

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB, BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2015 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: R.Smillie (Chair): B.Foster: G.Guenigault:
Christine Barlow (Parish Clerk)
Matthew Winslow, Basildon Borough Council Services
Manager for Strategic Planning and Housing Policy.

Members of the Public: 18

1. Councillor Smillie welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Chairman's Report:**

Councillor Smillie gave a brief report on the Parish Council year 2014/2015. He reported the year again being a very busy one.

There was a big win for the Parish preventing large scale building on Little Chalvedon Hall Farm following a failed appeal by developers, Meridian Strategic Land.

A path was installed around the park along with an outdoor gym. This had proved a great success and is enjoyed by all age groups especially the teenagers. New Park gates were hung and the access road to the park and park car-park was resurfaced.

The first 'Parish in Bloom' competition took place in 2014 and the standard of entries was very high.

The Summer Fete in August was wet and windy for the most part but the sun did shine eventually in the afternoon and thanks were extended to all who braved the weather, visitors, stall holders and performers alike.

Councillors have been busy over the year representing the Parish and raising issues on behalf of the community in a variety of ways including via - The Basildon Highways Panel; ECC Bus Transport Forum; Basildon Council Standards Committee; The Association of Basildon Local Council's Committee and recording their comments on planning applications to name but a few forums. The Parish Council also produced three newsletters during the year.

Unfortunately, the year was tinged with sadness at the loss of Councillor Brian Wall in May 2014. Councillor Wall was a real asset to the Parish Council and a

plaque will be placed on one of the benches in the Park in his memory.

In August 2014 Councillor Griffin also stepped down as Councillor.

What are the Parish Council plans for 2015?

- The Council intends to resubmit a funding application to join the two remaining sections of the path.
- Move forward on more projects, in consultation with residents, to improve the Parish.
- The Parish in Bloom event will be held again this coming July.
- It is hoped consultations with residents on moving forward on a Neighbourhood Plan will prove positive and work can then start on proposals to progress the Plan to enable the Parish to have a bigger say in planning issues in the future.
- An event, which had to be delayed in 2015 due to wet weather, will be held to thank the sponsors who provided the funding to improve the Park.

Lastly, a big thank you to all residents who attend the Parish Council meetings and all who have volunteered their time and invaluable support over the past year.

3. Open Meeting: An opportunity an opportunity for residents to raise questions:

Councillor Smillie invited electors to ask questions:

(i) A resident in Lower Avenue had seen the article in the Parish newsletter regarding flooding and informed that his property was seriously affected by flooding during periods of heavy rainfall and had also being subjected to raw sewage coming up through the manhole covers. He informed there is a sewage pumping station at the end of his garden and Anglia Water has installed a non-return valve but this has not resolved the problem. The resident reported that the water did not penetrate the property but the attached garage did get flooded. He also advised there was a dyke at the end of his garden, which although it fills with water does not flow and which he keeps clear of debris. The main drainage consists of only 4" piping and is not large enough to sustain the capacity of use generated by the building along the road. **Action:** The Parish Council would raise the problem with Essex County Council Flood Management Team and advise Basildon Council of the problem and ask if the resident met the criteria for any funding from the government's grant scheme.

(ii) A resident raised concerns regarding, what appeared to be toxic fumes being

discharges from the chimney stack of the Waste Disposal Plant in Courtauld Road. Matthew Winslow advised that the plant was currently being tested but eventually once it was operational the chimney would discharge only water vapour. He advised that the operators would be willing to show Councillors around and would pass the contact details to the Parish Clerk to make contact. In addition a resident raised concerns regarding the safety of Courtauld Road and the amount of large lorries using it.

- (iii) A resident asked if there was any information regarding removing the contractor's site compound on land adjacent to Sadlers Farm. The meeting was advised that Balfour Beatty were still continuing to complete the road works at Sadlers Farm and until this was complete the porta cabins need to remain. The Parish Clerk advised she would try and find out any further information.
- (iv) A resident asked if there was any news regarding installing bollards at either end of Old Church Road. Councillor Foster advised that, as he understood it, the Basildon Highways Panel had agreed in principal to install the bollards and the budget agreed.
- (v) A resident advised that although Essex County Council Officers had identified the need to install a bollard at the edge of her garden to prevent lorries backing on to it from the opposite road outside the Pet Shop no further information regarding carrying out the work had been received. The Parish Clerk said she would try and get an update from ECC Highways Department.
- (vi) A resident raised the issue of lorries parking dangerously on the bend opposite the Yodel premises in Courtauld Road and asked if yellow lines could be painted on the bend to prevent this practice. **Action:** Councillor Foster said he would raise the issue at the Basildon Highways Panel meeting.
- (vii) A resident stated there had been more dumping in the layby in Church Road by the Crematorium and although the tree branches had been removed, wood chippings and other matter remained. There was also a pile of hard-core being deposited on Smilers Farm and the resident was concerned at the reason for this. **Action:** The Parish Clerk said she would report the dumping at Church Road and Councillors said they would investigate the use for hard-core at Smilers Farm.
- (viii) Residents asked if any action could be taken regarding the smell from stables at a property in Alpha Road. **Action:** The Parish Clerk was asked to make enquiries with Basildon Environmental Department regarding the concerns raised.

There being no further questions the audience were thanked for their interest in

the meeting.

4. **An introduction to Neighbourhood Planning:** Guest Speaker Matthew Winslow, Basildon Borough Council Service Manager for Strategic Planning and Housing Policy

Matthew Winslow, Service Manager for Strategic Planning and Housing Policy at Basildon Borough Council, gave a brief presentation in regard to setting up a Neighbourhood Plan and what Neighbourhood Planning was about. Handouts (Appendix A) were provided to the audience for information. He advised that Neighbourhood Planning was an optional way for communities to decide and influence how their local area can change and develop over a period of 15 – 20 years. If a Plan was implemented the Parish Council and residents would have more of a say and influence where properties both private and commercial would be built, however a Neighbourhood Plan was not a tool for blocking development. He explained that there was stepped process for implementing a Neighbourhood Plan and considered the Parish Council, having advertised drop-in sessions in May via the Bugle and other media, had started the process to consult with residents. Matthew answered questions regarding the cost of implementation; the support which was available and the type's information which would be need to support the Plan. He advised a referendum must be held within the Plan boundary and 50% of those voting must agree to the implementation of the Plan. If agreement was reached Basildon Council would consider the Plan and it would be assessed by an independent Inspector and following this, if the assessment was favourable, the Plan would be implemented.

Matthew advised that Basildon Council was also considering implementing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) but this could not be implemented until a Local Plan had been adopted. The CIL, under government legislation, would replace for the most part Section 106 agreements which were in currently in place and which developers had to factor into any Development Plan.

Matthew was thanked for his presentation and attendance.

All present were thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.