



**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 27th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT:

- Councillors:** B. Foster: C. Morris: S. Pegg: T.Potter:
- Parish Council Clerk/RFO:** Mrs Christine Barlow
- Ward Councillor/s:** Councillor Craig Rimmer (Pitsea South-East Ward Councillor)
- Public attendance:** 15

75/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Robert Smillie (on holiday) Essex County Councillor Aiden McGurran: Councillor Luke Mackenzie (Pitsea South East Ward and Essex County Council Councillor)

76/21 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.

Non received

77/21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th September 2021 and Chairman to sign.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 29th September were **AGREED**, by all present, as an accurate record of the meeting and Councillor Bernard Foster, Chair, signed to confirm.

78/21 PUBLIC FORUM: To enable residents to raise issues of concern with Parish Councillors (The time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

The meeting followed on from a meeting with Metro at which the Developers representatives gave a comprehensive presentation in respect of a proposed Planning Application regarding the Land East of Ilfracombe Avenue and gave residents, who had attended, the opportunity to ask questions. Councillor Foster invited residents to raise any question in the Public Forum and following on from the meeting a resident asked if the field ran behind Kelly Road, down to Westlake Park (if the application was granted this strip would contain part of the Care Home) which had not been cut by the farmer and the resident wondered if the

farm was considering disposing of it for development and this was the reason it had not been cut. The site was believed to be part of Jackman's Farm. Councillors present stated that they were unaware of any intention for development and were therefore unable to respond positively to the question from the resident.

(i) A resident asked for clarification on the wording of a report he had read in connection with the Land East of Ilfracombe Avenue and asked what was meant by the state type and constraint type which related to Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet within the report. Councillor Foster and Councillor Pegg both responded and informed that the wording meant that Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Neighbourhood area was approved by Basildon Borough Council and the Neighbourhood Plan area was within the Green Belt which is part of the saved policies within the existing Local Plan and currently under review.

(ii) A resident raised an issue regarding the rubbish and pallets left alongside a fence in Canvey Road and adjacent to the Convenience store. The resident asked for a letter of complaint to be sent to the shop owner asking for the items to be removed. **Action:** The Parish Clerk to contact the shop owner and ask for the removal of the items.

(iii) The same resident also raised the issue of items left against the wall of Wilton's Pet Shop. The Parish Clerk informed she had spoken to the shop keeper earlier in the day in connection with these items and advised that arrangements had been made for the collection of the items and they would be removed the following day.

(iv) The same resident raised the issue of the dangerous condition of the footpath leading to Westlake Park. She considered that the lorries that delivered to the shop had caused the problem. The meeting was informed that this footpath to Westlake Park was the responsibility of Basildon Council. **Action:** The Clerk advised she would raise the matter with Basildon Council and ask for a Risk Assessment to be carried out.

(v) The same resident praised the Parish Council for the work undertaken by the Parish Clerk Handyperson in Westlake Park which had resulted in the prune the shrubs and a general tidy up of the Park.

She commented that he had done a very good job and complimented the Parish Council and member of staff. However, the resident raised the issue of the green waste which remained and which may cause a danger to wildlife. The Parish Clerk advised that she had made arrangements for first amount and subsequent amounts of green waste to be collected prior to going on holiday on 8th October but on her return, she had found this had not taken place. On contacting the Basildon Council Pride Team Supervisor, she had been informed that there were insufficient resources to undertake the removal of the green waste at the time promised. It was then agreed to meet and discuss how this could be resolved. Councillor Foster, Councillor Rimmer and the Parish Clerk met with the Officer earlier in the day and arrangements had been made for the collection of the waste material. Councillor Rimmer was thanked for his support during this meeting and for his part in reaching a satisfactory conclusion to the issue.

(vi) A resident once again raised the overhanging bushes alongside the footpath leading from Kelly Road to London Road and also the overhanging hedge alongside the path opposite the school near the crossing which was resulting in the footpath width being reduced due to overgrown vegetation. The Parish Clerk advised both issues had been raised at the meeting earlier in the day and photographs sent to the Officer regarding the overgrown hedge from Kelly Road to London Road and she would do the same for the area opposite the school. However, as a point of information it was the landowner's responsibility to cut their hedges and not Basildon Council.

Councillor Rimmer explained that part of the problem with large amount of vegetation growth had been very wet summer period especially in August and this had intensified the problem and increased the growth of all vegetation not just affecting the Parish but also Borough wide. Each Ward Councillor was raising the same issue and the Countryside teams were being stretched to cope with the volume of work. In order to resolve the issue an additional Pride Team had been recruited to ease the situation and there were now seven Pride Teams to assist with this work.

(viii) A resident asked for more visual signs to be erected on the A127 in a bid to reduce the access to large vehicles using Pound Lane as a cut through. The residents request was noted for further investigation.

79/21 WARD/COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE: Time is set aside for Borough/County Councillors to address the meeting.

