

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 27th June 2018 AT 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: R. Smillie: S Pegg: T.Potter

BBC Councillors: Cllr. Andrew Baggott, Leader of the Council
Cllr. Craig Rimmer, Pitsea South East, Ward Councillor

Parish Council Clerk: Mrs Christine Barlow

Residents present: 51 Residents

INTRODUCTIONS: Councillor Smillie, Chair, welcomed all present to the meeting and introduced Councillor Andrew Baggott, Leader of Basildon Council and Councillor Craig Rimmer, Pitsea South East Ward Councillor to the meeting.

18/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor David Martin

19/18 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTEREST: To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests by members relating to any agenda items.

None were received.

It was agreed by all present to bring Item 21/18 forward.

21/18 UPDATE ON BASILDON COUNCIL’S LOCAL PLAN AND BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

(i) The Parish Council to update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Pegg gave an overview of where the Parish Council was with its Neighbourhood Plan for the benefit of those residents who had not attended the Parish Council meetings on a regular basis or the road shows, that had been held frequently. She informed that the Parish Council aim in their Neighbourhood Plan was to create one village. She advised that the Parish Council knew that they had no authority to develop within the Green Belt and that was outside of its jurisdiction, however, despite of this the Parish Council presented the Plan to the Infrastructure, Growth and Development Committee on 13th March because they felt their Plan was the right way to develop the village but it was rejected by this Committee. As a result of the rejection in support of H12 (previously known as H13; the Little Chalvedon Hall site) the Parish Council decided to split the Plan into three separate segments. The first part of which it was felt we would be able to deliver successfully at examination and included three clear policies. This our Neighbourhood Plan. The second part was to develop a Neighbourhood Development Order for the plotlands and the rest of the village. The third part was

to prepare a challenge to Local Plan at examination. However, with Basildon Council's change of administration as a result of the May elections the Parish Council hopes it can work with Basildon Council to relook at the proposals in the Local Plan pre-May 2018 and that the new administration will reconsider the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan alternative strategy.

(ii) Councillor Andrew Baggott, Leader of Basildon Borough Council, to update on proposals for making changes to Basildon Council's Local Plan.

Councillor Baggott thanked the electors of Bowers Gifford for putting their faith in the new administration at the ballot box. The new Conservative administration took over Basildon Borough Council from the previous coalition on 24th May 2018. He gave a brief overview of the background which had led to the changes at the ballot box in May and considered that the previous administration had chosen not to listen to the views of the community of Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet in respect of where they considered development should take place. The Conservative opposition were supportive in principle of Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan. As it was, before the May election, a consultation (Regulation 19) was due to take place just after the election but due to the change of administration this did not happen and as a result the new administration, of which Councillor Baggott is Lead, have now agreed to reconsider the alternative strategy to develop in the Parish put forward by the Parish Council to develop Hall Farm in North Benfleet as opposed to the proposals for development by the previous administration at Little Chalvedon Farm (H12). Planning Officers have been instructed to relook at the evidence in the East Basildon Framework document. The new administration were also in consultation with the Secretary of State to give Basildon Council more time to pursue this and were hopeful that this would be granted. They were also looking at seven amendments to the Local Plan and looking to see how these can be resolved one of which was BGNB Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Baggott felt the new administration should be listening to the views of the community and the mistakes of the past resolved. Planning Officers have been asked to support the Parish Council and take a "Can Do" attitude and have a look at what can be achieved rather than dismiss all proposals out of hand and the outcome will be better for all concerned. Councillor Baggott commented that one of the things that has been commented on across the Borough by residents was that if the infrastructure is not in place how can development go forward. He agreed and his thoughts were that infrastructure has to come first before development and that any Local Plan is clear, in plain speech and understandable. The government want large numbers of housing to come forward but this cannot happen without a joint approach to the problem and the Leader has met with the three local MP's to see how this problem can be solved jointly and a joint proposition with local councils to present a plan to government.

The audience were then given the opportunity to ask questions of Councillor Baggott

Q: If the Local Plan goes ahead are people going to lose their properties and there is going to be a main road through properties?

A: There have been a lot of myths around this and there are no plans to compulsory purchase properties.

Q: Is the plan to develop the A127 still going ahead?

A: The A127 cannot be widened in isolation it must be part of the bigger picture.

Q: There are a number of properties in the plotlands where owners have not been able to build a property on their land, is anything going to be done to make changes to enable owners to build?

A: No development can take place unless changes are made to existing legislation.

