



**BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST 2022 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: B. Foster: C. Morris: S. Moore

Ward Councillor/s: Councillor Craig Rimmer

Parish Council Clerk/RFO: Mrs Christine Barlow

Public attendance: 5

45/22 Apologies for absence: Councillor Sheelagh Pegg.

46/22 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 had been received

47/22 Minutes of Parish Council meetings: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th July 2022 and Chair to sign.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th July 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed to confirm by Councillor Bernard Foster, Chair.

48/22 Ward/County Councillor update: Time is set aside for Borough/County Councillors to address the meeting.

Councillor Rimmer advised he had only just returned from holiday so had very little information to share but did advise of the following:

- (i) Iceland supermarket was moving into the Range Store in Pitsea Town Centre
- (ii) The concerns regarding Cineworld filing for bankruptcy only applied to the American end of the chain in the US. The situation did not apply to UK operations as they are a franchise and not affected. The launch of the Town Centre Cineworld is going ahead.
- (iii) There is no progress in respect of the Pitsea Bingo Hall.

(iv) The commencement date for the start for building the new Pitsea Pool has been delayed for a few months and is expected to start in the spring of 2023.

49/22 Parish Clerks Report: To provide Councillors with an update on business since the last meeting held on 27th July 2022.

An update was provided by the Parish Clerk on issues raised in the previous minutes together with other matters which had or were in the process of being dealt with:

- **Item 36/22:** No further update had been received from residents on the matter they raised at the previous meeting concerning acquiring the land behind their properties in Westlake Avenue.
- **Item 37/22:** As Councillor Luke Mackenzie was not present and on holiday no update was available in regard to the speed survey the Parish Council had requested or other related matters.
- **Item 37/22:** The Clerk met with Basildon Councils Grounds Maintenance Officer on 25th August regarding contractors' performance and requested the verge in North Benfleet be recut to improve its appearance. She also requested support to remove green waste when the Handyperson pruned areas of vegetation.
- **Item 37/22: The Parish - in- Bloom** had been cancelled for 2022 due to lack of interest.
- **Item 37/22: Public Right of Way 143:** A response regarding any action in respect of the blocked footpath was still to be received.
- **Item 37/22: Play Equipment Westlake Park:** – Due to changes to the equipment specification, in order to be compliant with procurement, Basildon Council have had to give all suppliers who had previously quoted, the opportunity to provide further quotations based on the changes, all of which are still to be received.
- **Item 37/22:** Having responded to the initial enquiry regarding the Parish Twinning with a small village of the similar size in France the Parish Clerk had contacted the various parties and discussed.
- **Item 43/22: Grass cutting:** The landowner of Jakamans Farm had been contacted. He had advised the Clerk his own equipment was broken, and he was waiting for parts and was waiting on other contractors to cut the field. The landowner had agreed, as a safety precaution due to the hot weather, to cut a strip near properties. The field had still not been cut, as promised and the landowner had again been contacted before the meeting and informed his equipment still not been repaired and third parties had not been able to cut. He advised her would cut as soon as possible and if unable to use his own equipment he would hire the equipment.

The Parish Council's meeting with Basildon Council Planning Enforcement was still pending due to unavailability during the holidays.

Potholes: ECC had marked the pothole at corner of Pound Lane /Burnt Mills Road for repair.

Handy Person: The Parish Council Handy Person was continuing to cover jobs not covered by any Council contract. These included: pruning, clearing areas at various locations, grass cutting and removal of overhanging branches, supporting the watering and maintenance of planters in the recent hot weather.

Fly-tipping: Fly -tipping in Courtauld Road on 25th August. A resident advised that a second pile had been dumped also a little further on. Basildon council has approximately 5 days to clear.

The meeting was reminded that the closing date for comments on Basildon Council's consultation on kerb side collections - Waste and Recycling collection services – was 5th September.

Attention was drawn to the consultation by Basildon Council on residents' views on how the Council spends its money ahead of the Borough's budget setting for 2023/2022

50/22 Finance Report:

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

The report was provided by the Responsible Finance Officer as follows:

	£
Balance at Bank 22 nd July 2022	105,228.31
Balance at Bank 30 th August 2022	98,753.66
Expenditure:	11,034.95
Income:	4,700.30
Expenditure:	
(694) ONeil Homer – Consultant Fee NDO (inc. VAT)	9600.00
(695) Elan Fire & Security (CCTV Call Out inc. VAT)	114.00
(697) St John Ambulance First Aid Cover inc.VAT	144.00
(699) Handy Person Net Wages (July)	224.00
(700) Clerks Net Salary +Tel/BB/Office	774.20
(701) Clerks Expenses Toner Cartridges	178.75
(686) Heelis & Lodge Internal Audit	<u>140.00</u>
	11,175.95
Income:	
Cycles (Donation for Grounds Maintenance)	500.00
HMRC VAT Claim 2021/2022	3,999.96
Platinum Jubilee Event 5 th June (Excess Income)	<u>200.34</u>
	4,700.30

The Report was accepted as presented and there were no matters arising.

