

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2014 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: R Smillie (Chair)
B.Foster: N.Tyler: G. Guenigault

In attendance: Christine Barlow (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: 13

47/14 Apologies for absence: None

Councillor Smillie welcomed all present to the meeting and advised that Councillor Rose Griffin had tendered her resignation as a Councillor on 26th August 2014.

48/14 Declarations of member's interest: To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests by members relating to any agenda items.

No declarations were received.

49/14 Public Forum: (The maximum time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

49/14/1 A resident asked if the scheme to install a sound barrier on a section of the A130 in Vange could be extended to include parts of the A130 dual carriageway which bordered Bowers Gifford. Councillor Foster advised that there were no plans to extend this scheme further and that the cost to do so may be prohibitive.

49/14/2 The metal signs on the chicane in Pound Lane which obscured and restricted the drivers view for oncoming traffic again raised concern. Councillors advised that the matter had been raised at previous meetings and in turn Councillor Foster had raised the chicane as a hazard at Basildon Council Highways Panel, of which he was a member. Basildon Council had a Highways Review Group and £20K had been set aside from the budget to look at projects when new budgets were available. He advised that he had put three projects forward to the group for discussion (1) the chicane (2) the need for bollards at the entrance to the subway in Old Church Road to prevent dumping (3) a request to improve the sequencing of the traffic lights in the London Road for traffic turning right into Pound Lane and trying to beat the lights. The Parish Clerk also informed she had also logged a complaint on the Essex County Council website several times regarding the signs on the chicane restricting driver's

view and the fact that the Vehicle Activation Sign (VAS) had not been working for 18 months. The latest reference number for both these notifications logged 25th June was No: 2338328.

49/14/3 Although not in the Parish Council's jurisdiction concerns were raised regarding the pedestrian walkway between the market area and the Aldi car park in Pitsea. Those present asked Councillors if they were aware of the stores intention to improve the layout. Councillors understood that the existing measures were temporary only until the redevelopment had been completed. It was assumed that eventually there would be one large car park eventually to benefit everyone.

49/14/4 The issue regarding the overgrown highway verges on the London Road overhanging the footpath and reducing the area of the footpath was again highlighted, especially with the return to school after the summer break. The unkempt verges at the North Benfleet end of Pound Lane were also raised. The Parish Clerk stated the issue had been raised with Councillor Bobbin and logged as a complaint on the Essex County Council website and suggested residents should also log their own complaints on the Essex County Council website and also raise this issue with Ward Councillors. Councillor Smillie suggested this might help put on Essex County Council to improve the grass cutting programme. The verges at the end of Pound Lane were only cut twice a year.

50/14 Minutes: To agree the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 30th July 2014.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed, as such, by the Chair, Councillor Robert Smillie.

51/14 Parish in Bloom: A presentation to the winners of the competition

A presentation was made by Councillor Foster to the winners of the Parish in Bloom. The judging had been carried out by Councillor Foster and Ward Councillor and Major Councillor Mo Larkin who had enjoyed the experience.

The winners of the Parish in Bloom 2014 were:

Best Front Garden: 1st – Ms T Whitham: 2nd Mr D Meekings: 3rd Mr S Barlow
 Best Back Garden: 1st – Mr J Spooner: 2nd – Mrs J Binnington: 3rd – Mrs K Watts:
 Highly Recommended: Mr & Mrs D Archer.
 Best Hanging Basket/Containers: 1st – Mrs K Watts: 2nd – Mr G Conner: 3rd - Mr D Meekings:

The standard of entries was very high and Councillors expressed their thanks to all who entered the first year of the event. It was suggested that the decision to hold the event and the publicity for the event should be agreed at the beginning of the year to allow more time for preparation.

52/14 Policing: Local Police Officers to attend and inform of policing activities for Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

The Police were not in attendance due to shift rotas. Councillors ask for their thanks to be recorded for PCSO Emma Spurr coming along to the Fete and spending time talking to residents during the afternoon.

