

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 28th AUGUST 2013 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present:

Councillors: R.Smillie: B.Foster: N.Tyler
R. Griffin: B. Wall:

Officer: Christine Barlow – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: 8 members of the public

38/13 Apologies for absence - None

39/13 Declarations of member's interest – To receive any declarations of interest by members on any agenda items.

None received

40/13 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda, previously notified to the Clerk. (The maximum time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

(i) An email had been received from a resident asking if the Parish Council could restore the World War II Pill Box situated in the fields on the site of Jakamans' Farm adjacent to Ilfracombe Avenue and Pound Lane. Councillors discussed the benefits of taking such action but concluded that as the Pill Box was not in the ownership of the Parish Council and presumed it to be owned by the Ministry of Defence. The cost of renovation would be prohibitive and it was felt on this occasion that the Parish Council was unable accede to the request. The Clerk was asked to inform the resident of the decision.

(ii) A resident asked why the verges at the A127 end of Pound Lane had not been maintained and were overgrown and unsightly and brought the tone of the area down. The Parish Clerk explained that the area in question was cut only twice a year as per a set schedule by Basildon Council contractors on behalf of Essex County Council and despite pursuing the matter at length for an improved service had been unable to achieve this. The Parish Council was asked if it could undertake the work and claim the money back. The Council suggested that the more residents complained to Essex County Council and Basildon Council the schedule might beneficially be changed. The Parish Clerk would put the contact details for

complaints to Basildon Council on the Parish Council webpage.

(iii) The resident asked if anything could be done about the advertising hoardings and road work signs along the verges and lamp posts of Pound Lane. The meeting was advised that the private signs were a matter for trading standards and the road signs were thought to be contractors carrying out some remedial work in the area. County Councillor Keith Bobbin had agreed to make enquires on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of the advertising hoardings at a previous meeting and the Parish Clerk was asked to contact him for any update. She said she would also make enquires, on behalf of the Parish Council, regarding the road signs. The Council asked the Clerk to also make enquiries regarding the legal position in respect of the erection of signs and report back her findings at the next meeting.

(iv) A resident raised concerns regarding the persistent flooding in Pound Lane and Osborne Road and referred to the fact that Anglian Water turned off the pumping station nearby in event of heavy rain. It was suggested that in view of the proposed development planning application this flooding, if the application was approved, would increase and suggested that residents should make a complaint directly to Essex County Council and Anglian Water to record their concerns.

(v) The issue of overgrown shrubs at the corner of William Road /Pound Lane was raised and the responsibility of cutting this area. The Clerk informed the matter had been raised with Basildon Council in 2012 when there had been a dispute in respect of responsibility with the property owner and the local authority and the shrubs were pruned back on this occasion. The Clerk would again contact Basildon Council for their advice.

(vi) A vote of thanks was given to the Parish Clerk by a resident in Westlake Avenue for her assistance in getting overhanging trees from Westlake Park, which were encroaching into the resident's garden, pruned. Although the work had not yet been carried out once undertaken the Basildon Council officers had agreed to maintain and keep the trees and shrubs pruned.

41/13 Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 31ST July 2013 – To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2013 and the Chair to sign as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The content of the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting by all Councillors present and were duly signed as correct by Councillor Robert Smillie.

42/13 Policing Report – update by local Police Officers on policing within and around the Parish.

The Police were unable to attend the meeting but PCSO Emma Spurr had sent an apology and a breakdown of incidents for the period from 1st July to 22nd August. Three burglaries had occurred in the Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet area during this period, all relating to theft of property. In addition Caroline Sanderson, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the area, had advised by email that the Police & Crime Commissioner, Nick Alston, would be attending an open meeting at Pitsea Leisure Centre on 4th August to answer questions from the public. The Clerk advised that she had not received any feedback from the Commissioners visit to the Annual Parish Council meeting in May as yet in relation to the issues raised.

Caroline's email had further advised that Neighbourhood Watch were looking for volunteers to join the scheme and more information regarding how to join could be found on the Essex Police website.

43/13 Parish Clerks Report – Clerk to inform and feedback on business since the last meeting.

