



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

09 October 2023

Members are summoned to attend a Parish Council Meeting of the Billinge Chapel End Parish Council, on Monday 16 October 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 - latest crime statistics circulated.
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 18 September 2023 (attached) as a correct record.

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

4. Foot path linking Myrtle Grove and Clifton Road/Ellis Road

To note that a member of the public has raised the problems faced by wheelchair and pram users on this footpath. They advise that there are 6 steep steps at the bottom then the path levels out flat and then there are a further 3 steep steps at the top leading to Myrtle Grove. They go on to say that it is impossible to take a pram or wheelchair up this footpath and a longer detour has to be made. Their point is that making this footpath accessible would also help parents with prams who collect their older children from Chapel End Nursery/School and therefore possibly alleviating the need for them to be driven to school by car. Finally they ask if it is mandatory in UK law around equalities etc that the footpath be accessible by all.

To resolve what action (if any) should be taken regarding the above.

5. Concerns Raised about proposed Childrens Home

To note that local residents have raised concerns about the following planning application : 52 Garswood Rd - change of use of the property from a residential dwelling house (Class C3) to a Childrens Home (Class 2) for the care of up to 4 No children. The date for submitting observations on the planning application has passed. The Parish Council advised those who raised concerns to make them known to St Helens Council who are the Planning Authority. St Helens Council will determine whether to approve the planning application or not.

To resolve if any further action should be taken.

6. Crossing at Pingot Road

To note that Cllr S Gardner met with St Helens Highway Engineers on site at least a couple of times. They explained that they have a clearly stated strategy including criteria for them installing a pedestrian crossing on a highway. St Helens Highway Engineers concluded that this stretch of road did not meet the criteria. They advised that to install a crossing would cost in the region of £30,000. Cllr Gardner subsequently raised the question as to whether the 20mph speed limit could be extended up Main Street to include this stretch of road where people with limited sight and mobility cross to go to the doctors. Again the Highways Engineer advised that this stretch of road did not meet the criteria for 20mph speed limit.

To note that the PCSO is continuing work on speeding. The Clerk has asked him to look at this stretch of road as part of his work on reinforcing speed limits.

7. Community Improvements 2023/24

7.1 Flood Resilience - **To note** that the Working Group is meeting on 30 October 2023.

7.2 Dam Slacks - **To note** verbal report from the Working Group.

7.3 Flagpole

To note that Cllr C Betts undertook to do an assessment of the flagpole (that Cllr B Bates has kindly offered to donate to the Parish Council) and will give an update at the meeting and **to resolve** next steps..

7.4 Defibrillator

To note that the Clerk has submitted an application to the DHSC for funding for a defibrillator. The defibrillator would be located on the exterior of the Billinge Arms (who would supply the trickle of electricity needed to keep it heated estimated to be around £3.00 per annum) . A condition of the grant is that the defib is located where the public can get access 24/7/365. If the grant application is successful it could mean either the full cost is paid or the balance of the cost (which is estimated to be £750.00).

Community fund raising work has already started. The Clerk will update at the meeting if there has been a decision on the grant application or not.

7.5 Community Led Book Service

To note that Book Cycle are still awaiting a response from the Eddleston Trust. A Parish Councillor will attend the Eddleston Trust AGM on Tuesday 17 October 2023 and will raise this matter with them with the aim to get a definitive answer one way or the other. If the Eddleston Centre is no longer an option the Community Led Group would be asked to explore whether there are any suitable alternatives.

7.6 Food Pantry

To note the Clerk will report on progress.

7.7 Community Events

7.7.1 Childrens Remembrance Service

To note that the Clerk has submitted the Events Application Form to St Helens Council. The intent is that the event will be held on Friday 10 November 23 from 1045- 1130 subject to agreement about Temporary Road Closure. The children and school staff will be invited to go to The Public Hall for refreshments after the Service.

To note that the decision of the Eddleston Trust about a grant for the Temporary Road Closure will not be known until after their AGM on 17 October 23. However the Parish Council resolved at its last meeting that if the application is unsuccessful that it will pick up the cost of the temporary road closure.