53/14 Parish Clerk's Report: To update on relevant business and correspondence received since the last Parish Council meeting.

- The Fun Walk Presentation was to be held on 12th September 2014 and it was anticipated that Councillors would pick up a bonus cheque from the organisers of the walk.
- The Parish Council newsletter had been published and distributed to all residents in the Parish.
- The Fete programme had been prepared and produced for distribution at the Fete.
- The overhanging shrubs around the noticeboard in Pound Lane adjacent to the post box had been pruned.
- The Outdoor Gym had been installed in Westlake Park. A sign, showing the equipment is still to be installed. The wording in respect of funders for the project needs to be added.
- Councillor vacancies have been advertised
- Item 35/14 (i) - Litter collecting on the verge on the corner of Bowers Court Drive and Pound Lane has been raised with Basildon Council and a litter pick appears to have been undertaken.
- Item 35/14 (ii) - A request has been made to Mr Lambert , the local farmer, to cut the shrubs which are overhanging the path on the perimeter of Little Chalvedon Hall Farm beside the chicane in Pound Lane.
- The condition of the underpass in Old Church Road has been raised with Councillor Bobbin, as previously reported, and Councillor Foster has raised the same issue at the Basildon Council Highways Panel.
- Item 35/14 (iv) the height extension to the perimeter fencing of No 2 Pound Lane was being looked at by Basildon Council Enforcement Officers.
- Various Parish Council projects had been submitted to the EALC's (Essex Association of Local Council) Awards for consideration at their AGM on 18th September.

54/14 Finance: To report on the Parish Council finances since the last meeting on 30th July 2014.

The following report was submitted:

Balance at Bank as of 30 th July 2014	£55,376.57
Balance at Bank as of 22 nd August 2014	£54,521.42
Payments	£1,607.65
Credits (Including Fete income)	£ 752.50

Payments		
Clerks Wages (Net)	100190	£553.65
Fete Expenses	100191	£213.00
EALC Training	100192	£45.00
Magician (Fete expenses)	100197	£160.00
Alexander's Chairs (Fete expenses)	100200	£176.00
Sutherland Pipes & Drums (Fete expenses)	100202	£250.00
	100203	<u>£210.00</u>
		£1607.65
Credits		
Fete stall receipts		£50.00
Fete stall receipts		£37.50
Fete cash		£600.00
Fete donations		<u>£65.00</u>
		£752.00

(ii) An interim balance sheet was presented in respect of the Fete account for information (Appendix A). Not all invoices had been received for expenditure, and as yet the overall account was incomplete. Due to the fact that the Parish Council's gazebo was destroyed by the wind the WW1 display had to be taken down and would be displayed again at a later date. However, there was a display by Basildon Heritage on the same subject which was enjoyed by visitors. It was estimated that, when all information was available, a small profit of £500 overall would be made on the day.

54/14 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: 14/00973/FULL – single storey rear extension to form a new function suite (Revised application) – The Gun Public House, London Road, Pitsea, Essex.

This application was a resubmission of a previous application which the Parish Council had not raised any objection to when submitted. The position was still the same and the Parish Council could see no reason to object on this occasion in view of the fact that a strip of land alongside the dual carriageway may be identified as building land in the future Local Plan.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – APPLICATION NO: 14/00999/FULL - Existing dwelling is to be replaced by a two storey, chalet styled property - 17 Westlake Avenue Bowers Gifford Basildon SS13 2JJ

Although there was a need to consider the mix of designs of properties within the Parish when looking at planning applications, the design of this property was similar to others in the street and fitted in well with properties on either side of it which had

also been extended. The only concern was the windows on the flank walls which overlooked adjacent properties and therefore the neighbours on either side might lodge an objection to the plan in regard to this element. As it stood the Parish Council had no objection to the application.

- 55/14 Planning decisions and comments:** To receive updates and comments on decisions in respect of planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

None received

- 56/14 Village Fete:** To report back on Village Fete held on 17th August 2014 and to receive an update on income and expenditure for the event.

