



**MINUTES OF BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY 2024.**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Sheelagh Pegg: (Chair) Colin Morris:
Sally McCornack: Susan Moore: Terry Potter:

Ward Councillor/s:

Councillor Christopher Hilleard (Pitsea South- East Ward)

Guests:

Rebecca Harris (MP for Castle Point)

Parish Council Clerk/RFO: Mrs Christine Barlow

Public attendance: 11

MINUTES

18/24 Apologies for absence: Parish Councillor Sue Edmondson:
Councillor Gillian Palmer (Pitsea South-East Ward Councillor): Councillor
Aidan McGurran (ECC Member for Pitsea)

19/24 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.

Councillor Pegg welcomed Councillor Christopher Hilleard and Ms Rebecca
Harris (MP) to the meeting.

Councillor Hilleard (Pitsea South-East Ward Councillor) introduced himself to
the meeting and confirmed that it was the first time of attending the meeting
since becoming a Councillor at the Borough Elections on 4th May 2024.

Ms Rebecca Harris also introduced herself having been re-elected as MP for
the Castle Point Constituency at Parliamentary Elections on 2nd July 2024.
(Due to Electoral Boundary Changes Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet were
now in the Castle Point Constituency)

- 20/24 Minutes of Parish Council meetings:** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2024 and Chair to sign.

Due to no meeting being held in June, the minutes of the Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 29th May 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record of the aforementioned meeting and were signed to confirm by Councillor Sheelagh Pegg, Chair.

Proposed: Councillor Colin Morris: Seconded: Councillor Sally McCornack:

- 21/24 Public Forum:** Residents have the opportunity to raise questions of a general nature not discussed during the meeting. (The time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

A resident asked who she should phone regarding the weeds growing along the curb edges. The meeting informed the resident that this was the responsibility of the Borough Council. However, it was noted that recently Basildon Council Operatives had started spraying the curb areas.

Residents raised the issue of overgrown hedges, weeds in pavements and the condition of highway verges.

Councillor Hilleard advised that Councillor Westwick was presenting a report to Council in September regarding the ID Verdi grass cutting contract and the fact the contractors were not currently fulfilling their contract.

In respect of the highway verges in the Parish the Parish Clerk advised that in a normal year these were cut twice a year although this did not appear to have been the case in the current year, and she would follow up on the complaint.

A resident reported that the pavement leading from Church Road to Blue House Farm along the main road was impassible and overgrowing the footpath and this included the pathway opposite the school which also needed pruning. The Clerk advised she would make the request for the locations to be pruned.

The same resident updated that the recycling area at the top of Ilfracombe Avenue had been cleared and the wheelie bin had been replaced and is now padlocked. It was also suggested that the bushes were cut back to expose any dumping. However, this was considered as non-productive as it would then expose the untidy area currently screened by the shrubs.

A resident asked if a license was required for the storage of tractors at the site of the old Garden Centre in Burnt Mills Road. Concerns were raised regarding the fact that a large guard dog was roaming loose in the compound and that there was a Children's Nursery nearby. The resident considered that if an inquisitive child put their hand through the gap around the gate to stroke the dog it might be bitten.

Action: The Chair advised she was unaware of the issue being raised and agreed to investigate.

A resident advised the Zebra Crossing lights were not working. The Clerk informed she had reported the issue herself to Essex County Council and confirmed there was a note on the Highways website that indicated inspectors were aware of the fault. UK Networks conduct all repairs on behalf of Essex County Council.

Action: Ms Harris agreed to take up the issue on behalf of the Parish Council and residents.

22/24 Ward/County Councillor update: Borough/County Councillors to address the meeting.

Having introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting neither had anything to add at the present time.

23/24 Parish Clerks Report:

(i) To update on business since the previous meeting on 29th May 2024

The Clerk informed that due to an unfortunate accident and she had been as active as she would normally have been: To date she advised that:

- The issue with the verges had been reported to the relevant manager for urgent action.
- The issue of Zebra Crossing Beacons not working have been raised again on the Essex County Council website and a further email would be sent directly to request urgent action.
- A fault with the Westlake Park CCTV coverage had been identified and a new SIM card was installed to rectify the issue. There were no reported incidents whilst the CCTV was inoperable.
- Residents had experienced nuisance issue with motor bikes in the fields around the park and CCTV images identified individuals of interest and these images had been passed on to the Police.
- The two Parish Defibrillators have been checked and information reported on the Circuit website to confirm the apparatus was working and operational.
- Pound Lane was due to be closed at the A127 slip road from 12th August for repairs to the Bridge on Pound Lane.
- During works by Cadent the neck of a sewer was broken in Clifton Road causing a blockage. Residents managed to clear the blockage and Cadent reinstated the sewer collar. They also gave assurances that any damage to the road as a result of recent works would be repaired.
- Cadent had advised further road incursions will take place in the latter part of the year as part of Gas pipe replacement works.

