

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of Council Meeting on 17 April 2023

Present: Councillors S Gardner (Chair) J Barnes (Vice Chair)
Councillors B Bates, B Bradbury, C Betts, Fiona Gill, Frank Gill,
S Murphy, and M Webster

PUBLIC SESSION

11 Members of the Public were in attendance

The Chair advised that he was in contact with PCSO James Harrison especially with regards to providing the crime statistics for the meetings and also about progressing community speed watch activity. He reported the latest crime statistics. He would report back to the next meeting on progress with community speed gun training.

Borough Councillors Murphy advised that the application from The Varini had been withdrawn. Borough Councillor Murphy reported that the local residents who had expressed concerns were pleased with the outcome. She went on to report about the issues with the development at The Stork. The Clerk was to write to Torus outlining the concerns that residents had raised. Borough Councillor Peers advised that he had had a supportive email from the representative of the Eddleston Trust about proposed car park at the Playing Fields. He would keep the Parish Council informed of progress and involved in any meetings. He went on to advise that his discussions with Highways Officer at St Helens Council about the pothole and blocked grids had been supportive and he would update at the next meeting.

Members of the public asked if Matthew Catterall (St Helens Council) would be attending to talk about flooding and were advised he would not. They advised that a piece of land that is not owned by Nugent Care Society is also potentially in need of maintenance to mitigate flood risks. The S19 Investigation should include identities all the relevant landowners. Other members of the public commented on the excellent work being done by Billinge in Bloom who are a group of volunteers and were to be commended for their contribution to the village. Concerns were raised about the Remembrance Garden (which is owned by St Helens Council and maintained by volunteers) as the grass verges need re-seeding. Issues had been raised at previous meetings about dangers of crossing Main Street and members of the public asked about progress. The Chair reported that this matter had been investigated back in 2018 but had not progressed because permission was needed from landowner which was not given. St Helens Council were sending a consultant to look at it again. The Borough Councillors advised that they too were pushing the need for a crossing.

No 152

Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

No 153

Declarations of Interests

Cllr Bill Bradbury declared interests as a Governor at both Nugent School and at Chapel End Primary School.

No 154

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2023 were approved as a correct record.

Noted the Clerk's report on progress with the Action Log.

No 155

Parish Councillor Co-Option

Noted that two qualified people had submitted applications to be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Anna Armstrong. They both gave short presentations about what they felt they would contribute to the Parish and the Parish Council.

A vote (by show of hands) gave a majority vote to Malcolm Webster who was asked to join the meeting as a Parish Councillor after signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

No 156

Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved to exclude the Press and Public, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to ensure there was no disclosure of exempt information as defined in Para 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

No 157

Road Safety

Noted the exchange of correspondence between the Chair and St Helens Council asking specifically for an automated crossing on Main Street near Pingot Road and raising a number of road safety concerns. The Chair reported that this matter had been raised as far back as 2018 but had not proceeded because a permission had been refused by a local landowner. He went on to say that St Helens Council were re-visiting this after the Parish Council had raised ongoing road safety concerns on behalf of local residents.

The Chair advised that he had talked with the new Community Police Officer and asked him to progress the community speed gun training. He also advised

that he had been in discussions with the Highways Authority about installing speed indicator devices and that they were going to look into doing so where there were serious risks of accidents (eg Birchley Road where there had been 2/3 serious accidents recently).

All agreed that prevention must be the main approach and this involved keeping pressure on the key organisations and particularly the Highways Authority.

Resolved to invite the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a future meeting.

No 158

Flooding

Noted that S19 Flooding Investigation Report due to go to St Helens Council on 24 April 2023.

No 159

Carr Mill Road Car Parking

Noted that Chair had just learnt that the Headteacher he had been dealing with had left Nugent School. He asked the Clerk to get details for the Acting Headteacher so he can advise the School that he is writing to all the staff about car parking.

No 160

Community Led Library Service

Noted the Clerk's update that due to illness and annual leave that the representative for Eddleston Centre had not been able to meet/talk with Book Cycle representatives. The Clerk understood they were going to do so in the near future and would report back to the next meeting. The group of community volunteers had been advised of the reasons for the delays.

No 161

Events

Noted the report from Councillors Fiona and Frank Gill on the plans for the Big Help Out Day in celebration of King's Coronation on Monday 8th May 23. They would be sending out nomination forms to all the key organisations in Billinge who depend on volunteers to provide services/activities/support to individuals and groups.

No 162

Review of Policies for 2023/24

Noted that this would be done at May Parish Council Meeting.

No 163

Dam Slacks Play Area

Noted that the swings and the area under the slide had been repaired and were safe to use.

No 164

Organ

Noted that Parish Councillor Bill Bates had gifted an organ to the Parish Council and resolved to thank him for his kind gift.

No 165

Planning

Resolved to submit no observations on Planning Application P/2023/0183/FUL.

No 166

Financial Matters

Resolved to authorise the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments for 2022/23 (VN140-142 totalling £2,832.45) and the payments for April 2023 (VN1-11 totalling £15,031.51).

Noted the Budget Monitoring Report for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Noted that Internal Audit will take place on 24 April 2023.

Noted that External Auditors have advised that the Parish Council Accounts for 2022/23 will form part of their 5% random sample for 2022/23.

Members of the Press and Public were asked to leave the meeting for the following Agenda Item (Min No .156).

No 167

Award of Contracts

Resolved to award the contract for the installation of fire alarm to the lowest tenderer.

Resolved to add the repairs identified as needed in the roof when replacing the internal roofing tiles and improving insulation to the contract for the works in The Public Hall.