

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Christine Barlow (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: 9

75/15 Apologies for absence: Councillor George Guenigault and Councillor Matthew Phillips.

76/15 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 recieved

77/15 Public Forum: To enable residents to raise issues of concern with Parish Councillors (The time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

(i) A resident asked concerning the Bull Public House redevelopment and when the property was to be demolished to make way for the new properties. The meeting was advised that currently the Parish Council did not have any information and advised that the owners had up to five years to commence building on the site.

(ii)A resident asked when the bollards in Old Church Road were to be reinstalled. Councillor Foster advised that although the funding had been set aside to carry out the work the bollards which had been installed previously by Essex County Council had been installed unlawfully and as such it was currently identified as a road, traffic could not be prevented from using it. Essex County Council was now intending to the implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) before the bollards could be reinstalled. The Order would prevent Old Church Road from being used by vehicles of any description at the London Road end. Church Road adjacent to the underpass did not have the same restrictions and bollards were to be installed at this end in the future.

(iii) The issue around the layout of the road and the use of the Bus Lane at Sadlers Farm roundabout was again discussed together with concerns from residents and Councillors alike.

(iv) Residents raised once again the unkempt appearance of the verges by Exchange House, Pound Lane and the vehicles belonging to the owners of the property. Councillors advised that the matter had been addressed with little or no response for the authorities.

(v) Residents asked regarding a dilapidated property in Kelly Road and the well-being of the owner. The meeting was informed that the Council was unable to provide any current information, but were aware , that despite several attempts to make positive enquires themselves, all matters were being dealt with by the various organisations involved.

(iv) **Sadlers Farm compound:** The meeting was advised that the Balfour Beatty Project Director/Project Manager had not responded to the Parish Clerk's enquires regarding the reasons for the laying down of compound and the work being carried out.

78/15 Policing: To update on policing matters affecting the Parish.

PCSO Emma Spurr was unable to attend the meeting due to her shift patterns.

79/15 Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2015 - Council to approve the accuracy and content of the minutes of the previous meeting and the Chair to sign.

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting and were signed, as such, by Councillor Robert Smillie, Chairman

80/15 Parish Clerk's Report: The Parish Clerk to report and update on Parish Council business.

Chris Barlow , the Parish Clerk, gave an update on responses to issues raised at the previous meeting and on other matters.

Item 62/15 iii: Issues around the sequence of the traffic lights at the junction of Pound Lane / London Road causing a danger to users had been raised as an article in the Basildon Echo and the concerns raised at the September meeting and previously, were commented on in the article by Councillor Foster.

Item 62/15 iv: The poor condition of the pavements in Alpha Road and Kelly Road had been reported to Essex Highways on two occasions.

Item 62/15 v: As no update had been obtained from Balfour Beatty regarding the compound at Sadlers Farm the Clerk advised she had made a visit to the site herself. However, she was unable to obtain any further information but was advised the Project Manager would contact her before the evenings Parish

Council meeting. To date no communication had been received on the matter.

Councillor Wall's plaque: This should be received over the next few days and was anticipated to install it on the bench as soon as possible.

Christmas Carol Production: Tickets would be on sale from 16th November at St Margaret's School and via the Parish Clerk. Tickets would be £3 for a single Adult and £5 per family and children would be free. Concessions of £1.50 would apply to pensioners.

Item 67/15: Comments regarding Planning Application discussed at previous meeting had been forwarded to the relevant Planning Officers.

Item 71/15: Storage: A quote had been obtained to hire a container 10 x 8 or 16 x 8 at an approximate cost of £517.40 per annum + Vat plus carriage cost of £140 + Vat each way to pick-up and collect. Councillors considered that they might purchase a container and **AGREED** to obtain more quotations before any decisions were made.

Item 72/15: The Parish Council's Twitter page had been set up and the log-in was bowers_bugle.

Further Update:

(i) The Autumn newsletter was being finalised and once the draft proof had been accepted it would be sent for printing.

(ii) The Parish Council Councillor vacancies continued to be advertised.

(ii) National Grid, on behalf of Essex Highways, had carried out repairs to the junction of Canvey Road/Pound Lane and the pavement on Pound Lane, adjacent to William Road. The need for these repairs had been reported to Essex Highways by the Clerk some months previously.

(iii) The Parish Council had been invited to attend a consultation with developers on proposals to submit a Planning Application to Basildon Council in order to extend and expand the Gifford House Care Home, the Parish Clerk and Councillor Foster had attended the event.