Councillor Rimmer advised that Basildon Council had introduced a Park Warden Service which was now operating around the Borough via a Security Team called "All In Black". The team was made up of ex-forces and ex-police personnel and bouncers, with the purpose of patrolling the Parks to prevent anti-social behaviour and bullying. They wore body cameras to film any incidents and were also on the lookout for any drug dealing. He had noticed that Westlake Park was not on the list of Parks to be controlled and would make sure it was included.

The Pitsea Bingo Hall was still a matter of concern and although a court hearing had been arranged for the owners to attend the hearing was again postponed because the judge hearing the case was ill on the day. Basildon Council is still endeavouring to progress the court hearing and once a new date is set it is hoped that the judge will be sympathetic to the proposals of Basildon Council for the use of the building.

A motion had been put forward by Pitsea Ward Councillors to prevent boy racers using the area underneath the flyover to meet. Councillor MacKenzie had put forward a motion, which was carried at Borough Council level, to eliminate such behaviour and the motion is now part of the Public Space Protection Order specifically for this area of Pitsea. Basildon Council was also looking at this type of anti-social behaviour in other areas in the Borough and the Police will look to prioritise incidents and take appropriate action in dealing with them.

Councillor Rimmer informed that work to build Pitsea Swimming Pool, which will be located at the Eversley Centre, is progressing and an architect has been engaged. Once the Planning Application has been passed by Basildon Council Planning Committee it is expected the work will start in March 2022 and the Pool should be open sometime towards the end of Summer 2022.

80/21 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT: The Parish Clerk to advise Councillors on business undertaken since the last meeting and any other relevant matters.

Item 64/21: Footpath Elm Road to Burnt Mills: The Parish Clerk has contacted Essex County Council Public Rights of Way Officer and requested he once again look to review the blocking of the footpath. Updated pictures of the location are in the process of being sent to the Officer once again at his request. A resident also advised that the footpath which goes further to Acacia Avenue and Upper Avenue was also blocked where horses were being corralled.

Item: 64/21: Pictures have provided to Basildon Council showing the overhanging shrubs onto the footpath from Kelly Road to the traffic lights at London Road:

A resident advised the Parish Clerk that her daughter had set up a Facebook "Just Giving Page" to raise money for the Defibrillator Project and to date the amount of money raised was £1377.

The Fun Walk, which had taken place on 4th September, had raised to date £1220. This included a £400 sponsorship from the widow of Chris Wilkes who tragically died during the Picnic-in-the Park event on 15th August.

A resident also said she had been given a cheque for £500 towards the Defibrillator Fund from a local businessman and would pass this on to the Parish Clerk.

The next step is to place an order for the Defibrillators, but arrangements still needed to be made to install the equipment and it was the intention of the Parish Clerk to discuss the installation and placing of the equipment at their premises with The Benbow Club and Pound Lane Mission personnel.

The Clerk thanked Councillor Morris for his help in delivering the leaflets for the meeting with the Care Home Developers to enable residents of Ilfracombe Avenue and interested parties to attend the presentation which had taken place prior to the Parish Council meeting.

81/21 FINANCE REPORT: To receive a summary of the Parish Council's current financial position and any other related financial matters.

The Responsible Finance Officer had provided a summary account as detailed

below:	£
Balance at Bank as of 22 nd September 2021	14,383.60
Balance at Bank as of 22 nd October 2021	22,753.96

Expenditure:	2,011.05
Income:	10,381.41

Expenditure:

(611) HMRC Staff Tax & Emprs. NI.	454.55
(612) Handyperson Net Pay (20 hours per month) + Expenses	221.95
(613) Clerks Net Salary (Sept) Plus BB/Tel/ Office Use	765.55
(614) Savage Architectural – Container repair	120.00
(615) Entertainer – Picnic-in-the-Park	250.00
(616) Survey Monkey – Play Consultation	99.00
(617) Parish-in-Bloom Vouchers	100.00

Income:

Second Half-Year Precept	8913.71
Picnic-in-the-Park Revenue	47.70
Fun Walk Sponsorship (Defibrillator)	1170.00
Picnic-in-the-Park Resident Donation	<u>250.00</u>
	10,381.41

The Parish Clerk provided Councillors with a balance sheet showing the income and expenditure for the current year to date together with a copy of the Bank Ledger. Over the period indicted there was Income of £22,493.96 and expenditure of 19,332.00. It was noted that a copy of the Audited accounts are included on the Parish Council website on an annual basis for public scrutiny.

Parish Council Insurance: A renewal notice had been received from the Parish Council Insurer Broker in the sum of £928.59 + £50 admin fee = £978.59. The Premium had substantially increased from the previous year i.e. £722.03 + £50 admin fee = £772.03. Despite the fact that Insurance premiums had escalated over the previous twelve months the Responsible Finance Officer was in the process of obtaining comparative quotations from other like for like Brokers. It was noted that Came & Company, the Parish Council's current Insurance Brokers had rebranded to Gallagher.