The Clerk, although unable to attend the D-Day Event on 6th June, hoped everyone who did attend enjoyed the evening and thanked everyone who had sent her photographs during the evening. Westside Studios in Upper Avenue at the request of the Parish Council had taken photographs of the event as a reminder of the Event and donated his services free of charge. The evening was a joint venture between the Parish Council and the Benbow Club.

(ii) **Fun Walk September 2024:** The Parish Council are intending to take part in the Annual Fun Walk Trusts sponsored Walk. In order to raise money to refurbish parts of the Junioe Play Area in Westlake Park. The distance is 5K and the walk will take place in Westlake Park itself. (Fourteen times around the Park equates to the 5K distance). A provisional date was suggested as 15th September, but further discussions would take place to confirm the date.

(iii) **Regulation 18 Castle Point Plan Issues and Options Consultation- 22nd July until 16thSeptember 2024:** The consultation was primarily regarding issues within Castle Point but there was no reason residents in Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet could not express their views. All information could be found on the Castle Point Council website. The closing date for comments is 16th September.

24/24 Finance Report:

(i) To receive a summary of the Parish Council's current financial position.

	£
Balance at Bank as of 22 nd May 2024	27,313.83
Balance at Bank as of 22nd July 2024	23,106.37
Expenditure:	4,272.46
Income	65.00
Expenditure:	
Triple L Training - D-D First Aid	102.00
Clerks Expenses – Plants for Planters	126.00
PDS Limited- Printing D-Day Flyer	175.00
GMO Staff Wages (May 2024)	224.00
Clerks Net Salary + Office/Tel/BB Allowance (May 2024)	897.25
Clerks Expenses – Gas D-Day Event	79.00
Heelis & Lodge – Internal Audit 2023/24	170.00
Clerks Expenses (OBO) - Deposit PIP Singer	200.00
Payment by Clerk (OBO) - GMO Staff Wages (June 2024)	224.00
Clerks Net Salary + Office/Tel/BB Allowance (June 2024)	897.45
Payment by Clerk (OBO) - D-D Singer	225.00
725: HMRC Staff Tax + EMRS NI	<u>952.76</u>
	4242.46

(ii) **To set a revised budget for Picnic-in-the-Park Event:**

A successful application had been made to Essex County Council's Community Fund and the sum of £1910.00 had been awarded out of a possible £2000 towards the Picnic-in-the-Park Event in September. This gave the Parish Council the opportunity to improve the event for 2024. Match funding

was also required but it was anticipated that this would be in the region of £1000 instead of the original budget of £1500.

25/24 Planning: To receive comments on Planning Applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended):

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:

24/00653/FULL: Raised roof form to provide first floor accommodation including replacement single storey front extension and single storey rear extension - 1 Lawrence Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, Essex.

The Parish Council, having discussed the new application submitted by the applicant, raised no objections providing the issues raised in the previous planning application (24/00228/FULL) were addressed.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:

24/00507/FULL: Use of site for three Travelling Show People plots, with associated access, supporting infrastructure and other associated works. - Land East of Burnt Mills Burnt Mills Road, North Benfleet, Basildon.

The Parish Council discussed the above planning application and concluded it should not be considered in isolation to the previously submitted Planning Application 24/00020/FULL (Land East Of Burnt Mills Road) submitted by the same applicant and is part of the same site.

The site was considered to be inappropriate development in the green belt

The reassessment of Essex County Council removing road mitigation together with the upgrade of the junction of A127 and Pound Lane, the access to the site from the A127 onto Pound Lane over the narrow Harrows Bridge is totally unsuitable for heavy construction traffic in building the site, the transportation of heavy equipment and large transporters used by the sites eventual occupants in order to accommodate the three Traveller Show People Plots

Consideration should be given to an alternative site which would be more appropriate. Bonville Farm off the A127/A130 was suggested as an alternative site. This location had good access onto the A127, utilities were already connected and it had space for the storage of equipment.