(iv) Incidences of flooding by riparian landowners were being investigated.

(v) **"Where water goes":** ECC invited the Parish Council to take part in the project to identify watercourses within the Parish. Volunteers were needed to take part and support the project.

(vi) The cost to the Council of the external audit charged by PKF Littlejohn, External Auditors, was queried by the Parish Clerk as she considered the

quote to be excessive. PKF LittleJohn advised that the tariff was set by central government and was correct based on the money held in the bank at the time of audit. (This money was due to grant funding set aside to cover incomplete project costs). There was nothing the Parish Council could do but to accept the cost incurred.

(v) A tonne of salt had been delivered as part of the Parish Council taking part in Essex County Council's Winter Salt Scheme. It would be available for anyone who was willing to spread the salt on roads during bad weather by contacting the Parish Clerk.

81/15 Finance Report: To advise on the Council's financial position.

Chris Barlow , The Responsible Finance Officer presented the monthly finance figures as follows:

	£
Balance at Bank 22 nd September 2015	5,043.86
Balance at Bank 22 nd October 2015	10,467.45
<u>Summary</u>	
Expenditure	1,055.98
Income	6,479.57
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Net Clerks Salary+ Office Allowance (September)	595.16
Training	47.00
Clerks Tax & NI	<u>413.79</u>
	<u>1,055.98</u>

The figures were accepted, by all present, as a true statement of the accurate account of the financial position of the Parish Council.

82/15 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: 15/01197/FULL

Extensions and alterations to enable the conversion of the single dwelling into two independent residential dwellings - Bonville Farm House Southend Arterial Road North Benfleet Essex

Councillors having considered the design of the proposed dwellings felt there were no special circumstances for granting this application and that it failed on several policies in the Basildon Local Plan, including Green Belt Policy and

those set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). They considered the proposed conversion would also impact on the visual amenity of the area and considered the application should be refused.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 15/01251/FULL

Rear extension to existing bungalow incorporating changes to the roof profile and dormers – Colarado, Burnt Mills Road, North Benfleet, Basildon Essex

Councillors considered they although they felt there may be an impairment of some visual amenity the application and all **AGREED** that the proposed extension was similar in design to adjacent properties and therefore Councillors felt they could raise no objections.

83/15 Planning decisions and comments: To receive updates on decisions in respect of planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

(i) PLANNING APPLICATION NO: 15/01131/FULL: I Bowers Court Drive, Bowers Gifford - Application refused

(ii) APPLICATION NO: 15/01145/FULL: 17 Westlake Avenue, Bowers Gifford - Application refused.

84/15 Community activities 2016: To discuss proposals for Parish Council community involvement activities for 2016.

Councillors discussed having another Picnic in the Park Event in 2016. Despite the weather the event in 2015 had proved popular amongst those who had attended.

It was **AGREED** by all present to hold a second Picnic in the Park event in 2016 and possibly call it “ The Battle of the Bands” and invite local bands and singers to take part and also invite back The Phil Ball Band who had headlined so successfully in this years’ event. Councillors considered that it would be beneficial to either hire or acquire a Marquee in case of bad weather. The date and time of the event were still to be discussed and updates would be given at future meetings.

Proposed: Councillor Nigel Tyler Seconded : Councillor Robert Smillie.

85/15 Youth Bus: To update on the Youth Bus pilot scheme to provide activities for the young people of the Parish in partnership with Essex County Council Youth Workers.

The Youth Bus had made two appearances in Westlake Park during October and some young people had come along on each occasion, a further visit during the day and in the school holidays was planned for the following day on 29th October. As a result, from the responses received, the Parish Council would run

the project on alternative Thursday evenings from 6 – 8 pm for the foreseeable future in partnership with Essex County Council Youth Workers. Initially there would be no cost to the Parish Council and funding was available to cover future costs. All Councillors were in **AGREEMENT** with the decision.

- 86/15 Basildon Borough Draft Statement of Community Involvement (Second Revision 2015):** To receive initial comments from Councillors on the draft consultation document published by Basildon Council.

The Parish Council had received notification requesting comments on the Draft Statement access to which could be found on the Basildon Council website. The closing date for comments was 12th November 2015. Councillors would consider their comments and these would be forwarded to Basildon Council.

- 87/15 Feedback on meetings attended:** Councillors to provide a brief update on meetings they have attended.

None attended during the month

- 88/15 Date of next meeting** - To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting as 25th November 2015.

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on 25th November and the December meeting would be held earlier on 9th December due to Christmas.