



**BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT:

Councillors:	B. Foster: C. Morris: S. Pegg: T. Potter
Parish Council Clerk/RFO:	Mrs Christine Barlow
Ward Councillor/s:	None
Public attendance:	12

114/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Robert Smillie: Councillor Craig Rimmer (Pitsea South-East Ward Councillor): Councillor Gary Canham (Pitsea South- East Ward Councillor): Essex County Councillor Luke Mackenzie and Essex County Councillor Aidan McGurran.

115/21 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.

None received

116/21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th January 2022 and Chairman to sign.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th January 2022 were **AGREED** as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by Councillor Bernard Foster, Chair.

117/21 PUBLIC FORUM: To enable residents to raise issues of concern with Parish Councillors (The time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

A resident asked how many additional new planters will the Parish Council be purchasing for the verge on the London Road as cars were still parking on the verge despite the four concrete planters and a wooden planter being installed to prevent this. The Parish Clerk advised, with the assistance of Essex County Councillor Luke Mackenzie four more planters had been funded but a delivery date had not been confirmed. The cost of the planters was funded from a Community Budget provided to each Essex County Councillor for their respective area.

A resident enquired if any action had been taken regarding a complaint she had reported to the Parish Clerk regarding large number of vehicles parking on yellow lines either side of the road outside her property on the Friday before

the meeting causing an obstruction. The resident having checked with the DVLA had noted that some of the vehicles had no MOT. The resident believe the vehicles belonged to users of the Benbow Club. The Parish Clerk had responded to the complaint and advised that her investigations had resulted in her being reliably informed there were very few people in the Benbow Club on the night in question and she suggested that the problem may have been as a result of parking from elsewhere. It was suggested that if in future this happened again the resident should contact the police with her concerns.

Speeding was still on-going in Pound Lane and motorbikes were racing up and down the Lane late at night. In addition the advised a family member had her Ford car stolen off her drive and urged resident to be vigil to the fact.

Councillor Sheelagh Pegg asked if the zebra crossing in Pound Lane would be moved as a result of Planning Permission being given by Basildon Council to demolish a single property at 93 Pound Lane and erect two chalet properties on the same site. Councillor Pegg was advised that, even after representation from the Parish Councillors, Basildon Council Planning Committee considered that there was no need to relocate the crossing.

A resident of Burnt Mills Road again raised issues (i) regarding the lack of action by the Environment Agency in respect of presumed contamination on a verge in Burnt Mills Road and tyres had now been dumped in the same location. (ii) a street- light opposite Arizona had not been replaced (iv) on the corner of Pound Lane & Burnt Mills Road the road had eroded and was dangerous (iii) a 7.5 sign was obscured at either end of Burnt Mills Road by overhanging vegetation. The Parish Council advised she had reported the items on ECC website and to the Environment Agency.

A change of format regarding the Public Forum would be trialled at the next Parish council meeting in March.

118/21 WARD/COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE: Time is set aside for Borough/County Councillors to address the meeting.

There were no Ward or Essex County Councillors present due to attending other meetings.

Councillor Aidan McGurran however had sent an update by email regarding certain issues and the Parish Clerk read extracts from this email to the meeting. Councillor McGurran advised he had stated his objections to Essex County Council Tax increases. Application for various issues in Pound referred to in the previous minutes had received cross party support but warned that Essex Highways move slowly. He concurred with resident's comments on the appalling state of the roads and pavement some of which had been waiting for two years or more and he considered this to be unacceptable. He has met on several occasions with the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways Councillor Lee Scott and another is scheduled. The Cabinet Member seemed to have accepted that the present system of reporting issues - and particularly of establishing priorities for urgent repairs - hasn't been working properly and is intending to devolve more responsibility to Councillors to flag up the situations that are most urgent. It was recognised that significantly more funding

is needed from Central Government to actually rectify every single issue around pavements and potholes.

119/21 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT: The Parish Clerk to report to Councillors on business undertaken since the last meeting and any other relevant matters.

The Parish Clerk gave an update on items raised at the previous meeting.

On the matter of the contaminated verge in Burnt Mills Road the Parish Clerk has spoken to the EA Officer on the telephone and had asked for an update by email but as yet had not received this response.

Item 104/21(ii) Overgrown land – Cornwall Road: On the matter of the overgrown land in Cornwall Road the Parish Council's Handyperson had been deployed and with the help from the residents the shrubs had been pruned and the pruned material removed for recycling using wheelie bins provided by residents. The Parish Clerk had arranged to meet with the owner/agents of the flats in Pound Lane to discuss the issues of dumping behind the flats.

Item 104/21(iv) Pavement repairs - A written request has been completed in reference to the matter of the pavements in the Parish and councillor Mcgurran had reported this should be presented to the ECC Local Highways Panel in March.

Item 104/21(v) Streetlight opposite Arizona, Burnt Mills Road- Discussed in the Public Forum

Item 104/21(vii) Overhanging branch at entrance to Westlake Park- Basildon Council Arboriculturist had been contacted and was intending to visit the Park to inspect the tree for any issues.

Item 104/21 (vi) Loud noise: The Parish Clerk had not received any update on this matter. The resident who had raised the issue previously advised that the noise was now believed to be coming from the FEDex premises. The Parish Clerk advised she would contact Basildon Council's Environmental Officer again for an update.

