

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB, BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 12th DECEMBER 2018 AT 6.30 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: R. Smillie: T.Potter: S. Pegg: B. Foster: D.Martin

Ward Councillor: Councillor Craig Rimmer

Parish Council Clerk/RFO: Mrs Christine Barlow

Members of the Public: 19

79/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: All Councillors were present.

80/18 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 received

81/18 PUBLIC FORUM: Residents have the opportunity to raise issues and ask questions of the Parish Council (The time allowed for this item is a maximum of 15 minutes)

John Spooner, a resident of Una Road who opens up his garden each year for Charity, thanked residents and the Parish Council for their support in regard to his recent Christmas Lights Open Garden Event which was very well attended over two evenings and raised over £600 for Charity. He advised the garden would also be open to the public again during the Summer.

Councillor Rimmer advised that a resident in Clarendon Road had reported the street sign missing and this was in the process of being dealt with.

The Clerk also advised Councillor Rimmer that there was a broken directional street sign on the verge at the junction of Burnt Mills Road and Pound Lane that had been knocked down and damaged as a result of an accident and a street sign on the corner of Highlands Road needed to be replaced.

Councillor Pegg advised there were also a number of street lights not working at the North Benfleet end of Pound Lane.

A resident reported the street light outside 40 Pound Lane at the junction of Alpha Road/ Pound Lane was not working.

The Parish Clerk asked residents to provide a column number when reporting

any street lights as Essex County Council needed this information and without this number identification of the faulty light was difficult as the location only was not sufficient.

The street light on the corner of Burnt Mills Road/Pound Lane, which had previously been reported as not working, remained unlit despite a supply being connected to a secondary lighted sign in the same location.

Councillor Rimmer reported that Basildon Council is launching a feasibility study regarding building a new swimming pool in the Borough and they were looking at various locations including Pitsea and Laindon. The previous administration had already agreed for Billericay to have a new swimming pool and this work would still go ahead. Some discussion had also taken place to upgrade the football facilities at Barlylands to include female changing rooms.

Councillor Smillie asked if it was possible to get Westlake Park upgraded and provide some changing rooms. Councillor Rimmer noted the request.

Councillor Smillie also asked if there was any funding available to upgrade cycle paths. Councillor Rimmer advised that a Task Force was looking at areas of poor air quality especially near the A127 and Basildon Council had been given some funding as part of the Early Measures Scheme for more electric charging points and more money for cycle paths. Councillor Rimmer advised he would provide the Parish Council with the briefing Paper on the proposals.

A brief discussion was held regarding the merits of improving the use of the cycle way from Pound Lane to St Margaret's School for all users i.e, cyclist, pedestrians and vehicles alike.

82/18 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2018:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th November 2018 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed as such by Councillor Robert Smillie, Chair.

83/18 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT: The Parish Clerk to report on matters and events since the last meeting 28th November 2018.

The Parish Clerk provided a brief update on business since the previous meeting on 28th November 2018.

Following a discussion with Basildon Council's Parks Supervisor, the Clerk recorded a note of thanks to Basildon Council for replacing the junior swing in Westlake Park, which had suffered metal fatigue, at no cost to the Parish Council who would normally, under these circumstances, have to fund replacing the equipment in the junior play area.

The Bowers Bugle Extra had been distributed at short notice to provide

residents with an update on the Parish Council’s Neighbourhood Plan and Basildon Council Local Plan (Regulation 19) Consultations. The Clerk thanked all who had volunteered to deliver the leaflets at such short notice.

The Clerk informed that the vandalised audio equipment in the Sound Bench in Westlake Park was due to be replaced the following day. The recordings will be updated in due course also in consultation with Basildon Heritage who undertook to do the first covers and the bench would be re-varnished in the Spring.

84/18 FINANCE REPORT: The Responsible Finance Officer to report on the Parish Council’s current financial position.

Christine Barlow , Responsible Finance Officer, provided a summary of the Parish Councils finances

Essex County Council Community Initiative Fund (CIF) Grant had been received and an external grant to cover some of the Parish Council’s consultancy costs had also been received. Some recent expenditure had incurred VAT and this would, in due course, be recovered via HMRC.

	£
Balance at bank as at 31 st October 2018	14,946.13
Balance at bank as at 28 th November 2018	34,771.22
Income:	22,970.00
Expenditure:	3,144.91
Breakdown:	
Expenditure	
(437) Parish-in-Bloom Expenses	30.00
(439) O’Neill Homer – Consultant Fee Inc. VAT	1,704.00
(440) Clerks Net Salary (Oct) + Tel/BB/Office Use.	726.52
(441) Came & Company Insurance Renewal	<u>684.39</u>
	3144.91
Income:	
Orbit Homes - consultant fee payment.	6,375.00
CIF Grant payment - CCTV	16,495.00
HP Cash Back Refund – Ink Toner	<u>100.00</u>
	<u>22,970.00</u>

Councillor Pegg enquired how long the CCTV had been up and running and the RFO advised that the installation was completed at the end of October and the equipment had been running since then with no issues to date.

