

# Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

## DRAFT Minutes of Council Meeting held on 18 March 2024

Present: Councillor Fiona Gill (Chair) Councillor B Bates (Vice Chair)  
Councillors B Bradbury, S Gardner, Frank Gill, S Murphy  
H Broatch (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

*Three Members of the Public were present.*

*Merseyside Police were not present.*

#### **Billinge Medical Practice**

*Three representatives of the Practice attended and gave a thorough update on the significant action they had taken in just three months to turn the Practice around. They outlined what their plans and ambitions were for continuous improvement at the Practice.*

#### **Members of the Public**

*Several concerns remained about the progress with the implementation of the S19 recommendations (aimed at mitigating the flood risks at Brownheath Avenue). They had been raised previously with Borough Cllr Betts. He had advised the last meeting of the Parish Council that he had sent a response to the affected residents. But it had somehow not got to the Parishioners. He had said he would send it again. The members of the public present advised that they had still not seen his response. Unfortunately, Borough Cllr Betts had had to give his apologies. Borough Councillor Murphy agreed to talk with him and the officers at St Helens Borough Council. She would get the response to the residents as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to get a list of the questions that had been asked by the residents for Borough Cllr Murphy as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to write a letter from The Parish Council to St Helens Borough Council about the need to clear the footpath which runs behind Brownheath Avenue. This was a matter of some urgency.*

*Parish Cllr B Bradbury (in his capacity as a Community Representative for Nugent House School (having previously been a Governor) advised the Parish Council that the Community Representatives had been briefed about the proposal to sell the School; other buildings*

*including houses; and the land. He and the other Community Representatives had made sure that Nugent Care Society were fully aware of the need for this proposal to not interfere with the works needed to mitigate the flood risks. They had been advised that works to improve flood resilience in the locality of the School would continue to be progressed and any purchaser would be made aware of the commitments to implement mitigation measures identified in the S19 Report.*

*The Public Session closed at 8.20pm.*

## **No 101**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Barnes, Betts and Webster and the reasons for absence were approved.

## **No 102**

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **No 103**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 19 February 2024**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2024 were approved.

The verbal report from the Clerk on progress with the Action Log was noted.

## **No 104**

### **Billinge Medical Practice**

Resolved that the progress being made at the Practice was significant.

Councillors welcomed the fact that it was being done with some urgency. The team managing the change process were congratulated on their progress to-date which had been achieved despite the unforeseen challenge of the closure of Orrell Surgery.

Noted that CCG would be coming back to inspect again soon so the immediate priority had to be improvement.

## **No 105**

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish Council**

Noted the Working Group (Cllrs Barnes, Bates and Webster) would progress the ideas about joint celebrations with other Parish Councils (bearing in mind need to mitigate any risk of insurance claims and other liabilities but especially needed to be clear where there were to joint events); The Afternoon Tea Party in The Public Hall; and the installation of new picnic benches at Dam Slacks.

Noted the Clerk/RFO would have the picture of last meeting of Billinge and Winstanley District Council framed and report back on costs for installation of date stone.

Noted that all the celebrations would take place in May 2024 and a progress report with any implications for resources (including finance) would be brought to the next meeting by the Working Group. The Working Group would liaise with the Clerk about availability of The Hall and any other relevant matters.

## **No 106**

### **Community Flood Resilience**

Resolved that the Clerk/RFO would raise awareness throughout the Parish of the proposals for setting up a Community Flood Resilience Group and bring a report back to a future meeting on the level of interest of otherwise. It was regrettable that GDPR meant that the 21 properties identified in the Section 19 report by the St Helens Borough Council could not be identified and targeted directly.

## **No 107**

### **Highways Issues**

Noted the delay caused by the need to close The Public Hall due to the failure of the central heating boiler. The Clerk in consultation with Parish Councillor S Gardner would progress as soon as possible.

## **No 108**

### **Community Improvements**

Noted that both Parish Cllrs Betts and Webster had had to give apologies for this meeting and would therefore bring their report about book services to the next meeting.

Noted the report from Cllrs Fiona Gill and Frank Gill on the Citizenship Awards. Nominees had been contacted advising them of their success and inviting them to an Awards Presentation Event on Saturday 13 April 2024 at 2pm in the Public Hall.

## **No 109**

### **ICT Security Improvements**

Noted that in line with Central Government and other bodies requirements that the Parish Council has entered into an agreement with ELYNX UK (copy of agreement circulated to all Parish Councillors). This agreement is required as part of the security improvements for websites and ICT.

## **No 110**

### **Financial Matters**

Resolved to authorise the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments VN121- VN132 totalling £7104.62 for March 2024.

**The meeting closed at 9pm**