The Parish Council recorded their thanks to all who had contributed to the Fete on the day and before the event.

Councillor Griffin was also thanked in her absence for the work she undertook as Fete lead and a special vote of thanks was expressed to Shellagh Pegg for her work in securing many of the raffle prizes for the event.

There were still some packets of seeds left over from those purchased from B & Q who had sold them on behalf of the Royal British Legion and who had donated £1.00 from the sale of each packet to the RBL as part of the commemoration of WW1. It was suggested that some of these should be given to the Parish in Bloom prize winners. This suggestion was **AGREED** by all Councillors present.

Due to the inclement weather the numbers of visitors to the Fete were down from previous years but it still turned out to be a very pleasant day with many residents coming out, despite the weather, to enjoy the activities. Councillor Smillie asked for a breakdown of the income and expenditure from each stall to see which the most successful activities were for future events. The Parish Clerk provided him with this information. The most popular activities, from surveys and information collected, appeared to be the Sutherland Pipes & Drum, the Tea Marquee, where the ladies dressed up in the era of the 1940's. The Basildon Heritage stand, the Raffle, Coconut Shy, Water & Wine game, Bouncy Castle and Football game. Although all other stalls were also enjoyed by visitors.

- 57/14 Westlake Park:** To receive an update on the progress of works in Westlake Park and inform on final completion dates of the project.

Stage two was nearly complete. The National Grid had been contacted for permission to undertake excavation works to drill down into the ground to install the gates and at first there had been a delay in gaining permission due to the location of the installation. The Parish Clerk having supplied more accurate information and maps was now waiting for permission to proceed.

The cracks in the footpath inside the path were due to settlement and had been brought to the attention of the contractor who would carry out repairs when he returned to tarmac the access road. The cracks were due to settlement and were the

result of the type of subsoil in the area.

During the work to tarmac the access road there will be a need to limit access to the Park for a short period. However, residents will be able to access the Park during this period via the Benbow Club. This fact had been notified to all residents via the Parish Council newsletter which had been distributed to all households at the beginning of August. Signs would also be displayed in the noticeboards and the gates.

58/14 Date of next meeting: To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m. and the next meeting was confirmed at 24th September at the Benbow Club commencing at 7.30 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Parish Council Fete - Interim Expenses Summary				
Balance sheet as of 26th August 2014				
Income		Expenditure		
Cash in hand	£1,213.42	Sutherland Pipes & Band	£250.00	
Raffle money returned (used as part of float)	£100.00	St Johns Ambulance	£50.00	
Over in bags	£1.00	Draw tickets	£68.75	
Dog show donation	£15.00	Face Painting	£100.00	
Ice Cream donation	£50.00	Magician	£160.00	
Programme Sponsor	£250.00	Marquee hire	£300.00	
BBC Grant	£1,000.00	Bouncy Castles	£210.00	
Stalls x 11 (Paying)	£137.50	Sound System	£197.99	
Petty cash excess	<u>£18.00</u>			£1,336.74
	£2,784.92	Poppy Seeds B&Q	£40.00	
		Generator	£20.00	
		Gazebo x1	£17.99	
		Golf	£6.00	
		Football	£40.00	
		Baker Ross - Kiddies Corner plus stalls	£51.26	
		Footballs	£40.00	
		Golf	£3.00	
		Makro Sundries	£39.54	
		Petrol	£7.00	
		Coconuts	£25.00	
		Overpayment Raffle	<u>£7.50</u>	£297.29
		Water & Wine	39.00	
		Guess the weight of the Cake	24.57	
			63.57	£63.57
		Petty Cash £300 *	£300.00	£300.00
	£1,997.60			£1,997.60
	£787.32			
Printing Estimate	<u>£350.00</u>			
Estimated Profit	£437.32			
NB Printing costs in dispute Estimate £350.00		*£100 returned to Raffle & £200 cash provided by Parish Clerk		