85/18 PLANNING: Councillors to review and comment on Planning Application/s under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

No planning applications for comment had been received since the last meeting on 28th November 2018.

Councillor Rimmer advised that residents could attend Planning Committee Meetings and have the opportunity, by prior arrangement, to speak for 3 minutes on any of the planning applications on the relevant meeting agenda.

86/18 PLANNING DECISIONS AND COMMENTS: To receive updates and comments on decisions in respect of planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

- Proposed 2 bedroom detached dwelling house(renewal of planning permission 15/01414/FULL) Land Adjoining 249 Pound Lane Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex - Granted
- Planning Application 18/01095/FULL: Front brick piers/wall enclosure with railings above (overall height 1.2 metres) incorporating an electric rolling gate for vehicle access and a gate for pedestrian entry 10 Alpha Close – Granted
- Planning Application: 18/01204/FULL: Demolition of barn and construction of building to create 4 dwellings (2 x 4 bed and 2 x 3 bed), including lowering of land, with associated cycle and car parking, bin storage, private garden areas and landscaping Claremont, Burnt Mills Road, North Benfleet Basildon, Essex SS12 9JX - Granted

Councillors questioned the decision to grant the application and challenged the decision by Officers to grant planning and the fact that the policies, which were pre-determined, relating to Green Belt had not been applied in this case. The Parish Council considered that the decision to grant permission was flawed and the principle of granting the application was unlawful. The Clerk confirmed she would circulate the decision transcript to Councillors which could also be found on Basildon Council's Planning website.

87/18 BASILDON COUNCIL PUBLICATION LOCAL PLAN (REGULATION 19) CONSULTATION: To receive Councillor comments in regarding to the consultation.

Councillor Foster informed that although the Parish Council supported Basildon Council's Revised Local Plan in respect of SD3 to build within the Parish it was intended to challenge the content of Basildon Council's Local Plan (Regulation 19) in four key areas. These being:

a) Traveller Site H4 within the Plotlands which on information provided by the

owner should not have been included as a Traveller site.

b) The decision to make Bradfeilds Farm totally as an industrial area instead of a mixed use site with some land allocated for new homes which would protect the Grade II listed building on the site.

c) The Parish Council do not think the link road suggested by Essex County Council from Pound Lane to Tyfeilds is necessary and in the passing of time feel it would be used to connect the Parish with Pitsea.

d) The timescales for placing three Traveller Show People Sites on Bradfeilds Farm could not be met and the fact that Basildon Council will not be able to meet their target in this location.

After the Parish Council meeting a Drop-In Session would be held designed to help residents understand Basildon Council's Regulation 16 Consultation and provide support to complete the Local Plan Response Booklet or for residents to join with the Parish Council's in a collective response if they agreed with the Parish Council's comments.

88/18 BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:
To response to the Revised Publication Plan and the next steps for progressing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Following Basildon Council's decision within their Local Plan to give the Parish Council the opportunity to decide where 1350 homes should be built within the Parish, the next step will be to progress Phase Two of the Neighbourhood Plan in order to create a level playing field of land available to develop. The Parish Council will carry-out a "Call for Sites" consultation of its own and ask as many land interests possible to send details of land availability to the Parish Council .

For those residents living in the plotlands a letter had been delivered with the Bowers Bugle leaflet asking landowners to put forward any land they wished to be considered as part of the programme. Letters would also be sent out by Basildon Council Planning Officers to individual land interests, living outside the plotlands, who had put forward their land as part of Basildon Council's own "Call for Sites" process and asking these landowners to contact the Parish Council directly for the same purpose. The Parish Council were unable to do this directly because of recent changes to Data Protection Laws. The closing date for this part of the consultation was 14th January 2019.

After the closing date the sites will collectively be assessed with the help of My Locality, a government funded organisation which helps formulate Neighbourhood Plans, and in consultation with the Parish Council's Consultant, Neil Homer and Parish Steering Group. During mid-May all the documentation will be drawn together and policies written to support the Neighbourhood Plan and prepare it for examination.

Councillor Smillie expressed the Parish Council's thanks to Councillor Bernard

Foster, Councillor Sheelagh Pegg and Christine Barlow, the Parish Council Clerk, for the huge amount of work and time spent in formulating the Parish Council's Response to the Local Plan.

89/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To confirm date of the next Parish Council meeting as 30th January 2018

The date was confirmed as 30th January 2019 at The Benbow Club, 77 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford at 7.30 p.m.

To be Approved