Q: Will there be an updated Neighbourhood Plan to show exactly where areas are to be developed?

A: The Neighbourhood Plan is work in progress, as is the Hovefeilds and Honiley Neighbourhood Plan. The Local Plan is in a state of flux but one of the things that needs to be done is a traffic survey and he is waiting to hear from ECC regarding them providing financial support so that a joint traffic survey can be done that includes Pound Lane.

Q: Would a traffic survey include Sadlers Farm?

A: The scope of the survey would be beyond Councillor Baggott's remit but all roads have knock on effect if changes are made in one place and this must be considered.

Q: What about the new Garden Village?

A: Only government can decide on this, discussions need to take place to address who can sustain the amount of development required.

Q: Is there any scope for Basildon Borough Council to become a Unitary Authority as it is felt that Basildon is badly treated by Essex County Council

A: There are several areas where this would not be possible e.g. Children Services. However BBC is looking to join up with other Councils in Essex to see where there would be possible to merging with other Council's regarding responsibilities.

The audience also asked questions relating to the need for a new hospital, doctors surgeries, rail links and improved public transport.

In reply Councillor Baggott stated the Conservative administration was looking at all of this and the need for the infrastructure to support these needs. They were also looking at the rail line at Wickford. Councillor Rimmer said he had had talks with C2C regarding putting on more trains. The Council were looking to challenge Central Government on the numbers of properties they say are needed and the need for economic growth.

Q: Will the new administration support the move from H12 and the East Basildon Extension report which created coalescence with Pitsea.

A: Yes it will if it can be correctly and they are talking with the Parish Council with a commonality of purpose.

Councillor Baggott and Councillor Rimmer were thanked for their attendance.

After a short break the meeting continued.

20/18 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 16th May 2018.

The minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting on 16th May 2018 were approved as an accurate record and signed by Councillor Robert Smillie, Chair.

22/18 PUBLIC FORUM: To enable residents to raise issues of concern with Parish Councillors (The time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

(i) A resident asked if the Parish Council had a map of the Parish boundary. The Chair advised that the Council do have one and we can bring it along to the next meeting.

(ii) The reason we wanted to make “One Village” is so that the plotlands get the same attention as other parts of the Parish e.g. roads swept, roads repaired, street lights repaired without a lot of hard work and also bring the plotlands into a village design.

(iii) A resident asked about the effect of the development on the junction of Burnt Mills Road and Pound Lane which always flooded when it rained. Councillor Pegg stated that landowners in the plotlands were responsible, as Riparian owners, to keep ditches clear as when the ditches are filled in flooding occurs and much of the water ends up in Elm Road currently. A lot of work had been done to resolve this problem and a new pipework network had been laid in Elm Road and a new pumping station installed. Anglian Water had also installed new pipework under Burnt Mills Road and another pumping station was being installed and this would hopefully help to reduce flooding in Burnt Mills Road and at the junction of Pound Lane.

(iii) A resident commented on the condition of the “hammer head” at the junction of Clarendon Road/Pound Lane which needed resurfacing and the fact there was a great deal of hard core at the side of this road. **Action:** The Parish Clerk to report to Essex Highways.

(iv) Councillor Pegg raised concerns that Public Right of Way 145 leading from Elm Road to Burnt Mills Road was still blocked despite ECC stating they were going to take action to open up the footpath again. **Action:** The Parish Clerk advised she would contact Essex County Council PROW Officer Robin Richardson the officer responsible for an update.

23/18 CLERKS REPORT: To report on business undertaken since the last meeting.

Chris Barlow, Parish Council Clerk, gave a brief update on the actions and responses in respect of the previous minute’s items.

Item 8/18 (i) Old Church Road: Despite requests for the work to be carried out

as a matter of urgency no further information had been received regarding the installation of the bollards.

Item 8/18 (ii) Pothole – Kelly Road: The pothole at the junction had been reported again to Essex County Council.

Item 8/18 (iii) Public Right of Way 145: Reported to Essex County Council again.

Item 8/18 (iv) Beacon lights on Pound Lane Zebra Crossing: Reported to Essex County Council again.

Item 10/18: CCTV Westlake Park: Parish Clerk had met with contractor and finalised arrangements to install CCTV Cameras and the Clerk had attended a training course in regard to roles and responsibilities of Managing the cameras. She had also made a request to Basildon Council for a grant to cover the cost of one of the cameras.

