



Billinge Chapel End Parish Council
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14 November 2023

Members are summoned to attend a Parish Council Meeting of the Billinge Chapel End Parish Council, on Monday 20 November 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 16 October 2023 (attached) as a correct record. **To note** the verbal report from the Clerk on progress with the Action Log.

4. Billinge Medical Practice

To note that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have inspected the surgery again. At present there is no outcome from the CQC visit. Once this is published, it will be accessible and in the public domain (via the CQC website).

The Parish Council has been asked to suggest that Patients raise concerns with either the practice manager at Billinge Surgery or make a formal complaint to:

cmicbprimarycarecomplaints@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk.

5. Community Improvements 2023/24

5.1 Community Flood Resilience - **To note** that the Working Group had an informative meeting with The Flood Hub. They agreed to meet again and discuss next steps.

5.2 Dam Slacks - **To note** verbal update from the Working Group.

5.3 Defibrillator - **To note** no feedback to-date on grant application.

5.4 Community Led Book Service - **To note** that The Eddleston Trust has agreed that their Agent talk with Book Cycle about a lease to use the John Eddleston Centre to provide a Book Cycle Service. Book Cycle will keep the Clerk up-to-date on progress.

5.5 Food Pantry

To note that St Aidans Church are aiming to open the Food Pantry by the first week in December 2023. Parish Cllr B Bates has had a recent tour and will report.

5.6 Community Events

Christmas Tree Lighting Friday 8 December 2023 – Assemble at 1800 in The Public Hall Lights to be Turned on at 1830

To note a quote has been received for the installation of Christmas Tree Lights; for connecting them to the electrical supply; for erecting a safety fence around the tree; and for attending the Christmas Tree Lighting Event on Friday 8 December 2023 at The Millennium Garden to ensure all goes to plan. The quote is for £1016.40 plus VAT which (as agreed at last meeting) will be funded from Parish Council reserves.

To note a local resident has very kindly donated a Christmas Tree. The works needed to get this installed in the Millennium Garden before 8 December 23 are in-hand and the Clerk will update at the meeting on any financial or other implications.

Annual School Childrens Christmas Poster Competition 2023

To note that the Clerk will contact each school this week and invite them to ask their pupils to take part in the above competition.. The competition will be judged by The Billinge Residents Association (which includes Parish Cllrs Bates and Webster). The Posters will be on display in The Parish Hall on Friday 8 December 2023. The Chair will attend December School Assemblies to present the winners with their gift vouchers on behalf of The Parish Council.

5.7 Billinge In Bloom – **To note** report (attached) . The Parish Council awarded Billinge in Bloom a grant for Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds on 19 June 2023.

6. Road Safety

To note that road safety concerns (most recently about the junction of Windsor Road/Newton Road) have been raised. St Helens Borough Council has advised that the junction does not meet their criteria for an intervention. However, they have supplied information about road safety measures that could be considered by the Parish Council and local residents.

To resolve whether to write to The Head of Highways & Infrastructure and ask about arranging intelligence gathering/engagement events with the local community.

7. Registering Community Assets

To note attached report and **to resolve** whether to approve registering the community assets listed in the report.

8. Latest Health and Safety Review

To note attached report and that the Clerk will bring a report to the next meeting.

9. Planning

To note the following decisions made by St Helens Borough Council:

5 Delph Meadow Gardens	P/2023/0499/TPO	Refused
37 London Fields	P/2023/0507/HHFP	Granted
37 Royden Road	P/2023/0504/HHFP	Granted
39 Douglas Road	P/2023/0494/HHFP	Granted
56 Clifton Road	P/2023/0525/CLP	Granted

10. Financial Matters

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

10.2 To note the Parish Council has received an application from Billinge Residents Association for a grant of £200.00. The grant is to go towards the cost of a Childrens Xmas Party that will be held in the Labour Club.

To resolve whether to award the grant.

10.3 To resolve whether to make a donation of £40.00 to St Aidans Church for the installation of a Christmas Tree (amongst others) in the Church grounds. If agreed, volunteers will be needed to decorate the tree. The Church are asking that the tree be decorated in a way that reflects the role of the Parish Council.

10.4 To note that an agreement has been reached nationally regarding salary increases for Clerks/RFOs for 2023/24. For all spinal points up to 43 the agreed award was a total flat rate payment of £,1925. The Clerk/RFO is on spinal point 28. The Clerk's contracted hours are 18 hours per week. The increase is backdated to 1st April 2023.

10.5 To resolve to make a payment to the Clerk/RFO for Three Hundred Pounds Only (see VN90 listed below) to enable her to purchase the gift vouchers which will be awarded to the winners of the School Christmas Poster Competition. The Clerk/RFO will provide receipts for the purchase as part of her financial reporting.

10.5.To resolve whether to authorise the payments listed on the attached Schedule of Payments VN79-90 totalling £3878.81 for November 2023.

10.6 To note that the Estimates Committee Meeting is at 1900 on 8 January 2024 in The Public Hall. The public are normally excluded from this meeting as it discusses sensitive financial information as part of the process of deciding on what recommendations to make to the Full Council Meeting on 15 January 2024 regarding the Budget for 2024/25 and the implications for the Precept 2024/25. The Clerk will circulate agenda and reports for the Estimates Committee Meeting by 1700 on Friday 22 December 23.

11. Billinge Library

To note that the Billinge Library Building (owned by St Helens Borough Council) remains closed and will not be re-opened. The Parish Council has been advised that the building is beyond repair.

To note that the Parish Council understands that in other Parishes (where St Helens Borough Council has decided to close a library) the Parish Council is being given the option to have the library building transferred to them. Billinge does not have this option because of the condition of the existing library building.

To resolve whether to write to/re-open discussions with St Helens Borough Council asking them to transfer any capital receipt received by St Helens Borough Council (from the sale of the closed library building in Billinge) to the Parish Council. The Parish Council would use the capital receipt to identify and contribute to providing a long-term secure option for a book/community/ ICT and information service for all its Parishioners. If preferred, the Parish Council could consider a proposal from St Helens Council to asset transfer the existing library building to the them in line with what is happening in other Parishes.

In the meantime, it will be important to continue with the good working relationships with Book Cycle and the Community Library Group. Book Cycle (based in The John Eddleston Centre) with the support of community volunteers will provide the book services much missed by Billinge residents and they and the community group will play key roles if there is any longer term development of a dedicated space for books etc.

12. Improvements to ICT Security

To note that all Parish Councillors (except for Cllr J Barnes) have new email addresses in line with the recommendations agreed. The Clerk would welcome feedback before she (with support from ICT advisor) implements the next stage which is to activate Norton Security.