

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB BOWERS GIFFORD  
ON WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2014 AT 7.30 PM.**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** B Foster (Chair)  
R. Griffin: N.Tyler: G. Guenigault

**In attendance:** Christine Barlow (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** 7

**33/14 Apologies for absence:** Councillor Robert Smillie (On holiday)  
Apologies also received from PCSO Emma Spurr & Essex County councillor  
Councillor Keith Bobbin

**34/14 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

**35/14 Public Forum:** (The maximum time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

(i) It was commented that a grassy bank on the corner of Bowers Court Drive and  
Pound Lane had been pruned but that the litter which had accumulated  
underneath the foliage had not been removed and that the pruning work carried  
out was below acceptable standards. **Action:** The Parish Clerk was asked to look  
into the matter.

(ii) Trees and shrubs around the perimeter of land at Little Chalvedon Hall Farm,  
now owned by Nottinghamshire County Council and managed by Meridian  
Strategic Land were overhanging the footpath in Pound Lane by the chicane.  
**Action:** The Parish Clerk was asked to contact the farmer responsible for the  
periodic pruning, on behalf of the developers.

(iii) A resident reported that the underpass at Church Road was overgrown with  
brambles and again had been targeted by fly tippers. It was considered that the  
problem was that there were no barriers to prevent vehicles driving into the  
underpass from Church Road end. **Action:** The Parish Clerk was asked to raise  
this issue again with Essex County Councillor Keith Bobbin.

(iv) A resident asked if planning permission had been given for the erection of the external fence at No 2 Pound Lane, which appeared to be over 2.5 meters high. **Action:** Councillor Foster said he would contact Planning Officers and investigate.

(v) The shrubs on the perimeter of private land at the junction of Pound Lane and London Road were overhanging the footpath and also the post box in Pound Lane. **Action:** The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Basildon Council to discuss possible action to resolve this ongoing problem.

**36/14 Minutes:** To agree the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate account of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

**37/14 Policing:** Local Police Officers to attend and inform of policing activities for Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

PCSO Spurr was unable to attend due to the fact it was her rest day. She advised, by email, that no drug problems had been detected in the area but that there had been an increase in burglaries.

**38/14 Parish Clerk's Report:** To update on relevant business and correspondence received since the last Parish Council meeting.

**Previous minutes:**

**Item 19/14:** Chicane & Vehicle Activation Sign – Waiting for an update from Councillor Bobbin.

**Item 29/14:** Flyer produced to advertise Fete and Parish in Bloom.

(i) A £1000 grant had been successfully applied for and obtained from Basildon Council towards Fete expenses, subject to including activities commemorating World War One 1914 - 1918

(ii) **Parish in Bloom:** 13 entries had been received across all categories. Judging is to take place commencing week 3<sup>rd</sup> August in consultation with the Councillor Mo Larkin and Councillor Bernie Foster who would be the judges. Entrants will be notified of date and time.

(iii) **Streetlife:** The Parish Clerk advised she had spoken to Basildon Council's Communication Department, as informed by Streetlife that they were a subscriber to the site, but had been informed they had not signed up to the site but would be discussing the feasibility of the site and will update her when any

decision to subscribe had been made.

- (iv) **Fete programme:** St Andrews Healthcare had agreed to sponsor the cost of printing estimated to be £250.
- (v) **Summer newsletter:** Councillor Guenigault had offered to help the Parish Clerk to produce the newsletter.

**39/14 Finance:** To accept a quarterly report from the Parish Clerk on the Parish Council's finances for the period April – June and a balance of account since the last meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

- (i) The Parish Clerk provided a balance sheet of income and expenditure for the three month period from April to June for information ( Attached Appendix A)
- (ii) The Parish Clerk provided an account of payments and expenditure since the previous meeting in June.

Balance at Bank as of 25 June 2014	£55,584.89
Balance at Bank as of 30 July 2014	£55,376.57
Payments	£1334.42
Credits	£1126.10

<b>Payments</b>		
D. Newman ( Contractors)	100182	£175.00
EALC - Councillor Training	100185	£67.00
EALC - Councillor Training	100186	£67.00
EALC – Councillor Training	100187	£67.00
Clerks Salary ( Net)	100188	£553.45
HMRC ( Clerks Tax)	100189	£404.97
		<u>£1334.42</u>
<b>Credits</b>		
Basildon Council – Fete Grant		£1000.00
HMRC		£126.10
		<u>£1126.10</u>

All the information was accepted as presented without comment.

