

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Council Meeting held on

15 July 2024

Present: Cllr J Barnes (Vice Chair)

Councillors B Bates, C Betts, S Gardner, Frank Gill, S Murphy, M Webster

Public Session

73 members of the public signed in but over 100 were identified in a head count.

Merseyside Police were not present.

Borough Cllr P Peers had given apologies.

The Clerk/RFO advised those present that if the fire alarm went off that it was not a practice and that all would need to vacate The Public Hall by the nearest fire exit; that emergency lighting would come on; and that they should assemble in The Millennium Garden. The Fire Service would be notified. No-one would return to The Public Hall until The Fire Service advised that it was safe.

Parish Cllr S Gardner was granted permission to take a photo of some of the public in attendance.

Borough Cllr S Murphy advised that all rail stations would have disabled access by 2030 and that this included Garswood Railway Station and that work would start on The Stork by October 2024.

Borough Cllr C Betts advised that he was in contact with Nugent House and that the sale of the school was progressing. He'd been advised that any new owner would be required to comply with the requirement in the LLFA report.

A significant majority of the members of public present spoke about their objections to the proposals from BRSK to install telegraph poles and overhead cabling outside residential properties. They argued there had been no consultation and many householders only found out about the proposals when signs about the works went up. The consultation in their view was significantly flawed. They asked the Parish Council to write to BRSK and advise them of the significant number of objections. They welcomed the letter written to BRSK by their MP – David Baines and recognised that his support would be very valuable. Many had already written to BRSK to express their objections to the proposals and the reasons for doing so.

Another member of the public spoke about his support for Dam Slacks Play Area to remain unchanged. He advised that play and exercise were critical for young people's health and wellbeing.

The Public Session closed at 8.35pm.

No 31

Apologies for Absence

Noted apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fiona Gill and B Bradbury and the reasons for absence were approved.

No 31

Declarations of Interest

Noted that Cllrs S Gardner and Frank Gill declared an interest as they own property in the area to be affected by the proposals by BRSK for telegraph poles and overhead cabling.

No 32

Minutes of Last Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the last meeting on 17 June 2024 were confirmed as a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign

them.

Noted the update from the Clerk/RFO on the Action Log.

No 33

BRSK Proposals for Installation of Telegraph Poles and Overhead Cabling (for high-speed broadband)

Noted the significant number of members of the public who were at the meeting and their shared concerns about the BRSK proposals and the lack of consultation. This issue had been raised already with the Parish Council and it was already aware of a petition against the proposals with over one hundred signatories.

Resolved that The Parish Council would write to BRSK and object on behalf of residents.

Noted that the Parish Council would campaign on parishioner's behalf and provide clerical and other assistance (especially for those without access to email etc) relating to the proposed petition. Parish Cllr S Gardner would liaise with the Clerk/RFO.

Noted that a public meeting would be organised for Monday 22 July 2024 with the aim that the affected parishioners would consider setting up a community led Action Group.

Noted that Borough Cllr P Peers had advised the Clerk/RFO that he had been in touch with BRSK Buildings Control Manager and that a public meeting would be held in The Public Hall on 24 July 2024 from 1300-1500.

Noted that David Baines MP has written to BRSK asking questions on behalf of those who are objecting. His letter was attached for Members information.

No 34

Key Aims and Objectives 2024/25

Noted the verbal reports from

1. Cllr Frank Gill who advised that The Eddleston Trust's Agent was preparing documentation for consideration by Book Cycle within the next couple of weeks.
2. The Clerk/RFO advised that Worknest would be on-site on 27 August 24 and would do a detailed review and assessment of the existing site and identify any health and safety issues related to the improvement works proposed at Dam Slacks.
3. The Clerk/RFO updated on progress with the public event/open day on 27 July 24 1430- 1630 in The Public Hall.
4. Cllr J Barnes and others will report back on proposals for 50th Anniversary of The Parish Council.
5. On 27 August 24 the Clerk/RFO will review the health and safety issues that arose at last year's Children's Remembrance Event with Worknest. She will also bring back a report on the funding

Resolved that subject to identifying budget (assuming a source of energy is made available from The Public Hall to the Millennium Garden) the Christmas Tree Lighting Event would be held on 29 November 2024.

No 35

Millennium Garden Tree Works

Noted that following consultation with the Chair, the Clerk/RFO gave authority for the urgent works to be undertaken as a matter of urgency at a cost of £216.00 plus VAT.

Resolved to authorise the tree works required as part of general maintenance at a cost of £759.00 plus VAT.

No 36

Planning

Noted that the following applications had been granted approval by The Planning Authority – P/2024/0185/FUL; P/2024/0221/HHFP; and P/2024/0247/HHFP.

No 37

Financial Matters

Resolved to authorise the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments VNs 28-36 totalling £5019.89.

Noted that the Clerk/RFO in consultation with the Chair had authorised emergency repairs to the two garages at the back of The Public Hall at a cosy of £1540.00

Resolved to authorise the 19 August 2024 salary payments for employees and related HMRC payment.