed as a true record and the Chair was authorized to sign them.

Noted the update from the Clerk/RFO on the Action Log.

No 122

Flooding

Noted that two drop-in sessions for local residents had been held by St Helens Council and that the S19 investigation had started and was on track to report on its findings and recommendations in April 2023. The Parish Council had been advised that once the report was available St Helens Council would attend and report to a Parish Council Meeting.

No123

Carr Mill Road

Noted that a meeting had been arranged with the school and that the Chairman would report back to the next meeting.

No 124

Community Led Library Service

Noted that the community volunteer group had met on 6 February 2023 and received a report from the representatives who had looking

into different models of community-led library services and that the next step was a visit to the Eddleston Centre to assess if it was suitable or not.

Noted that two book exchange boxes would be installed on 28 February 2023. One would be in the Millennium Garden and the other location is yet to be finalised.

No 125

Billinge Medical Practice

Noted that the progress was being made and that the next key event would be the follow-up inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). No date was yet available as CQC would only give the Practice two weeks' notice of the inspection.

No 126

T Junction Upholland Road/Main Street

Noted that Borough Cllr Betts had made representations to the Highways Authority (St Helens Council) about the need for improvements in signage etc. at this junction.

Resolved that 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.

No 127

Parish Council Surgeries

Resolved to continue with Surgeries (April to September 2023 inclusive) and to review again in September 2023.

No 128

Food Bank/Pantry

Noted that St Aidans Church were in discussions with a range of organisations to be understand the implications of having a Food Pantry sited in the Church and were keeping the Parish Council informed of progress.

Resolved to award three grants (in support of organisations which were helping families secure food during the cost of living crisis) of two hundred pounds each. Two of the grants would go to St

Helens Food Bank (Hope Street) and the VCA Mobile Food Pantry Service which are already up and running. The third would be earmarked for St Aidans Church Food Pantry.

No 129

Events

Noted the thanks from the Billinge Community Music Group for the support the Parish Council had given them to enable them to get set-up.

Resolved that the Parish Council explore the feasibility of resurrecting the Billinge Walking Day (an annual tradition that stopped during Covid 19 restrictions).

Resolved to thank Parish Cllr Bates for the kind donation of an organ to the Parish Council for use in The Public Hall.

No 130

Kings Coronation Celebrations

Resolved that the Parish Council would explore ideas for running an event to celebrate the contribution made by volunteers to the community and to showcase their impact on the village. This idea was that this could be held on Monday 8 May 2023 as part of “The Big Help Out” Celebrations planned for that day. Cllr Fiona Gill would set up a meeting with other Parish Councillors to explore ideas and report back to the next meeting.

Resolved to contribute £500.00 to the cost of the portable toilets for the Picnic in the Park at Bankes Park on Sunday 7 May 2023 and to authorize the Clerk to help with associated paperwork.

Noted that beacons were not being lit for the Coronation.

No 130

Garswood Railway Station

Noted the emerging proposals for developing and improving Garswood Railway Station (car parking and access for all) and resolved to support these proposals.

No 131

Review of Policies for 2023/24

Resolved that Parish Councillors would identify the key policies to be reviewed and advise the Clerk. A Working Group (Cllrs Gardner and Barnes) would lead on the review with the aim to have completed it by 8 May 2023 so that a report on all the policies for 2023/24 can be submitted by the Clerk for approval at the PC Meeting on 15 May 2023. The Clerk would advise the Working Group on any matters of compliance and legal requirements as required.

No 132

HAWAW

Resolved that the Clerk, Cleaner and any Members who wished would attend an on-site training session on Manual Handling and Fire Extinguishers. It was noted that the supplier had offered to do the training for 60% less than the cost of online training. Members who were unable to attend in person would be offered the alternative of online training.

No 133

Training

Noted that Cllrs Fiona Gill and Frank Gill had been booked onto training for New Councillors provided by Local Association of Local Councils (LALC). Cllr A Armstrong had been advised about this training.

No 134

Financial Matters

Noted typing error in Budget Report brought to Meeting on 16 January 2023 and that it had no implications for resolutions.

Resolved to authorize the payments listed in the Schedule of Payments for February 2023 (VN112-124 totalling £4,871.14) and noted that they included Section 137 payment to Billinge Music Group.

Noted the Budget Monitoring Report up to 31 January 2023.

Resolved to approve the specification for Grounds Maintenance 2023/24 and to authorize the Clerk to seek quotes (including St Helens Council). The Clerk would report back to the next meeting. Resolved to make a Fifty Pound donation to the Valley Brass Band. Resolved to renew the agreement with Local Life for three editions and authorized the Clerk that if two pages can be contained within the budget to place the order. Councillor Frank Gill to join the Billinge Beacon (in Local Life) Working Group.

No 135

The Public Hall

Noted that the Clerk (in consultation with Parish Cllr C Betts) had undertaken a review of the roofing tiles, insulation, emergency lighting, lighting in general and was expecting an indicative costing for the works (including painting after works completed) and would report back to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm