



**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB, BOWERS GIFFORD
WEDNESDAY 29th JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

R.Smillie: B.Foster: C.Morgan: T.Potter:
D.Packer: D. Martin

Parish Council Clerk/RFO:

Mrs Christine Barlow

Ward Councillors:

Councillor Craig Rimmer (Pitsea South East)

Members of the Public:

14

103/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: All Councillors were present

104/19 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.

Councillor T. Potter declared an interest in respect of Planning Application 20/00006/FULL: 67, Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, Essex SS13 2HX

105/19 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)

(i) A resident raised concerns that there was a lot of general litter at the end of Old Church Road. It was suggested that if any resident had a smart phone and could take a picture of the materials tipped photo evidence was always helpful when reporting incident of fly-tipping.

(ii) The Parish Clerk thanked residents for their assistance in delivering the Parish Newsletter just before Christmas.

(iii) Residents raised the issue of the general state of pavements and, in particular, Pound Lane. Councillor Rimmer commented that the problem was, as a whole, that the New Town due to age was falling apart at the same time and would need a capital injection of funding from Central Government as the solution for all New Towns to resolve the problem.

106/19 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th DECEMBER 2019: To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th December 2019 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed, to confirm, by Councillor R Smillie, Chair.

107/19 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT: The Parish Clerk to update on matters and events since the previous meeting.

(i) **Parking on the verge adjacent to Ilfracombe Avenue:** The Parish Clerk advised she had contacted the Police PCSO and requested a police presence at the school. The Officer had attended and is intending to organise an operation with the Traffic Officer to issue parking tickets to those who are parking indiscriminately and causing an obstruction. In addition, the Clerk had also spoken to a Highways Officer who considered that the installation of bollards on the verge would be a waste of time because they would be knocked down. Councillor Rimmer suggested that in view of the comments the alternative idea of large tyres filled with plants might be an alternative. The Clerk suggested that the residents of Ilfracombe Avenue might want to help with a project and suggested writing a letter to ask for their support. All present confirmed their **AGREEMENT** with this suggestion.

(ii) **Church Road underpass:** Despite persistently asking for repairs to be carried out the Clerk was unable to provide an update. From an email received from the Local Highways Panel Liaison Officer she was aware that a Structural Engineers Report had been prepared but had not been able to be made aware of the content. The Clerk suggested the damage caused to the underpass must have been covered by insurance and suggested she could send a letter to Essex Highways asking for information under the "Freedom of Information Act". Councillors confirmed their **AGREEMENT**.

(iii) **Community Speed Watch:** Community Speed Watch (CWS) training took place on 14th December with 14 volunteers. A rota would now be prepared to move forward with the project at the end of February or early March.

(iv) **Memorial Tree:** The new tree had been planted in Westlake Park and was currently protected with plastic fencing until established.

(v) **Parish Newsletter:** The winter edition of the Bowers Bugle (Parish Newsletter) had been delivered to residents just before Christmas.

(vi) **Path Alpha Road/Pound Lane:** The Clerk had undertaken a site meeting at the beginning of January with a contractor. The cost to repair the path was estimated to be around £3,000 but following the meeting discussions had been held with Essex Highways and as a result Highways had agreed to carry-out the work.

108/19 FINANCE REPORT: To report on the Parish Council's current financial position.

The Responsible finance Officer provided Councillors with the following summary of account:

	£
Balance at bank 11 th December 2019	16,355.63
Balance at Bank 22 nd January 2020	14,987.83

Income:**Expenditure:**

(509) Clerks Net Salary + Tel/ BB /Office Use	874.32
(510) Clerks Tax & Emprs. NI	470.22
(511) Tree – Westlake Park – Memorial + VAT	<u>93.26</u>
	1,437.80

Income:

HP Toner Printer Cartridges (Refund) - Promotional Credit	70.00
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Automatic Pension enrolment: The Pension Regulator had confirmed that the Parish Council, as required under the Pensions Act 2008, had completed a re-declaration of compliance in respect of re-enrolment of employees into a work placed pension scheme. Currently there was no obligation for the Parish Council to make any pension payments to members of staff i.e. Parish Clerk/RFO due to ineligibility.

109/19 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: 20/00075/FULL**

Conversion of chalet to bungalow, with gabled pitched roof, dormer extension, Juliet balcony and replacement porch – 281, Pound Lane , Bowers Gifford, SS13 2LN

Councillors having discussed the application considered that it should be refused on the following grounds:

- (i) the development would dominate neighbouring properties
- (ii) coupled with previous extensions this additional proposal would constitute to over development of the plot.
- (iii) the measurements were not considered to be an accurate reflection of the drawings as presented.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 20/00006/FULL

Erection of single-storey rear extension - 67 Highlands Road Bowers Gifford Basildon, Essex SS13 2HX

Councillors discussed the application and found no objections to the planning application as presented.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 19/01642/FULL

Proposed two mobile homes, toilet block and hardstand area. - Land Adjacent Windsor Lodge, Windsor Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon

Councillors considered that their reasons for objecting to the application were the same as for the previous application submission that was refused by Basildon Council. These were:

- (i) The site is inappropriate development in the Green Belt and would cause substantial harm to the openness of the area.
- (ii) The application is contrary to Green Belt policies in the NPPF and Basildon's saved policies and emerging Local Plan.
- (ii) There are no special circumstances to justify granting the application.
- (iii) The site is a subdivision of an existing plot.
- (iv) The ratio of measurement regarding the plot, is considered to be incorrect.
- (v) The application cannot be considered as infill in the plotlands.
- (vi) The application would have a detrimental effect on the emerging Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan.