Item 10/18: Facebook Page: The Parish Council Facebook page is up and running for information but not comment.

Item 10/18 Neighbourhood Plan: A grant of £2022 in addition to the £15,000 already received had been obtained from My Locality, a government funded organisation that helps local groups to fund the cost of processing the development of their Neighbourhood Plan and/or Neighbourhood Development Order. The money would help to pay for the services of the consultant engaged to help with the technical side of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council have been working with a Steering Group on putting together the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council newsletter had been distributed the previous week to all residents together with a leaflet advising of the Parish-in-Bloom

24/18 Planning - Councillors to review and comment on Planning Application/s under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 18/00566/FULL

Proposed single storey rear extension. - 5 Ilfracombe Avenue, Bowers Gifford, Basildon Essex

Councillors raised no objections to the Planning Application.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 18/00739/OUT

Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment to provide 60 dwellings together with new access and internal access roads. - Children's Nursery, Burnt Mills Road, Pitsea, SS13 1DY

Councillors considered that they were opposed to the application of the grounds of: (i) Highways safety access issues on a double bend, on a busy narrow winding country road. (ii) Impact on existing poor infrastructure. (iii) Poor design and over development of the site.(iv) Insufficient parking and storage (v) Coalescence in the Green Belt

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 18/00651/OUT

Outline application to agree in principle a new residential chalet at the site with approval sought for scale with all other matters reserved – Steyning, 10 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford, Basildon

Planning Application withdrawn

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 18/00787/FULL

Single storey front extension and roof alterations - 29 Kelly Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, Essex

Councillors raised no objections to the Planning application.

25/18 Planning decisions and comments – To receive updates and comments on decisions in respect of planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

Planning Application No: 18/00663/FULL: 10 Alpha Close Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2HZ : Proposed 1.8m high front enclosure comprising of brick piers and wall with iron railings and a rolling gate for vehicle access and separate gate for pedestrian entry - Refused

Planning Application No: 18/00508/FULL 37 Highlands Road Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2HT : Loft conversion incorporating a rear box dormer - Granted

Planning Application No: 18/00413/FULL Ash Cottage Elm Road Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2LY: Retention of extension to annexe building and extension to provide exercise room (retrospective) - Granted.

A letter had been received from Basildon Council notifying of an appeal in connection with a planning application in respect of land adjacent to the The Willows, Lower Avenue, Bowers Gifford and sites the failure of Basildon Council to provide the applicant with notice of its decision within the statutory determination period.

26/18 FINANCE REPORT: The Responsible Finance Officer to advise on:

- (i) The Parish Council's current financial position.

Councillors were informed and provided with a report in respect of income and

expenditure since the previous meeting on 27th June as follows:

	£
Balance at bank as at 16 th May 2018	15,051.73
Balance at bank as at 22 nd June 2018	12,229.48
Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	
(409) Consultant Fee – Neighbourhood Plan (inc. VAT)	1,740.00
(410) Ink Toner Cartridges	307.22
(411) Clerks Salary May (inc. Office Use and Tel/Broad)	697.03
(412) First Aid Support – Picnic-in-the- Park event	<u>78.00</u>
	2,822.25

- (ii) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/2018 and the period for the exercise of public rights.

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2017/2018 all required information together with the Internal audit Return has been emailed to the Government's External Auditor, PKF LittleJohn, for ratification in the format required under new legislation that came into effect from 1st April 2018. A notice of elector's rights to view the Parish Council Accounts, as required, had been displayed on the Parish Council's website and noticeboards from 4th June to 13th July together with the unaudited Return statements.

27/18 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: To obtain the Parish Council's views on a Community Governance Review being undertaken by Basildon Council to consider the electoral arrangements of existing Local Councils in the Basildon Borough and whether these arrangements remain appropriate and fit for purpose.

The overall comments from Parish Councillors were that the current electoral arrangements should continue unchanged and they were fit for purpose.

29/18 PARISH – IN – BLOOM 2018: To advise regarding arrangements for residents to take part in the Parish-in-Bloom 2018.

Details of the Parish in Bloom had been sent out with the Parish newsletter accompanied with a flyer giving details of how to enter. The closing date for entries was 21st July, although dependent on the weather, this might be extended. There were three categories (i) Back garden (ii) Front garden (iii) baskets/containers. Also a category for the best scarecrow for the younger members of the community. There would be an extra category for previous winners.

30/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The date of the next meeting will be 25th July 2018. The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 25th July at 7.30 p.m. in the Benbow Club.