82/21 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: 21/01477/OUT

Outline planning application for a new 70 bed care home, 42 assisted living units and 13 retirement bungalows/villas (all Use Class C2), together with vehicular access onto Ilfracombe Avenue, a new school parking area for parents and pupils of St. Margaret's C of E Primary School, new nature area, landscaping and communal facilities including a Day Care Centre and cinema room. All matters reserved except for access. - Land East of Ilfracombe Avenue, Bowers Gifford, Basildon.

Councillors to review the comments made by residents at the meeting held prior to Parish Council meeting and collectively discuss and send their response, in due course, to Basildon Council Planning Department.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 21/01466/FULL

Installation of an awning to the west and south elevation of commercial building – Burwood Works, Windsor Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, SS13 2LH

The Parish Council considered that the awning would improve the site and give the ability to remove the cars from the front of the property which would improve the view of the site from the road. However, the whole property was in Green Belt and it would be difficult to prove that there were special circumstance which would warrant the grant of application. The Parish Council raised no objections but in their response they would request that a condition be placed if the application was granted, that the awning remain open and unconstrained by any other structure.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 21/01534/FULL

Demolish existing bungalow and erect 2No. 4 bed detached chalets with garages - 93 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, SS13 2HN

Councillors considered the planning application and made the following comments:

- (ii) Placing two detached 4-bed chalet style properties on the site would constitute to overdevelopment in relation to the overall size of the plot.
- (ii) The design of the properties is poor and by reducing the height of each detached property the narrow design, in order to cram them into the site, is overbearing and does not make the design aesthetically pleasing to the area.
- (iii) The entrances to both properties would be located on a main road adjacent to a zebra crossing and to access the occupants would need to reverse in and exit out onto the area of the crossing. This would cause an obstruction and be a safety issue for all users of the road and zebra crossing.

Councillors felt the application should be refused and would submit their comments to Planning Officers. It was noted that in making the aforementioned Planning Application the appellants had also lodged an appeal against the original planning decision by Basildon Council to refuse their Planning Application No: 21/00070/FULL.

83/21 PLANNING UPDATES AND COMMENTS: To receive updates and comments on planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

PLANNING APPLICATION NO: 21/01344/FULL: Proposed front porch with gable and lean roof over, single storey rear extension with flat roof and three skylights, and changes to external finish of dwelling from brick/grey render to

cream render. St Brelades, London Road, Bowers Gifford, , Essex SS13 2HE - **Granted**

PLANNING APPLICATION NO: 21/01232/FULL: Single-storey rear extension and front catslide dormer - 54 Highlands Road Bowers Gifford Basildon Essex SS13 2HX - **Granted**

NOTIFICATION RECEIVED OF APPEALS TO BE HEARD BY PLANNING INSPECTORATE (DECISION PENDING):

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – APPEAL APPLICATION NO: 21/00363/PIP

Written application against the refusal of planning permission by Basildon Council in regard to Planning Application for: 4no. three-bedroom chalets with the provision of off-street parking - Land West of Windsor Lodge, Windsor Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon SS13 2LH

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – APPEAL APPLICATION NO: 21/00070/FULL:

Written application against the refusal of planning permission by Basildon Council in regard to Planning Application to: Demolish existing bungalow and erect 2No. four-bedroom detached houses with garages - 93 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford, Basildon SS13 2HN

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – APPEAL APPLICATION NO: 18/01429/FUL APPEAL REFERENCE(S): APP/V1505/W/19/3223400

Appeal hearing, 2nd November 2021, against the refusal of planning permission by Basildon Council in regard to Planning Application to: Material change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation with associated development (hard standing and day room) - part retrospective - Land East of White House, Carlton Road, Bowers Gifford, Basildon, SS13 2LT

84/21 CHURCH ROAD SUBWAY- WORKS UPDATE: To update on proposals for Essex County Council to start remedial works.

The Parish Clerk advised that the Church Road Pedestrian subway would be closed from 1st to 8th November for Essex County Council to undertake interim repair work. The notice would be included on the Parish Council website, Facebook page and Parish Council noticeboards.

85/21 BOWERS GIFFORD & NORTH BENFLEET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:
To update meeting on any progress.

Councillor Foster informed that the Basildon Council has offered the Parish Council interim funding of £5,000 from money set aside by the Borough Council to support Neighbourhood Plans (currently three) within the Borough. The Parish Council continue to talk with Developers when approaches are made. It is noticeable , due to Basildon Council not having a five-year land supply and the

uncertainty of when the Local Plan is heard, that many developers are choosing to submit applications prior to the Local Plan Examination.

86/21 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH: To provide details on progress.

Councillor Potter informed that the Parish Council was still looking for volunteers. An article for volunteers will be included in the next issue of the Parish Council newsletter. The Parish Clerk added that she had been informed by the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator that training for volunteers was still available.

87/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as 24th November 2021 at The Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bower Gifford, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Signed Councillor Bernard Foster, Chair

Date: 24th November 2021