The effect on many of the historical and heritage building would potentially make the current suggested location unsuitable for the purpose intended.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:

24/00599/FULL: Change of use of land for the creation of 4 Gypsy/Traveller pitches comprising the siting of 1 Static Caravan and 1 Touring Caravan per pitch, and a singular dayroom - Land Rear of Sunnyside, Lower Avenue, Bowers Gifford, Basildon.

The above application was deferred for further discussion.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:

24/00294/OUT: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except access for the demolition of existing structures and hard standing and erection of 31 dwellings with associated landscaping, parking, drainage and associated infrastructure - Land Rear Of 311 Pound Lane Bowers Gifford Basildon.

Councillors discussed the above planning application and considered that at the current time it was inappropriate development in the green belt. The proposed access on Grange Road was also not feasible because of the width of the current road.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 24/00738/FULL: Single storey rear extension, single storey side extension, and new pitched roof to existing flat roofed side extension. - Mayfield , Osborne Road Bowers Gifford Basildon

Councillors raised no objections to the planning application

APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (BASILDON COUNCIL REFERENCE: 23/01460/FULL) LAND AT: Land South of Clissold, Lower Avenue, Bowers Gifford.
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Retrospective recreational use Class F2 (Outdoor sports and recreation) and associated buildings.

In principle the Parish Council did not object to the planning application in the first instance providing existing conditions were met. This meant that the use of the facilities , on the land as described, should be limited for use by family or extended members of the same family and not by members of the larger community.

26/24 Planning updates and comments: To receive updates and comments on planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

Planning Application Ref. No. 24/00494/FULL: Single storey rear extension - Mayfield Osborne Road Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2LG - Granted

Planning Application Ref. No. 24/00460/FULL: Removal of existing roof, first floor extension and construction of new roof including two front dormers - 38 Westlake Avenue Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2JJ - Granted

Planning Application Ref. No: 24/00334/FULL: Removal of all Buildings, compounds and engineered surfaces and construction of 2no. new bungalows – The Lees, Upper Avenue - Granted

Planning Application Ref. No. 24/00566/FULL: Remove existing roof and construct new roof system incorporating internal habitable space within enlarged roof space at first floor level within Summer House R/O Dora Cottage, Cornwall Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, Essex SS13 2JZ - Refused

Planning Application Ref. No. 24/00563/FULL : Detached double garage Winifred Cottage, Windsor Road ,Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2LH - Refused

Planning Application Ref. No. 24/00536/FULL : Conversion of existing bungalow to form chalet style dwelling with side dormer windows and Velux windows. (Amended Plans) 62 Pound Lane Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2HW – Granted

27/24 Neighbourhood Development Order update: To inform regarding any progress on the Parish Council’s Screening Direction in regard to the NDO.

At the beginning of 2024 a six- week consultation (pre-submission Regulation 21) was held to consult with residents and the wider community on the draft NDO proposals to improve the plotlands areas and provide new housing development and infrastructure. As part of their response Basildon Borough Council considered that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was required before the NDO could be made. This was in contradiction to technical support provided by AECOM supported by Locality, a national membership network supporting local community organisations in Neighbourhood Planning. In order to clarify the position, the Parish Council wrote to the Secretary of State to ask for a Screening Direction in respect of the Environmental Impact Assessment and a decision was still awaited with a deadline of 5th August 2024.

28/24 Parish Council Event: To update on progress for the Picnic-in-the Park Event on 8th September 2024.

The event had been advertised in all the usual places and several enquiries had been received from interested parties regarding attending the event and having a stall. The time of the event was from 12 noon to 4.00 p.m. It was agreed to deliver a flyer to residents as a precursor to the Summer edition of the Bowers Bugle newsletter, which would be delivered nearer to the date. Westlake Park has been booked for the Event and the formalities have been completed. The entertainment has been booked and Infinity Circus had agreed to attend again along with many other proposed activities.

29/24 Date of next meeting: To confirm the date of the next meeting as 28th August 2024.

Due to the availability of Parish Councillors for the August meeting, which would render the meeting inquorate, it was **AGREED** by all present to cancel this meeting.

Signed Chair, Councillor Sheelagh Pegg

Date: 4th September 2024