



Billinge Chapel End Parish Council

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

07483 325064

clerk@billingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Billinge Chapel End Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Billinge Chapel End Parish Full Council Meeting

Held on Monday 22nd June 2026 at 7:30pm

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

Present Malcom Webster (Chair), S Jennings (Vice Chair) Cllr B Bates,
Cllr C Betts, Cllr S Rahman, Cllr S Owen Cllr J Barnes, Cllr B Bradbury, Cllr D Gilchrist
Karen Newton - Clerk
3 Residents

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

No requests for dispensations were received.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council were considered.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Proposed by: Cllr Bill Bates

Seconded by: Cllr Jeremy Barnes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Proposed by: Cllr Sarah Jennings

Seconded by: Cllr Sue Rahman

4. Public Participation

Comments and Concerns were received from the public: -

Billinge Patients Participation Group (PPG)

The Council received an update regarding the proposed sale of the Health Centre. The Integrated Care Board (ICB) had agreed to present the options appraisal to the public at a meeting scheduled for **11 June 2026**; however, this meeting was subsequently cancelled to allow the approval process to be completed. No revised date has yet been announced.

Members noted that the landlords have displayed a poster setting out their position on the proposed sale and have spoken about the matter at various local establishments in recent days. The ICB's position remains unchanged. The current eviction date remains **4 September 2026**.

Cllr Stephen Owen reported that he had contacted Cllr David Baines regarding the future of the Medical Centre. He expressed concerns that there appeared to be a lack of urgency surrounding the matter and that there had been limited communication from Erika. He also stated that relocating the practice to Garswood was not considered a suitable option due to the reciprocal parking agreement currently in place and the limited public transport links.

Cllr Owen noted that Andy Burnham MP for Macclesfield had secured a medical practice for Orrell and commented that he did not believe Erika wished to pursue a similar approach for Billinge. He expressed his appreciation for the work undertaken by the Billinge Patients Participation Group (BPPG) and stated that he would like the opportunity to speak directly with Erika to understand her views.

Members were advised that Cllr David Baines' secretary had been in contact with Cllr Owens and that they are currently awaiting reports from NHS England.

It was further reported that Birchley Hall remains a potential option, with a new medical practice currently being constructed. The landowner has offered to accommodate the Billinge Medical Centre within the development; however, Members noted that irrespective of whether this offer is accepted, the development will include a medical practice.

Dam Slacks Play Area

Residents raised concerns regarding the Damm Slacks play area, specifically the removal of the swings.

The Parish Council advised that this is part of an ongoing project. It was noted that repairs to the existing equipment are estimated to cost in the region of **£12,000**, and the Council considers that the play area would benefit from a complete refurbishment rather than repairs alone.

Members were informed that quotations are being obtained and that the available options are currently being considered. Once these have been evaluated and a preferred approach identified, the proposals will be presented for public consultation before any final decision is made.

5. Billinge Medical Practice/Dam Slacks

Updates were received

Cllr Colin Betts advised Members that he would be chairing a public meeting on **16 July at 6.30 pm at St Aidan's** regarding the future of Billinge Medical Practice. The meeting is intended for Billinge residents and patients to discuss proposals for a new medical centre and to encourage support for representations to the NHS.

Cllr Betts stated that proposals for a new surgery had been submitted but had not received any acknowledgement. He further advised that, in his understanding, a decision had been made for Billinge Medical Practice to relocate to Garswood in September. He commented that the Garswood facility has only six consulting rooms.

Cllr Betts referred to three previously identified options, including Birchley Hall, where he advised that a medical centre is planned regardless of whether the current proposal is accepted. He suggested that, if Dam Slacks were sold, the proceeds could potentially be used towards the Birchley Hall project.

Cllr Owen commented that he had not seen any documentation confirming these proposals and felt that the information was currently hearsay.

Cllr Bradbury stated that the Council could not sell Dam Slacks.

Cllr Jennings queried what any funds raised from the sale of Dam Slacks would be used for if a medical centre at Birchley Hall was already planned.

Cllr Betts requested sight of the title deeds for Dam Slacks.

Members discussed whether any sale of Dam Slacks would be to a developer.

Cllr Rahman stated that any proposal regarding the sale of Dam Slacks must first be considered by the Parish Council before being discussed at a Billinge Patient Participation Group (BPPG) meeting, as the land is owned by the Parish Council. She also commented on the importance of ensuring that no individual councillor acts independently on matters affecting Council assets.

Cllr Webster commented that Dam Slacks is a valuable community asset that should be developed and that all related matters should be fully discussed by the Council.

Cllr Betts advised that he would report back following the public meeting on 16 July, after which further ideas could be considered by the Council.

It was **agreed** that this item be deferred to the July meeting for further discussion.

Cllr Betts also advised that the Eddleston Trust has land which could potentially be used for a play area, and that he would discuss this at a future Trust meeting.

