

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting held on

17 June 2024

Present: Cllr Fiona Gill (Chair) Councillor J Barnes (Vice Chair)

Councillors B Bates, C Betts, B Bradbury, S Gardner, Frank Gill

Public Session

Three members of the public were present.

Merseyside Police were not present. The Clerk to follow up with a letter asking the St Helens Police to send a representative and to send the crime statistics.

Borough Cllr S Murphy had given apologies.

Borough Cllr P Peers advised that he had been approached by a resident who was concerned about overhanging branches in the Millennium Garden. The Clerk will talk with the ground maintenance contractor.

He went on to advise that a decision would be taken in July 2024 by St Helens Borough Council about whether they would declare the library building as being surplus to their requirements or not. He would advise the Parish Council of the outcome.

At the next meeting he will do a short input about the Park & Ride proposals for Garswood Railway Station. He would like to seek the support of the Parish Council.

Borough Cllr C Betts advised he would also be looking into what St Helens Borough Council decided to do with the closed library building.

The members of the public present asked about progress with learning what stage the Nugent House sale was at. The Chair advised that a letter had been sent to the Asset Department at Nugent Care Society asking a range of questions and the Parish Council would share the response when it came. There were several comments about potential issues around the sale. The members of the public advised that the cameras were up and running but that they could not get access to the output. Borough Cllr Betts said he would

investigate this. He also agreed to look into the fact that works identified in the Section 19 Report published by St Helens Borough Council as LLFA had not been done.

The Public Session closed at 7.55pm

No 19

Apologies for Absence

Noted apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Murphy and Cllr M Webster and the reasons for absence were approved.

No 20

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

No 21

Minutes of Last Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting on 20 May 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 22

Resolved that in accordance with Section 100 (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that members of the public and press be excluded whilst Agenda Item 12 was discussed (likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Para 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of the Act).

No 23

Key Aims and Objectives 2024/25

Resolved to adopt the Key Aims and Objectives for 2024/25 proposed by the Chair following consultation with Members.

No 24

Public Event 27 July 2024

Resolved to approve the proposals for an event open to the public in The Public Hall on Saturday 27 July 2024 from 1430 – 1630. This event would be an

opportunity for local residents to raise their concerns; learn about new initiatives being proposed by the Parish Council such as community resilience; meet their St Helens Borough Councillors who represent Billinge and Seneley Green and some of the officers who work for the Borough Council; and hear from some of the key voluntary groups about what they do for Billinge; etc.

No 25

Community Led Book Service

Noted that discussions had re-opened between Book Cycle and Eddleston Trust and that a draft agreement was being drawn up.

No 26

Health and Safety Proposals

Noted the detailed proposal for a root and branch review of health and safety and **resolved** to enter into an agreement with Worknest Health & Safety who are based in Chester and who give advice “that has been assured by a local regulator acting, as a Primary Authority (PA)”. They are the “first Health & Safety Consultancy in the UK to be approved to provide assured advice”.

The Clerk/RFO in compliance with the Financial Regulations (Clause 5.9) tried to identify other suppliers with this level of assurance but without success.

The previous supplier did not have it and had historically not supplied all the services that Worknest Health & Safety would supply. He had also historically provided a significant discount but advised that at full price his services would have cost 30% less than the fixed price quoted by Worknest Health & Safety.

The Clerk advised that concerns that had emerged over the past 12 months about the serious risks associated with lighting the beacon on Billinge Hill; the road closure for the Childrens Remembrance Service; Christmas Tree Lighting; Dam Slacks play area etc meant that having an assured supplier would add value.

The decision was put to the vote with 4 members approving it; 2 members not approving it; and 1 proposing the service should go out to tender.

No 27

Asset Register 2024

Resolved to approve the recommended revised asset register as at 10 June 24.

No 28

Local Council Award Scheme – Foundation Level

Resolved to aim to achieve the Local Council Award Scheme – Foundation Level by the end of 2024.

No 29

Financial Matters

29.1 Resolved to authorise the payments listed on the Schedule of Payments VNs 20-27 totalling £3312.26.

29.2 Noted that the final invoice for the repairs to the stone walls at Dam Slacks and the bottom car park at The Public Hall had been less than quoted and the Clerk/RFO has advised the insurers.

29.3 Noted that as legally required, notice has been posted on the Noticeboards and on the Website advising that (by prior arrangement with the Clerk/RFO) the accounts for 2023/24 were available to inspect from 10 June 2024 – 17 July 2024.

No 30

Clerk/RFO Appraisal

Noted that the report was for Members Only and **resolved** to approve the record of the appraisal undertaken by the Chair on behalf of the Parish Council and after consultation with all the Parish Councillors.