

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present:

Councillors: B.Foster: B. Wall: N.Tyler: R.Griffin

Officer: Christine Barlow – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: 9 members of the public

79/13 APOLOGIES: Councillor Robert Smillie (Chairman) Due to work commitments.

In the absence of Councillor Smillie, the Parish Council Chair, Councillor Bernard Foster, as Vice- Chair, took on the role of Chair for the meeting.

80/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To receive any declarations of interest to any agenda items in accordance with Part 2, Paragraph 9 of the Members 'Code of Conduct.

None were received.

81/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda, previously notified to the Clerk. (The maximum time allowed for this item is 15 minutes)

(i) Concerns were again raised regarding the overgrown shrubs alongside the pavement at the junction of William Road/Pound Lane. The Parish Clerk advised that she, having previously received confirmation that Basildon Council would take on the responsibility of pruning the shrubs and that contractors would undertake the work. In view of the fact residents had advised the work had still not been undertaken she would contact Basildon Council again for a definitive response to timescale.

(ii) There were now at least five large potholes in Burnt Mills Road. These were located (i) one on the left hand side of the road going towards Courtauld Road just past the small industrial units. (ii) two large ones near the day nursery (iii) a large pothole adjacent to Bradfield's Farm entrance and (iv) also opposite Bradfield's Farm. Also a large pothole had appeared outside No 20 Westlake Avenue. Residents again raised the issue regarding heavy vehicles using Burnt

Mills Road and the fact this type of traffic was unsuitable for a country lane. It was remarked that there was, however, a weight restriction sign of 7.5 ton at the Courtauld Road end of Burnt Mills Road but this had been turned round to face the wrong way. A request was made again for additional slow down signs to be placed near to the nursery school as a matter of safety. The poor condition of the roads around the new waste recycling construction site was also raised. Residents were advised to report any potholes issues on Essex County Council's designated page on their website.

(iii) The remains of a lamp column still had not been removed from outside No 18 Westlake Avenue despite a new lamp column being installed.

(iv) Courtauld Road – The road was in poor condition around the construction site of new waste recycling depot.

(v) The “beep” sound was not working on the traffic light crossing from Pound Lane onto the B1464 London Road.

The Parish Clerk was asked to report all items of concern raised during the public participation session to the appropriate department and authority.

82/13 MINUTES:

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2013 and the Chair to sign as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October were agreed as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by Councillor Foster.

It was noted that there was one amendment to the minutes.

Agenda Item 66/33 (iii) “The subway in Old Church Road was full of water“ should read “ The access leading to the subway in Old Church Road was flooded ”. The minute was amended accordingly and initialled by Councillor Foster.

83/13 POLICING:

Local Police Officers to attend and inform of policing activities for Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

A representative of Pitsea Neighbourhood Policing was not in attendance.

84/13 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT:

Parish Clerk to update on relevant business and correspondence.

(i) Repairs have been carried out to three of the bus stops in Pound Lane and missing panels replaced. Only the Garden Centre stop is now waiting for repairs to be carried out.

- (ii) Parish Clerk and Councillor Wall met with one of the contractors who had tendered for the work being undertaken in Westlake Park.
- (iii) Issues raised at previous meeting have been reported to the relevant organisations but currently no update or response had been received.
- (iv) Parish Council Insurance Renewal Certificate received from Came & Company
- (v) Information has been obtained from the ECC website on accidents at Sadlers Farm roundabout since August 2010. (See Item 92/13)

85/13 FINANCE REPORT:

Responsible Finance Officer to inform on financial matters since the last meeting.

Balance as at 30 th October 2013	£23,656.09
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Balance as at 22 nd November 2013	£22,853.94
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Receipts:

Balance of Fun Walk Sponsorship	£ 280.00
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Payments:

Clerks' monthly salary (Net) Payment includes use of Clerk's home as Parish Council office @ £18 pm.	£ 410.97
Parish Council Insurance Renewal	£ 629.18
EALC Training Project Management Course	£ 45.00
Total:	£1085.15

86/13 MERIDIAN STRATEGIC LAND APPEAL:

To update on proposed dates for hearing the appeal by Meridian Strategic Land Limited in respect of Basildon Council's refusal to grant permission to build on Little Chalvedon Hall Farm.

The date for the submission of written letters , for or against, in respect of the appeal, by Meridian Strategic Land, against Basildon Council's refusal to grant permission to develop Little Chalvedon Hall Farm is 13th December 2013 and the appeal hearing will be in February 2014. The hearing will be held over four days.

The Parish Council had decided not to send any further written documentation to the Planning Inspector but would speak at the appeal on various pertinent points in relation to locality.

Councillor Griffin informed that the Residents Association had compiled a letter challenging several points in the appellants appeal submission and based their argument on local issues and the fact that any development should not take place until after the Local Plan was in place. The letter of submission would be sent to

the Planning Inspector for his consideration by 13th December 2013.

Councillor Foster advised that he had been informed that the revised first phase of the Local Plan should be ready to go out to public consultation in January / February 2014.

87/13 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

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: 13/01068/FULL

Demolish existing outbuilding and conservatory, and erection of a single storey rear extension- The Nook, Acacia Road, Basildon, Essex

Councillors noted that a previous planning application (**Application No: 13/00713/FULL**) had been refused and the current application had reduced the size of area of the rear extension. The only comment that Councillors would make was they felt the new extension may be subject of enforcement regulations as the building was in the green belt. However Councillors had no further comment or objection to the application.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:13/01098/FULL

Erection of detached garage and extension of driveway - The Sporran, Highlands Crescent, Bowers Gifford.

