**Billinge Chapel End Parish Council**

The Public Hall, 216 Main Street, Billinge, WN5 7PE

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**Minutes of the Billinge Chapel End Parish Council full council meeting**

**on Monday 17th February 2025 at 7.30pm**

**at The Public Hall, 216 Main Street, Billinge WN5 7PE.**

**Present:** Cllr F Gill (Chair), Cllr B Bates, Cllr B Bradbury, Cllr C Betts, Cllr F Gill, Cllr M Webster.

Gill Flynn – Clerk

2 members of the Police.

**16/25 Apologies.**

Cllr S Gardner – reason approved.

Cllr J Barnes (Vice Chair) – absent without apology.

**17/25 Declarations of interest and dispensations.**

None.

**18/25 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2025.**

It was resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the chair.

Proposed by Cllr Bradbury.

Seconded by Cllr Gill.

**19/25 Public participation.**

PC Beardsworth reported the crime figures to the parish council - 1 burglary and 2 anti-social behaviour reports.

There is a high number of cases of ketamine being sold in the parish. PC Beardsworth and her team are following up leads from social media conversations and bank details. The Sur- Ron scooters continue to be a problem, the police cannot pursue the rider if they have no helmet on. Police have been given scooters instead of quadbikes to try and stop the riders.

Police staffing in St Helens is quite affluent compared to other forces. Attendance at the parish council meetings will be frequent if PC Beardsworth is not deployed elsewhere.

**20/25 To consider received planning applications and reports.**

P/2025/0045/HHFP Billinge And Seneley Green 37 Birchley Road, Billinge Demolition of existing garden room and erection of detached garage/garden room.

The parish council has no observations.

**21/25 Finance.**

Expenditure

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Arena Group | Copier ink | £61.43 | BACS |
| Zurich insurance | Insurance cover | £1340.98 | BACS |
| Petty Cash | Public Hall and administration | £250.00 | BACS |
| BDS Ltd | Supply and fit thermostat | £199.00 | BACS |
| HMRC | Month submission | £224.04 | BACS |

It was resolved that the payments be made.

**22/25 To consider the reports from the parish council representatives on committees, working groups and outside bodies.**

***Resident’s Association update***

The association is waiting for St Helens approval to hold the VE event on 11th May. There will be a craft fayre at Easter and a plant sale in the public hall car park.

**23/25 To consider the update on maintenance for the public hall:**

***New gate signage for private parking***

It was resolved that ‘Hall User Only’ signage be placed in the car park and the gates be left open. If there is no anti-social behaviour, the parish council will consider removing the gates completely. The walk-through gate will be re-sited to the side of the hall to stop access to the back of the building. CCTV costings will be brought to the next meeting.

***Repair/replace the letterbox***

The clerk will get prices for a new letterbox.

***New fire safety logbook***

It was resolved that a new logbook be purchased at a cost of £10.

***Installing new outside lights***

Cllr Betts will bring costings to the next meeting for the purchase and installation of new lights.

**24/25 To consider the update on the Dam Slack play area.**

The clerk has received a design and quote from Sutcliffe Play. The price is over budget and so a new design and quote will be sought.

**25/25 To consider the proposal of filming the parish council meetings.**

It was resolved that the meetings be filmed.

4:3 in favour.

**26/25 To consider the update on the Public Hall extension.**

Cllr Betts proposed a conservatory extension to be used as a reading room for the public hall, which would cost approximately £32,000.

It was resolved that if Cllr Betts has not had any response from St Helens regarding funding, the parish council go ahead with the conservatory extension using the Dam Slacks playground refurb funds of £26,919.00

All in favour.

**27/25 To appoint an independent internal auditor for the AGAR.**

It was resolved that an internal auditor be appointed at a cost of between £200-£300.

**28/25 To consider the update of the website and emails.**

The clerk provided the parish council with a new company to host the website and emails. This would also reduce the annual cost by £100. Councillors were asked to look at an example website and to consider moving to the website provider.

**29/25 Report and correspondence (information only).**

Cllr Betts as Ward Councillor requested an update on the donation for the Kenya trip. Unfortunately, an attempt to have The Stork listed with Heritage England has not been successful. The trees planted at Douglas Avenue were placed wrongly and will be replanted.

**30/25 Date and time of the next meetings.**

Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.30pm.

Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.30pm.

Monday 19th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9pm.