Defibrillators: these were due to be installed on 24th February 2022 at (i) the Benbow Club (ii) Pound Lane Mission

New Play Equipment: Basildon Council had set aside £35k to be spent on new play equipment in Westlake Park. A consultation had taken place and the responses from the young people who returned their comments identified that the most popular items were (i) a zip wire (ii) climbing equipment and (iii) a junior trampoline in play area. The Parish Clerk met with Basildon Council officers on 9th February to discuss the purchasing of the equipment and the location in the park for the larger pieces.

120/21 FINANCE REPORT: To receive a summary of the Parish Council's current financial position and any other related financial matters.

(i) To receive an update of the Parish Council's current financial position.

The Responsible Finance Officer provided a summary account and explained the details of the content to all present.

	£
Balance at Bank 22 nd January 2022	20,587.13
Balance at Bank 23 rd February 2022	25,819.97
Expenditure:	5,891.12
Income:	11,123.96
Expenditure:	
(633) O'Neill Homer NP Consultancy Fee	4,560.00
(634) Entertainer Picnic-in-the-Park	300.00
(637) Handyperson Net Pay (Jan)	224.00
(638) Clerks Net Salary (Jan) Plus BB/Tel/ Office Use	765.50
(639) Clerks Expenses – Ink Toner	41.62
Income:	
(11.2.22) ECC Locality Fund – Planters	6,123.96
(22.2.22) Basildon Council NP Funding	5,000.00

The accounts identified a funding payment from Basildon Council to support the Neighbourhood Plan some 18 months previously had now been received. It also identified the funding for the additional four planters

(ii) To discuss and agree to amend the Bank Mandate to include internal transfer payments alongside cheque payment.

Due to the increasing numbers of companies and organisations insisting on a bank transfer when making a payment for goods received the Responsible Finance Officer requested that the Council set-up a bank transfer facility alongside the current cheque payment system and amend the Parish Council's Financial Regulations accordingly. Proposed: Councillor Foster, Seconded: Councillor Morris. The changes were **AGREED** by all present.

(iii) To reconfirm Councillor Morris as an additional signatory.

Due to the pandemic restrictions the required paperwork for Councillor Morris to be added as a signatory in respect of the Parish Council's bank account had not taken place. Councillors were asked to reconfirm Councillor Morris as an additional signatory. Proposed: Councillor Foster: Seconded: Councillor Potter. Action **AGREED** by all present.

(iv) To confirm the internal auditor for the financial accounts for 2021/2022

Hellis & Hellis were confirmed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditors for the Council's 2021-2022 Accounts.

Proposed: Councillor Pegg, Seconded: Councillor Morris. Action **AGREED**.

- 121/21 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** To confirm the date of the Parish Council Elections for 2022.

Parish Council Elections would take place on Thursday 5th May 2022. The Parish Council had the ability to elect seven Councillors but as yet no documentation or information had been released by Basildon Council in respect of the elections.

- 122/21 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: 22/00152/FULL

Single storey rear extension - Everest Cornwall Road Bowers Gifford Basildon

Councillors raised no objection to the planning application.

- 123/21 PLANNING UPDATES AND COMMENTS:** To receive a summary of updates on planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

No decisions had been published.

- 124/12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** To update on the current position of the BGNB Neighbourhood Plan and information regarding Basildon Borough Council's Local Plan.

At Basildon Borough Council's Full Council meeting on 10th February 2022 the Council resolved to withdraw the Emerging Local Plan (2014-2034). The reason for the withdrawal was in part based on the current administrations belief for the need to protect greenbelt for current and future generations in favour of using brownfield sites. It was unclear on how the Government Inspector would view this decision although in his letter to the Borough Council this was one of the options he had suggested.

Opposition Councillors objected to the decision and asked for a report to be prepared by the Monitoring Officer summarising the reasons for the decision and to presented to Councillors at the Borough Council meeting scheduled for 3rd March 2022. As a result of withdrawing the Local Plan it was considered that that the most likely outcome for Basildon Council would be to review its current Local Plan before resubmitting it to the Government Inspector for examination. It was suggested they would again carryout a six-week Regulation 19 consultation on their proposals. The Parish Council do not currently know what impact the decision will have on its Neighbourhood Plan, but it is now looking to seek further funding to carry out a feasibility study for a Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) in specific areas of the Parish e.g. the plotlands. The NDO goes one stage further than a Neighbourhood Plan by granting automatic outline planning permission subject to approval by Basildon Council Planning on certain conditions set for building in the Parish. To do this however the Parish Council must have the support of Basildon Council planners in the decision making process. It was intended to further consult with residents


regarding any outcome of the exercise. More information would be reported at future meetings.

125/12 THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM EVENT 2022: To **AGREE** a budget for the Queen’s Platinum Event and other matters relating to the event.

The date of the Jubilee event is Sunday 5th June. The Responsible Finance Officer suggested an expenditure budget be set at £2,000 and asked for this to be ratified. Proposed: Councillor Pegg, Seconded: Councillor Potter. The proposed amount of £2,000 was **AGREED**. A resident asked where a form could be obtained to make an application to close a road for the event and was advised that this information could be found on the Basildon Council website.

126/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting as 30th March 2022.

The date of next meeting was confirmed as 30th March 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Benbow Club, 77 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford.

Signed: ... 
Date: 30th March 2022

.....Councillor Bernard Foster, Chair