Cllr Owen requested written confirmation of the reported decision regarding Billinge Medical Practice.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would write to NHS England requesting confirmation of any decision relating to the relocation of the practice.

Cllr Jennings reminded Members that certain matters relating to Medical Practice meetings are confidential and should not be discussed in public Council meetings where they are not appropriate for disclosure.

6. Proposal for a Bandstand at Bankes Park, Billinge

The Council considered an initial proposal for the installation of a bandstand at Bankes Park to support community events and activities.

Cllr Owen requested that the Clerk contact St Helens Borough Council to enquire whether they would support the installation of a bandstand in the park and confirm whether permission would be granted in principle.

It was noted that, should St Helens Borough Council be supportive, Billinge Chapel End Parish Council may explore external funding opportunities to progress the project, as it is not anticipated that St Helens Borough Council would provide funding.

7. Finance & Governance

7.1 The Payment Schedule for May 2026 was **approved**.

Proposed: Cllr S. Owen **Seconded:** Cllr B. Bates.

7.2 The Bank Reconciliation for May 2026 was approved.

Proposed: Cllr S. Rahman **Seconded:** Cllr B. Bates.

7.3 The publication of payments over £100.00 for May 2026 on the Parish Council website was **noted**.

7.4 The June 2026 payment schedule was **approved** and **authorised**.

Proposed: Cllr B. Bates **Seconded:** Cllr S. Jennings.

7.5 Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of the AGAR 2025/26 was **approved**.

Proposed: Cllr S. Owen **Seconded:** Cllr B. Bradbury.

7.6 Section 2 – Accounting Statements of the AGAR 2025/26 was **approved**.

Proposed: Cllr S. Owen **Seconded:** Cllr B. Bradbury.

7.7 Page 3 of the AGAR 2025/26 (Internal Auditor's Report) was **received** and **noted**.

7.8 The AI Report was **received** and **approved**.

Proposed: Cllr M. Webster **Seconded:** Cllr S. Rahman.

7.9 The Clerk's summary of the audit actions was considered, and the proposed actions were approved.

Proposed: Cllr M. Webster **Seconded:** Cllr S. Rahman.

7.10 The explanation of significant variances in the Accounting Statements was **received** and **noted**.

7.11 The Bank Reconciliation as of 31 May 2026 was **received**.

7.12 The dates for the exercise of public rights and publication of the Notice of Public Rights for the 2025/26 accounts were **noted**.

7.13 Payment of **£3,140.35** to WorkNest for the final year of the Health & Safety contract was approved.

Proposed: Cllr B. Bates **Seconded:** Cllr J. Barnes.

7.14 The Banking Report was noted. Cllrs B. Bates and J. Barnes were nominated to consider the available banking options and report back to the Council.

8. Planning Applications

The Council considered the planning applications received from the Local Planning Authority.

Resolved: That the Parish Council had no objections to the planning applications considered.

P/2026/0242/HHFP

P/2026/0249/HHPA

P/2026/0269/FUL

P/2026/0278/HHFP

P/2026/0282/LBC
P/2026/0265/HHFP
P/2026/0301/HHFP

9. BT – Broadband

Consideration of the update regarding a new broadband contract, including a separate contract for the Reading Room, was deferred until the July meeting.

10. Tree Survey

The Council received an update on the recent tree survey and noted the email requesting payment of **£336.87**, subject to receipt of the corresponding invoice.

The Council also received and considered an email regarding the height of three large trees.

Resolved: That the payment of **£336.87** be approved upon receipt of the invoice.

Proposed: Cllr S. Rahman **Seconded:** Cllr S. Jennings.

11. Relocation of Fencing/CCTV

The Council considered the relocation of the existing fencing and an update on the CCTV system.

Resolved: The relocation of the fencing was deferred for further consideration. The installation of the CCTV monitors and cameras was approved, and work is to proceed.

12. Public Hall Reading Room

The Council received an update on the Public Hall Reading Room project.

It was noted that the current contractor is awaiting costs for piling works required as part of the build. Members were further advised that the original design was a 4m x 4m structure, predominantly glass. Following planning feedback, the design has been amended to reduce the amount of glass, resulting in an increased footprint of approximately 5m x 5m, which is expected to incur additional costs.

It was noted that if the revised estimated costs are considered too high, the Council may need to reconsider whether to proceed with the build.

Resolved: That the update be noted and the item be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration.

13. Reports from Parish Council Representatives

The Council considered reports from Parish Council representatives on committees, working groups, and outside bodies.

Resolved: That no reports were received.

14. Reports and Correspondence (Information Only)

No reports received.

15. MALC

The Council considered representation on MALC. It was noted that Members did not wish to take on the role of MALC representative.

It was further noted that Cllr Bradbury was the former MALC representative and advised that there is little to report back to Billinge.

Resolved: That no new representative was appointed to MALC at this time.

16. Date and Time of Next Meetings

Monday 20th July 2026 at 7:30pm

Meeting Closed at 9:50PM

Signed:

Date

Press and public are welcome to attend.