110/19 PLANNING DECISIONS: To receive updates regarding Planning Applications discussed at previous meetings and other relevant applications:

Planning Application 19/01530/FULL : Proposed two storey side extension, first floor rear extension, extend dormers and replace roof on existing single storey rear extension - 86 Pound Lane Bowers Gifford Basildon SS13 2HW – **Granted**

Planning Application 19/01455/OUT: Outline application for the erection of 5 dwelling houses at Burwood Works and Winifred Cottage (access, layout and scale only). Burwood Works Windsor Road Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2LH - **Refused**

111/19 WEBSITE CHANGES: To discuss changing to the Parish Council domain name in view of the need to host a new website in 2020 and to update on the search to find a replacement for the Parish Council's website essex.info.

As mentioned at previous meetings the free website which the Parish Council currently use and is hosted by Essex County Council i.e. essex.info will no longer be closed on 30th March 2020. This website currently provides a free service to Parish Councils, small charities and organisations across Essex. The Parish Council have decided that it would prefer an alternative free website as opposed to paying a fee to avoid an unnecessary financial burden on the Parish precept. The Parish Clerk having researched several options has now come across a free website called **e-voice** run by the same company who hosted essex.info and is in the process of setting up the website and moving the information over from essex.info temporarily until tests can be done to make sure the website is workable.

Councillors remained undecided as to the domain name (i.e. the part of the address that identifies it as belonging to the Parish Council). Consideration was being given to either a gov.uk or org.uk domain name or keeping our current domain name and considered what description would be preferable to users of the site. It was **AGREED** that in order to move forward with a decision all suggestions for the domain name should be forwarded to the Parish Clerk for consideration.

112/19 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: To update on any progress.

Councillor Foster explained that the Parish Council had met with Christine Lyons, Basildon Council Head of Planning to discuss the way forward in order to identify areas of agreement and disagreement, between Basildon Borough Council and the Parish Council, in relation to the Local Plan and how the two organisations could work together to deliver both the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council were looking at alternative ways of being able to build a village hub to provide some of the infrastructure required at the start of development as opposed to half-way through or when the majority of homes had been built. The Parish Council must have the agreement of Basildon Council in order to progress this alternative and a statement of Common Ground needed to be agreed to resolve aspects of the Local Plan that the Parish Council did not agree with. Further meetings would be held with Basildon Council and interested parties in order to resolve area of disagreement and to also hold a series of drop-in consultation sessions with residents to inform and ask for their views on the new proposals by the Parish Council.

113/19 A127 SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION: To advise of Essex County Council proposals to reduce speeds on the A127 to improve Air Quality.

A memo from Essex County Council advised that proposals to introduce a new 50 mph speed limit on the A127 between the existing 40mph speed limit near the Fortune of War roundabout and approximately 470m east of the Pound Lane (westbound)/Cranfield Park Road (eastbound) came into force on both carriageways from Monday 27 January 2020. The work to install the speed cameras will be carried out overnight between the hours of 9pm and 5am, to minimise disruption to traffic during daylight hours and the work is planned to take approximately six weeks to complete. Temporary lane restrictions will be in place on this affected section of the A127 and approaching junctions for the safety of the workforce and the public with traffic reduced to one lane overnight.

Essex County Council had advised that roadside tests had shown that the stretch of road indicated exceeded national air quality safe limits for nitrogen dioxide. The study identified that vehicles' engines work more efficiently at about 50mph and lowering speeds from 70mph to 50mph can reduce harmful nitrogen oxide emissions from car exhausts by up to 20 per cent. By lowering the speed limit, it is expected that air quality on this stretch of the A127 can be brought to safe levels by 2021, as well as improving road safety and journey time reliability

114/19 PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS:

▪ **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ADDENDUM 2019**

Six local authorities in South Essex (including Basildon) were working together, with

Essex County Council, across local authority boundaries, on strategic issues to ensure the future of jobs, transport, schools and homes for residents. As part of the preparation for the **South Essex Plan** a six-week consultation was carried out to obtain residents views on how they would like to be consulted on the Essex Plan. The Parish Council as a statutory consultee felt they would automatically be informed of the progress of the Plan and would make no comment at this stage.

▪ **ESSEX COAST RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION STRATEGY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Parish Clerk notified that twelve Local Authorities across Essex were currently working to produce an Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). The initiative is to raise awareness of the birds that feed and breed on the Essex coast so that people who enjoy the coast can do so without disturbing the birds. A six-week public consultation commenced on 10th January 2020 and will close on 21st February 2020. Councillors had been informed of the consultation which could be found by logging on to Essex Coast RAMS SPD.

▪ **CASTLE POINT LOCAL PLAN PUBLIC REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION**

Castle Point Council were carrying out a six- week consultation before submitting their Local Plan for examination. The closing date for comments was 14th February 2020. The Parish Council had been invited to make comment and Councillors confirmed their intention to do so. In particular, they would raise concerns regarding proposed transport measures which would impact on Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

Details of the pre- submission policies and the Local Plan could be found on the Castle Point Parish Council website: www.castlepoint.gov.uk/local-plan-consultation.

115/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To confirm the date of the next meeting as 26th February 2020

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as 26th February 2020 at 7.30 p.m. in the Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford.

Signed:Councillor R. Smillie, Chair

Dated: 26th February 2020