Councillors felt there was insufficient detail in the application content. They raised concerns regarding access but in principle raised no objection to the new building being used for the informed purpose.

88/13 PLANNING DECISIONS:

To inform Councillors on decisions regarding planning applications discussed at previous meetings as advised by Basildon Council Planning Services.

Application No: 13/00814/FULL – Single story front extension, two storey side extension and first floor rear extension and formation of pitched roof over existing front bay and pitched roof over main roof- 3 Osborne Road , Bowers Gifford, SS13 2LG – **Permission Granted.**

Application No: 13/00520/FULL – Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of detached three bedroom bungalow with detached garage- Kismaja, Windsor Road, Bowers Gifford. SS13 2LH – **Permission Granted.**

Application No: 13/00713/FULL – Erection of a two storey side extension, extension to existing rear dormer, and a single storey rear extension - The Nook,

Bowers Gifford, SS13 2LU – **Permission Refused.**

Application No: 13/00844/FULL – Single storey rear extension and rebuilding of garage- 1 Lee Road, Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HS – **Permission Granted.**

Application No: 13/00952/REM – Erection of a new bungalow and detached garage (Reserved Matters Application relating to application 10/01256/EXTBAS) – Winifred, Windsor Road – **Details Approved**

Application No: 13/00386/FULL – Regulation of powder coated aluminium stables to replace dilapidated stables – 203 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford - **Appeal dismissed**

89/13 COMMUNITY EVENT 2014:

To discuss proposed dates for a Community Event for Summer 2014

Councillor Griffin advised she had approached the Benbow Club in regard to a summer Fete and they had agreed to do the BBQ if an event was held. Councillor Foster commented that the Community Event should not be run at a large loss. Councillor Griffin agreed to head up a Community Fete in 2014. A Christmas Fayre was also suggested. As there was some discussion around dates it was agreed to confirm any date at the December meeting.

90/13 FEEDBACK ON MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS:

To briefly update on meetings attended by Councillors.

Councillor Foster, Wall and Griffin had attended member training relating to diversity and inclusion. Councillor Wall reported that there were currently 80 different languages spoken by residents living in the Basildon district and that 52% of the population were female.

Councillor Griffin had also attended the U3A table top sale on 9th November which was very well attended. The Residents Association, of which Councillor Griffin is Chair, also had a stall at the event and had encouraged attendees to log on to the website to obtain information on the development and the subsequent appeal. Residents also took the opportunity to raise a number of matters including the parking outside St. Margaret's School; local development; the community farm; and the fact that a local unofficial pathway leading from Trenham Avenue to Bowers Gifford was now gated off as it went through a residents' garden. This unofficial pathway had been used for many years by those who had relatives living in Bowers Gifford e.g. Windsor Road, Katherine Road and Harrow Road and had used it as a shortcut which they were unable to do now. Another pathway had been formed as a consequence, and this now came out into the middle of one of Little Chalvedon Hall Farm's field and people were now walking across the field. Councillors **AGREED** to have a look at the site in question.

Councillor Griffin also read out an email from Councillor Abrahall regarding his

lack of contact over the past year due to illness and supporting the fight against the proposed development of Little Chalvedon Hall Farm.

Councillor Foster had attended a Standards Committee meeting, as the Basildon Association of Local Council's representative. The main item of discussion concerned small changes around the Disclosure of Interests by Councillors. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had issued its guidance on the changes, which were aimed to clarify some points, in particular with regard to pecuniary interest ensuring that all pecuniary interest was declared to ensure openness and transparency. Councillor Foster stated that in the past twelve months 12 complaints had been received by the Standards Committee in respect of Councillors, only one of which was still outstanding.

91/13 WESTLAKE PARK:

To update on the progress of funding to improve Westlake Park.

The Parish Clerk advised that all the funding to complete the second phase of the works to Westlake Park had now been realised and a total of £80,500 had been obtained via three separate grants - £44,000 from Veolia North Thames Trusts: £17,000 from Basildon District Council and £19,500 from Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund. Estimates had been obtained from two contractors to carry out the work but as yet the contracts had still to be awarded. It was anticipated that most of the work would be completed by the end of March 2014. The project was to put a path around the park, resurface the car park and access road, install new gates, an outdoor gym and planting. Councillors had been in discussion with Wilton Pet shop owners regarding the use of the access road beside the shop. It was the intention to relocate the park gates and discussion regarding the use of the access road by large lorries had been undertaken.

92/13 SADLERS FARM SAFETY:

To reassert Councillors previous concerns regarding the safety of Sadlers Farm road layout.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the design of the access points onto the roundabout from the B1464. There had been three serious accidents at Sadlers Farm in recent weeks. Information had been obtained from the Essex County Council highways website showed the number of accidents since 2010. All the accidents seem to be involving the bus lane. It was understood that the lights were installed originally to be reactive to traffic flow. The bus lanes were not currently in use by buses, but were often used by cars to jump the queue

It was suggested that the lights could be switched off and hooded, this would save money and confusion by drivers using the lanes onto the roundabout and the

inside bus lane on the B1464 could become a dedicated left hand turn for the time being. The bus lanes when eventually in use, could then be fitted with timing switches and in use only at designated times during the day to improve the traffic flow as in other area.

The Parish Clerk was requested to pass on Councillors suggestions to Essex County Council Highways Manager.

93/13 **Date of next meeting** - Wednesday 11th December 2013 at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m. and the next meeting would be on 11th December 2014. This was earlier than normal due to the Christmas holiday falling at the same time.