To resolve that if this is needed that it is funded from reserves for this year only as it was not included in the budget for 2023/24. The withdrawal of St Helens Council Community Investment Fund monies was not known at the time the Budget was agreed.

To resolve six volunteers who will act as Stewards. This role will only be for the public who view the Service from the pavement and the closed road. The Stewards will therefore need to attend from 1030 to 1130. The Clerk will meet with them the week before the event and supply hi-viz, loudspeaker; and agree procedure in the event of an emergency.

To note that the schools are responsible for the safety of their school children.

To resolve who will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council if the Chair is unable to attend.

To note that Borough and Parish Cllr S Murphy is managing the invitations to schools, the Vicar, the Buglar etc this year and will report the numbers of school children and school staff attending asap to the Clerk so she can give numbers to the caterers and ensure they are compliant with maximum numbers submitted on Event Form..

7.7.2 Remembrance Service at St Aidans Church on 12 November 2023

To note that the Clerk has advised St Aidans Church that a representative of the Parish Council will present a wreath and partake in the service . This is normally the Chair.

To resolve who will represent the Parish Council.

To resolve whether the Parish Council pays for a buffet after the Service. Historically the Parish Council invites individuals to attend a buffet after the Service but over time numbers are dwindling significantly. Last year was not well attended by guests most of whom gave their apologies. The cost of the buffet last year was £210.00.

7.7.3 Lamppost Poppies

To note the Clerk has the poppies and they normally go up on lampposts on the main roads into Billinge. In the past Borough Cllr Peter Peers has kindly done these and last year the Clerk helped him by removing the lamppost poppies on Main Street.

To resolve who will volunteer to help this year with putting the lamppost poppies up and taking them down.

7.7.4 Christmas Tree 2023

To note that a resident has very kindly offered (via Parish Cllr S Gardner) to donate a cut Christmas Tree which is of sufficient height;

To resolve whether to accept the offer from the resident and, if approved, to authorise the Clerk to make arrangements to have the tree collected at the appropriate time.

To note that the Clerk has asked St Helens Borough Council to quote for supplying lights, a suitable power supply, and installing the tree including safety fencing around it. She has not received the quote yet but will chase up and verbally report to the meeting.

To resolve whether to approve that, if the quote is acceptable, that it is funded from reserves for this year only as it was not included in the budget for 2023/24. The withdrawal of St Helens Council Community Investment Fund monies was not known at the time the Budget was agreed.

To resolve that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair make arrangements about dates and times for Christmas Tree Lighting 2022. The Clerk will also ask the Parish Councillors who represent the Parish Council on the Billinge Residents Association to let her know what the Association plans for Christmas 2023 and if this involves using the Public Hall before and after the tree lighting celebration.

7.7.5 Annual Schools Christmas Poster Competition 2023

To resolve that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair organise this annual competition and that the Chair present the winners with their prizes at the School Assembly's.

7.7.6 Other Proposals for Events

To note any other proposals for community events and **to resolve** who will be responsible for progressing them and , if necessary, completing the relevant forms required by St Helens Council.

8. Billinge in Bloom – to note that Billinge in Bloom want to put 14 planters inside the Millennium Garden and behind the wall where the Garden turns the corner from Rainford Road to Main Street. This land is owned by the Parish Council and the risk is assessed as being minimal.

To resolve whether to approve this request.

9. Eddleston Trust AGM 17 October 2023

To note that Cllr Frank Gill is unable to attend this AGM but The Trust has given permission for another representative of the Parish Council to attend but without voting rights. The representative will be asked to follow up whether or not Book Cycle can hire the Eddleston Centre and put up book shelves (at no cost to the Eddleston Centre) and feed-in about the problems being reported to the Parish Council about the lack of car parking at the Playing Fields.

10. Planning

To Note: Responses to Consultation by St Helens Borough Council
P/2023/0524/HHFB 56 Clifton Road No observations

To Note: Decision made by St Helens Borough Council

P/2023/0398/CLP 6 Rose Close Refused Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed rear dormer extension.

11. Financial Matters

11.1 To note the second quarter Budget Monitoring Report (April – Sept 2023).

11.2. To resolve whether to authorise the payments listed on the attached Schedule of Payments VN64-77 totalling £6753.79 for October 23.