**Billinge Chapel End Parish Council**

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**Minutes of the Billinge Chapel End Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting**

**on Monday 19th May 2025 at 7.00 pm**

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

**Present:** Cllr F Gill (Chair), Cllr B Bates, Cllr Frank Gill, Cllr M Webster, Cllr J Barnes, Councillor C Betts.

Karen Newton – Clerk

Seven members of the public.

**1/25 Apologies.**

Cllr B Bradbury – Reason accepted.

**2/25 Declarations of interest and dispensations.**

None.

**3/25 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that **Cllr Frank Gill** proposed the approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th April 2025. The proposal was **seconded by Cllr J. Barnes**, and **all members present agreed**.

**4/25 Public Participation.**

**Resident 1: Concerns About Proposed Change of Use to Children’s Home in Hillside Close.**

The resident raised concerns regarding a planning application to change the use of a **semi-detached property** a **children’s home**.

Key concerns included:

* **Parking issues**, which could be worsened by the proposed change of use.
* **Lack of proper notification**: Residents did not receive individual letters about the application. Instead, a small notice was posted on a nearby lamppost, which many did not see.
* Questions were raised about the **suitability and safety** of the property's location for use as a children’s home.
* The resident also queried the **business model** for children’s homes and whether the model is appropriate for residential streets like theirs.
* The resident asked whether **Planning Officers visit** the property site before making decisions.

It was noted that the **Council has written to the Borough Council** in support of residents' concerns. The resident has already submitted an objection to the planning department and has been advised to encourage other residents in the area to submit their own objections.

**Action:**

The **Council will submit an official objection** to the planning application, specifically highlighting concerns around **parking and road safety**.

Additionally, the Council will **write to the Planning Department** to:

* **Request a postponement** of the planning meeting to allow more time for proper consultation with residents.
* **Request a formal site visit** by Planning Officers to assess the **suitability, safety, and access issues** related to the proposed change of use to a children’s home.

**Resident 2: VE Day Beacon & Banks Park Planting**

The resident asked **why the Beacon was not lit for VE Day**. Councillors explained that the Beacon had been **loaned to another Parish Council**, but this was not widely known until it was **located on the afternoon of VE Day**. The other Parish had permission to use it for their commemorations.

Councillors confirmed that the **Beacon will be returned in time for VJ Day**, and they **hope to organise a local event** so the Beacon can be properly used for that occasion.

The resident also enquired about **Banks Park**, specifically whether the **Borough Council is carrying out any planting around the memorial**.

**Action:**

The **Council will write to the Borough Grounds Maintenance Team** to request an update on **planting and maintenance plans** for the area around **Banks Park memorial**.

**Resident 3: Concerns Regarding Parking and Road Safety**

The resident raised concerns about parking issues in the area where she lives, particularly at the junction of **Rainford Road and Holt Avenue**. She suggested that **double yellow lines** should be introduced at this junction to prevent vehicles from parking too close, which currently obstructs visibility and causes safety concerns.

There is also **significant congestion on Hillside Close**, and speeding is a frequent issue. Cars are regularly **parked right up to junctions**, making it difficult for drivers to safely see when pulling out onto main roads.

The **Council will write to the Highways Department** to:

* **Request the installation of double yellow lines** at the junction of **Rainford Road and Holt Avenue** to improve visibility and safety.
* **Request an assessment for dropped kerbs** outside affected properties to prevent residents from being blocked in by parked vehicles.

**the Parish Council recommended that residents write to St Helens Council regarding their concerns.**

**5/25 To Receive a report from the Outgoing Chair of Billinge Chapel End Parish Council.**

Councillor Fiona presented her report (see full report). She gave **special thanks to Councillors Steve Gardener and Sue Murphy** for their dedicated service to the community. She also thanked **Hazel Broach and Gill Flynn** for their contributions as Parish Clerks and **welcomed Karen Newton** as the new Parish Clerk.

Meeting closed at 7:45pm

Chair’s Signature: ………………………………. Date: ……………………………………………………