(ii) To confirm the submission of documentation to apply for a grant to the Essex Association of Local Councils/ Essex County Council Community Initiative Fund to enable the continuance of the Parish Council Handyman Service for the next 18 months

AGREEMENT confirmed to apply for more funding in the sum of £3900 to retain the services of the Handy Person for a further year. Essex County Councillor Luke Mackenzie also supported the application.

(iii) To update on the process of changing the Parish Council Mandate to include direct payments regarding invoices received.

As required the Parish Council signatories were in the process of contacting Barclays Bank to set-up the digital process for making transfer bank payments. This will provide the Parish Council the ability to retain the current cheque payments system and make also make payments by bank transfer which was the preferred choice by most businesses.

51/22 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: 22/01206/FULL

Conversion of existing bungalow to form Chalet style dwelling with side dormers – 62 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2HR

Councillors having discussed the application raised no objections to the applicant wishing to convert the property from a bungalow to a chalet but did raise concerns regarding the quality of the design and felt the design of the extension did not add amenity value in terms of quality and character and felt more consideration should be given regarding this aspect of the Planning Application.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 22/01143/FULL

Residential Development of 32 Dwellings with Associated Access, Public Open Space, Parking and Private Amenity Area – Land North of Bowers Close, London Road, Pitsea

It was felt the second phase of development on The Bull site will have significant impact, in certain aspects, on the Parish. However, as long as the development is constrained to the area portrayed in the planning application (REF: 22/01143/FULL) and the failures of Phase One which included (i) measures to reduce and **not** to add to water flooding on to B1464 (b) ensuring the problem is not escalated to include the properties along Eversley Road as the site also provides a direct line through to Ilfracombe Avenue and represents encroachment into the countryside. (c) the playing field is not used as a resource making the sports playing areas unusable consideration should be given to the application.

The strategic gap between Bowers Gifford & Pitsea must be preserved. Any increase to the size of the site either by width or depth would trigger all

the problems associated with coalescence with Bowers Gifford. More work needs to be done to protect wildlife and the level of affordable housing proposed is totally inadequate.

- 52/22 Planning updates and comments:** To receive updates and comments on planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

Planning Application 22/00971/FULL : The Gables Clarence Road Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2JW Ground floor extension, the raising the existing roof, and construction of two pitched roof rear dormers - Refused

Planning Application 22/00919/FULL: Grasmere Elm Road Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2LY - Two Storey Rear Extension, and outbuilding re-design - Refused

Planning Application 22/00852/FULL:104 Pound Lane Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2HW - Front dormers as part of loft conversion – Granted.

Planning Application 21/00065/VAR: Belvedere, Windsor Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, Essex SS13 2LH - Variation of Conditions 2/3 of appeal reference App/v1505/A/11/2147489 of Refused consent 10/00739/FULL from a personal condition to use by general gypsy/traveller – Refused .

- 53/22 LGA Model Member Code of Conduct:** To consider the benefits of adopting a National Model Code of Conduct which is the same for all councils at county, borough and local level.

Councillors having read the National Model Code of Conduct **AGREED** to adopt the Code in its current form. This would also be in line with the Borough Council's decision to adopt the Code.

- 54/22 Neighbourhood Development Orders Project update:** To update on progress in regard to the Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDO) Project Feasibility Study commissioned by the Parish Council in respect of North Benfleet and Bowers Gifford.

The Parish Council met with its consultants Oniell Homer and members of the Steering Group to discuss progress and are now waiting for two further reports in respect of the Feasibility Study. It was intended to deliver two Neighbourhood Development Orders, one to cover the settlements of Bowers Gifford and the other to cover the plotland areas and North Benfleet, in order to help deliver the ambitions of the vision for the Parish but at this stage it is important to consider both areas together as they share elements that will contribute to deliver the Parish Councils' long-term vision and regenerate the plotland areas. The Parish Council will continue to talk and listen with developers who may have an interest in developing areas in the Parish.

- 55/22 Working together to deliver local services:** Parish Council representatives to consider taking part in a working group with representatives from Local Councils, Clerks and Borough Council Officers to discuss working in partnership with the Borough Council in the delivery of services at a local level.

No decision was taken regarding taking part in the working group.

56/22 Public Forum: Public participation session to provide residents with 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 why Fun Days were being held in certain areas fully paid for by Basildon Council, which were similar to the events put on in Bowers Gifford and for which there is limited funding. Councillor Rimmer advised he was unable to comment on any specific area but overall a project called Safe & Sound was being run on Basildon Council estates across the district and these activities were paid for from the Council’s Housing Revenue Account. Within this specific account the Council has the ability to borrow money to improve some of the run down Estates in the Borough which were owned by the Council and reinvesting in their assets. However, it was considered that this was not a reason to disregard the needs of Parish to carryout repairs to the roads and footpaths. The matter of pathways and potholes had been raised with Essex County Councillor Cabinet Member for Highways Councillor Kevin Bentley on more than one occasion.

57/22 Date of Next meeting: To confirm the date of the next Parish Council Meeting as 28th September 2022 at The Benbow Club, 77 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford, commencing at 7.30 p.m. (The public and press are welcome to attend)

The date of the meeting was confirmed as 28th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Benbow Club, 77 Pound Lane.

Signed.....Councillor Bernard Foster, Chair

Date: 26th October 2022