**40/14 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: 14/00802/FULL – 1 Alpha Close , Bowers Gifford , SS13 2HZ**

Two storey side and rear extensions, first floor side extension, and alterations to roof, including front and rear dormers.

Councillors had visited the site and considered the plans but felt there was no reason to object to the application. However, they did comment that the extensions would completely cover the area and the alterations to the roof would make the property, when finished, taller than any of the neighbouring properties. They also considered that the new windows overlooked neighbouring properties.

**Action:** The Parish Clerk was asked to pass the Parish Council's comments onto Basildon Council's Planning Officers.

**41/14 Planning decisions and comments:** To receive updates and comments on decisions in respect of planning applications discussed at previous meetings.

None received.

**42/14 Councillor vacancies:** To update members on the position regarding Councillor vacancies

The Parish Clerk advised that due to the fact that Councillor Wall had been due to take Office when he died, his vacancy had to be advertised for 14 days, from 2<sup>nd</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> July, to give electors the opportunity to call an election, as laid down by the Local Government Act 1972. No such request had been received by Basildon Council's Monitoring Officer under due process and it was now possible to advertise to fill this and the other vacant Councillor post not filled at the time of the May elections.

**Action:** The Parish Clerk would advertise the vacancies in the noticeboard, the Parish website, newsletter and the Village Fete programme.

**43/14 Village Fete:** To receive an update regarding arrangements for the Village Fete on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Councillor Griffin, as lead organiser, gave a brief update on the current arrangements for the Village Fete.

- A number of stalls had been booked by individuals, organisations and charities.
- Basildon Heritage had agreed to bring their display showing local information of the involvement of residents from the area during World War One (1914 – 1918)
- There would be a Dog Show, Classic Cars, Arena Events including the Sutherland Pipes and Drums Band and the emergency services would be attending, subject to availability.
- To date 25 raffle prizes had been pledged, with many local businesses offering their support in the form of a raffle prize.
- Three competitions - Handicraft, Rose and Flowers Arranging - were to be held.
- Part of the event would include a commemoration to World War One 1914 – 1918 and the theme of the event would be 1914 – 1960 and visitors would be encouraged to dress in the costume of the era.
- The Fete Programme would carry a lucky number prize.
- The Parish Council were still looking into borrowing or hiring marquees or

gazebos for the day.

**44/14 Westlake Park:** To receive an update on the progress of works in Westlake Park

Groundwork had been completed for the installation of the Outdoor Gym equipment and this would be installed week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> August along with three new seats and bins. The work to resurface the Car Park and access road leading to the park would not now be undertaken until after the school holidays to reduce any inconvenience to park users during this period. The installation of the new gates would coincide with this work.

**Action:** The Parish Clerk to coordinate this work in discussion with Councillors.

**45/14 Feedback on meetings attended by Councillors:** To briefly update Members on meetings attended by Councillors.

Councillor Griffin had attended a Rawreth Flood Risk Action meeting and advised that the flood gates, which had previously remained closed had been opened, following pressure from the Action Group and during recent heavy rain at Battlesbridge, as a result of the gates being opened flooding in Pound Lane appeared to have been lighter than in recent months and this may have had an impact on this action. It was considered that any flooding in Rawreth and Battlesbridge also had an impact on the Parish.

**Highways Panel:** Councillor Foster, who represented the Association of Local Council's at Basildon Council Highway Panel meetings advised that Essex County Council had reduced their budget for Highways repairs for 1914/15. He also advised he had raised issues in respect of (a) The Church Road underpass (b) London Road traffic lights sequencing (c) The condition of the chicane in Pound Lane. (At this point a resident raised concerns regarding the turning off of night lights, causing the area to be in darkness and a possible accident black spot and the fact the metal directional signs at the chicane restricted the view from oncoming traffic). Councillor Foster advised sound barriers had been introduced in Vange, along the A130 at a cost of £88K and the point had been raised that the Sadlers Farm project could benefit from the same. He reported that consideration was being given to a 20 m.p.h speed limit around schools in certain parts of the Borough.

**Standards Committee:** Councillor Foster had also attended a Standards Committee meeting during July and advised that one outstanding complaint had been discussed and resolved.

**46/14 Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting as 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 27<sup>th</sup> August at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane commencing at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.