

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of Council Meeting held on 18 September 2023

Present: Councillor Fiona Gill (Chair) Councillor B Bates (Vice Chair)
Councillors J Barnes, C Betts, B Bradbury, Frank Gill,
H Broatch (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

PUBLIC SESSION

*Three Members of the Public were in attendance.
Merseyside Police were not present.*

Borough Cllr P Peers updated the Parish Council on the action that had been taken regarding the Stork Inn. He advised that a Working Group had been set up including members of the public. The Working Group had been set up following a public meeting (at which 100 residents attended). He explained that TORUS owned the building but the developer had gone into liquidation. This meant that the works had stopped. A Section125 Certificate has been issued to the developer giving 28 days for the building to be repaired to protect heritage and make it safe. If this was not done St Helens Council would then do it themselves.

Unfortunately in the meantime there was evidence of recent and significant damage to the roof by an unknown third party for unknown reasons.

Borough Cllr C Betts explained that he and Borough Cllr S Murphy were working with Borough Councillor Officers on a new application to protect the heritage on site.

The Borough Cllrs would report progress to the next meeting.

Borough Cllr C Betts reported that Nugent Care had started works designed to improve drainage etc and mitigate the impact this has on flooding. He was asked to raise with the Borough Council that they needed to look at the footpath and to take-up with Officers about the need to deliver on their assurances that communications with residents would be done

at least once a month and more frequently if needed. The residents in attendance confirmed this was not happening.

Borough Cllr C Betts went on to report that he was continuing to investigate the non-compliance with planning permissions relating to the car park near the Billinge Arms.

Borough Cllr S Murphy had to give her apologies but asked the Chair to advise that she wanted an agenda item to go to the next meeting about the sale of the library building and the potential implications.

The Public Session then opened.

The residents present asked the Borough Councillors to express their concerns that there had been no communication/ updates from the Borough Council (LLFA) about planned action etc. They also had been promised a copy of the “to-do” list but this had not been supplied yet. Questions were then asked about the problems at the Pharmacy on Rainford Road. Unfortunately this is not within the remit of the Parish Council but the concerns were noted.

Concerns were also raised about what was happening at Birchley Hall and these were noted.

The Public Session closed at 8.05pm

NO 41

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S Gardner, S Murphy, and M Webster and the reasons for absence were approved.

NO 42

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr F Gill declared an interest as a resident who owns property near St Aidans School.

No 43

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2023

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2023 were approved.

Noted the verbal report on progress with the Action Log from the Clerk.

No 44

Resolved that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 members of the public and press be excluded whilst agenda item 12 is

discussed (likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Para 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act). This item included information about proposed actions to be taken in connection with prevention of crime.

No 45

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS 2023/24

45.1 Resolved to go ahead and set up an initial meeting of the community resilience group as soon as possible and to invite Flood Hub to attend.

45.2 Noted that the Dam Slacks Working Group are meeting 26 October 2023 and if any other Members wish to join the Group to contact the Chair.

45.3 Noted that Cllr Betts has not been able to assess flagpole but understands the urgency and will make arrangements with Cllr Bates and report back to the next meeting.

45.4 Noted that a community group were fundraising for the purchase of a defibrillator to be installed on the outside wall of the Billinge Arms and therefore, the Parish Council would not need to progress installing one.

45.5 Noted that Book Cycle were still waiting for a response from the Eddleston Trust about hiring the Eddleston Centre as a location for a community led book service. The Clerk had also tried to get a response (one way or the other) without any success. Cllr Frank Gill is also in contact and trying to firm up that he is now registered as The Parish Council's appointed Trustee and that he will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Trust.

45.6 Resolved to grant St Aidans Church Four Hundred Pounds towards the costs of furnishing the Food Pantry which they are developing and **noted** that the Food Pantry is due to open in November.

45.7 Resolved to earmark Four Hundred and Seventy Pounds in the budget to pay for the temporary road closure which is essential if the Childrens Remembrance Service is to go ahead in November 23. An application for a grant has been submitted to the Eddleston Trust but this means that if a grant is not approved the cost can be covered by the Parish Council.

45.8 Noted that a report would come to the next meeting about the implications for the Christmas Tree (and its lighting/installation) of the withdrawal by St Helens Council of the CIF Funding.

45.9 Resolved that the Chair would write to St Aidans School to see how the Parish Council could assist them to deal with the problems that double parking etc at time of school pick-ups and drop-offs were causing local residents.

45.10 Noted the online survey “Your Safety Matters” which aims to share views on what can be done to make people feel safer and minimise violence has been launched.

No 46

St Helens Parish Councils – Community Governance Review 2022/23

Noted that the draft recommendations are for no changes to Billinge Parish boundaries and no warding. The recommendations will go forward for approval or otherwise to St Helens Council in January 2024.

Resolved to make no comments.

No 47

Community Police Officer

Noted that no response had been received to the letter requesting an improved presence of the community police officer in the village.

No 48

Parish Council Surgeries

Resolved to not continue with surgeries as they had not proved to be popular but to consider different ways of engaging with Parishioners outside of the Parish Council Meetings.

No 49

Planning Applications

Noted Planning Authority decisions relating to P/2023/0402/FUL and P/2023/0408/CLP

Resolved to submit no observations relating to P/2023/0494/HHFP; P/2023/0498/FUL; P/2023/0504/HHEP; and P/2023/0507/HHFP.

Resolved to be advised by St Helen's Council's Tree Officer on application P/2023/0499/TPO.

No 50

Financial Matters

50.1 Resolved to authorise the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments VN49-63 totalling £5271.65 for September 2023.

50.2 Noted the conclusion of the External Audit for 2022/23 and that The External Audit Certificate 2022/23 was issued on 31/8/23.

Noted that the "Notice of Conclusion of the Audit" has been published on the Parish Council Website and on the Noticeboards and that it advises that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector in Billinge Parish by prior arrangement with the Clerk between 1000 on 12/9/23 and 1600 on 3/10/23 on Mondays and Tuesdays.

No 51

Health and Safety

Noted that the Fire Service has advised that the existing arrangements for evacuating The Public Hall in the event of an emergency are satisfactory.

No 52

Review of Policies and Procedures

Noted the report and **resolved** that the Clerk bring a report on grant awarding policy; environmental policy; and publications scheme to the next meeting.

Members of the Press and Public were asked to leave the meeting for the following Agenda Item (Min No .44).

No 53

Improving ICT Security

Noted that the Parish Council was not affected by the recent serious cyber attack on St Helens Council. This has led (along with changes being developed and proposed by Central Government to ".gov" security) to the Clerk starting to review the Parish Council's ICT security with expert advice from the Parish Council's ICT support.

Resolved to approve the initial recommendations for improving ICT security. The meeting closed at 9.05pm.