- (i) Councillor vacancy - Notice of Councillor vacancy had been put in the noticeboard and on the website.
- (ii) Bus shelters – Adrian Summons, Essex County Council Infrastructure Development Manager, had responded to the Parish Council's request to clean and repair the bus shelters in Pound Lane and London Road. He had advised that his contractor will carry out the work as soon as possible. He had also advised, by email, that consideration is being given to the installation of two more bus stops in Pound Lane (possibly Katherine Road and Grange Road) as requested by Councillor Wall.
- (iii) Definitive maps regarding changes to footpaths reported at the previous meeting were distributed to Councillors. The changes are the subject of a Definitive Map Modification No 529 (Byway Open to all traffic 90 Benfleet, Castle Point and 270 Bowers Gifford , Basildon Borough) Order 2012 and will be heard by the Planning Inspectorate on 7th January 2014 at the Essex Records Office, Chelmsford, CM26YT
- (iv) Little Chalvedon Hall Farm planning application meeting – no meeting date had as yet been set.
- (v) Letter from Essex Air Ambulance requesting a donation – The request was noted for future reference and decision.

43/1/13 Finance Report : 31st July – 28th August 2013

Balance as at 31 st July 2013	£19,706.47
Balance as at 28 th August 2013	£19,304.47
Payments from bank account:	£402.00

44/13 Councillors Report – Councillors to report on meetings they have attended since the last meeting.

Councillor Foster had not attended any meetings as both had been cancelled but Councillor Griffin had attended a meeting at Great Chalvedon Hall and Little Acorns School, Pitsea to inform residents regarding the proposals in the Little Chalvedon Hall Farm planning application and had obtained more signatures in support of the petition against the development. Members of the Residents Association had also leafleted in Pitsea market and spoken to the residents of Grevett Lodge in Pitsea. Councillor Griffin advised that the next Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Residents Association meeting would take place on Wednesday 11th September at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane.

45/13 Councillors to review and comment on Planning Application/s under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)**(i) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:
13/00814/FULL**

3 Osborne Road, Bowers Gifford, Pitsea Basildon SS13 2LG - Single storey front extension, two storey side extension and first floor rear extension and formation of pitched roof over existing front bay and pitched roof over main roof.

Concerns raised in relation to parking due to the size of the property. No other objections raised.

**(ii) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:
13/00791/FULL**

'Clissold', Lower Avenue, Bowers Gifford, Essex SS13 2JJ - Conversion of loft space to bedroom and en-suite, installation of velux windows to the side elevation.

No objections raised

**(iii) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:
13/00759/FULL**

10 Page Road, Bowers Gifford, North Benfleet, Essex SS13 2HP - Roof alterations, garage conversion and extension.

No objections raised

**(iv) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:
13/00844/FULL**

1 Lee Road, Bowers Gifford, Essex SS13 2HS - Single storey rear extension and rebuilding of garage

No objections were raised.

All Councillors were in **AGREEMENT** with the comments.

46/13 Westlake Park - to update on the progress of funding for the improvements to the park facilities.

The Parish Council's aim to upgrade Westlake Park for the benefit of all residents was progressing. Veolia North Thames Trust had agreed to grant the Parish Council £44K towards the park improvements and Basildon Council had agreed to grant £17K towards the internal and external roadway. A further grant request had been submitted to Essex County Council Community initiative Fund (CIF) for £20K to complete the project. It was anticipated that work would commence before the winter months and a condition of the grant was that the project must be completed by the end of March 2014. Residents living around the park will continue to be consulted and updates will be given at Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council will continue their dialogue with Basildon Council, as the park owners, during the process of the project.

Residents raised concerns regarding the large vehicles using the access road when making their deliveries to Wilton Pet Shop and damaging any new surface which was to be laid. The Parish Council would hold discussions with all interested parties in relation to this.

47/13 Parish Councillor vacancies - to update on the progress to co-opt to two vacant Councillor positions.

The Parish Council have not had any responses from electors in regard to the Councillor vacancies. A statutory notice, as required, had been put in the Council noticeboards and website informing electors of the fact and giving them the opportunity to call an election to fill the vacancy. The notice would be displayed from 23rd August to 6th September 2013. If during these date a request for an election is not received by Basildon Borough Council any elector that comes forward after the 6th September would be eligible to be co-opted onto the Parish Council until the next election in 2014.

48/13 **Date of next meeting** - Wednesday 25th September 2013 at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford commencing at 7.30 p.m.

To be approved