

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE 2013 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present:

Councillors: B. Williams (Chairman):
R. Griffin: B. Wall:

Officer: Christine Barlow – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: 8 members of the public

Essex County Councillor Councillor Keith Bobbin

13/13 Apologies for absence – Councillors Robert Smillie and Bernard Foster

In view of both elected Chair and Vice-Chair not being in attendance at the meeting Councillors nominated Councillor Barbara Williams to serve as Chair for the duration of the meeting. However as the meeting was inquorate no decisions on items needing a vote could be made.

14/13 Declarations of member's interest – To receive any declarations of interest by members on any agenda items.

None

14/13/1 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) Councillors were asked if the Lilliput Nursery in Burnt Mills Road came within the Parish boundary. If it did could a 'school' sign be erected warning motorists to slow down near the Nursery entrance. The Parish Clerk to verify the boundary and if confirmed make the request for a sign by contacting Essex County Council Highways Department and Councillor Bobbin was asked if he could make enquiries on behalf of the Parish Council.

(ii) A resident asked who owned the notices which had been left on the verges. It was understood they had been left during the highways work in this area. The Parish Clerk was asked to make inquiries.

(iii) Residents commented that heavy lorries were again using Pound Lane and asked if the Parish Council knew the reason for this?

(iv) Cars outside a property in William Road were causing a nuisance in respect of parking and repairing cars. Councillors asked the Parish Clerk and agencies present to look into the matter.

(v) A resident said she worked for a company called Essex Carers who provided training for young people with learning difficulties and were looking for projects within the community. The Parish Clerk asked the resident to email the details to her.

(vi) Caroline Sanderson, a resident of Pound Lane, said she was now the only active Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator in the Parish. She still received reports and would send them to the Parish Council for information. It was suggested that both the Parish Council and Resident Association Forum websites, might be a good place for her to link into to capture a wider audience and obtain information on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Parish Clerk would again request information regarding the contact details of the current Area Co-ordinator and pass on anyone who contacted her regarding becoming a co-ordinator and PCSO Spurr said she would also forward the request for details.

15/13 Minutes of Parish Council Annual meeting held on Wednesday 29th May 2013 - Council to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 29th May and the Chair to sign as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Due to the meeting being inquorate the minutes were confirmed as accurate by Councillors, who were present, but they would need to be signed as approved at the July meeting.

16/13 Parish Clerk's Report – Parish Clerk to update on relevant business and correspondence received since the last Parish Council meeting on 29th May 2013.

- i. The Clerk advised she had responded to and circulated all appropriate emails and Council business to Councillors for information and response.
- ii. Basildon Council had been contacted regarding the rural highways verges in the Parish and their unkempt condition. This included issues of safety in respect of impaired driver's sight line at the junction at Burnt Mills Road and Pound Lane. She had been assured, via email and telephone contact, by the officers responsible for supervising the work that the verges would be given priority as soon as the area had been litter picked. She also advised that the verges were only cut twice a year.
- iii. The Parish would once again take part in Essex County Council Winter Salt Scheme. The delivery of 1 tonne of salt in 25 kilo bags would be in August / September and the salt bags would be stored until needed.

Residents would be advised via the Parish newsletter, Parish Council website and noticeboards .

- iv. An invitation had been received and acknowledged for the Parish Council Chair, Councillor Robert Smillie, to attend the Canvey Island and Basildon Armed Forces Day Celebrations on 29th June 2013.
- v. Notification of impending Essex County Council road closures for the next 18 months had been received and distributed to Councillors and the information placed on the Parish Council website.
- vi. The National Grid had temporarily stopped work on renewing the electricity cables on the London Road due to the bird nesting season. The Parish Council had been notified of the revised dates for work to commence and these would be displayed in the Parish noticeboards and website for public information. Councillors were passed a copy of this information.
- vii. The RSPB hoped to open Bowers Marshes to the public by the end of the summer once all work on the site had been completed.
- viii. The Parish Clerk had advised Councillors of changes to Basildon Council's "Code of Conduct " which was over arching for all Borough and Parish Council Councillors. Councillors had also been given the opportunity to attend a refresher course on the Code.
- ix. Community Investment fund – Parish Council's were not involved but may be able to work in partnership with community groups.
- x. An article from the Evening Echo dated on 20th June regarding the protest against the LCHF planning application was passed to Councillors.
- xi. The EALC (Essex Association of Local Councils) had notified of the closing date of 31st July for the submission of entries to their 2013 Annual Awards. It was confirmed that the Parish Council would submit an entry into the Community and Communication Awards category.

17/13 Finance Report – The Responsible Finance Officer to update the Parish Council on financial matters since the last meeting.

The Responsible Finance Officer, Chris Barlow, presented the financial statement to Councillors as follows:

Bank Balance as at to 29 th May 2013	£20,982.07
Balance as at Bank 26 th June 2013	£20,420.07

Payments had been made from the account totalling £562.00. These payments were in respect of the Internal Audit costs and the Clerk's

wages for June.

- 18/13 Policing update** - Local Police Officers to attend and inform of policing activities and statistics for Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

PCSO Emma Spurr gave an over view of crime statistics for Bowers Gifford and Pitsea over the previous month.

Since the previous meeting there had been five burglaries and four incidents of criminal damage in the Pitsea South East Ward but no incidents of this nature had been reported in Bowers Gifford. However there had been an incident of theft from a lorry parked at the Gun Public House and the theft of Ford car parts from a vehicle in Pound Lane. She also advised that Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet were very low crime area. PCSO Spurr warned residents to double lock and lift the handle if they had a UPVC door fitted to make their property less accessible to a burglar. She offered to arrange for an Officer to attend a Parish Council meeting to give a talk on burglary prevention. Councillors requested this to be arranged.

- 19/13 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: 13/00520/FULL

Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of detached three bedroom bungalow with detached garage – Kismarja, Windsor Road, Bowers Gifford, North Benfleet.

The land was registered to a local resident and the application did not include a small area to the rear of the application site. The application was very complex and although in principle there would be no objection to the building of this type of property other factors may complicate any assessment. The view of Councillors was that it was too complex to call and therefore felt any decision to grant or refuse the application would fall to Borough Council's Traffic Management and Development Committee to decide.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO: 13/00576/FULL

Single storey rear extension - 4 Clifton Road Bowers Gifford Basildon SS13 2LE

The Parish Council did not receive in time to be included on the agenda and therefore would record any comments in respect of the application at the next Parish Council meeting in July.

19/13/1 Planning Application decisions – To inform Councillors on decisions regarding Planning Applications discussed at previous meetings as advised by Basildon Council Planning Services.

APPLICATION NO: 13/00386/FULL - 203 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford, Basildon SS13 2JS

Permission to build - refused

APPLICATION NO: 13/00157/FULL - 4 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford, Basildon SS13 2HF - Single storey side extension –

Permission to build - granted.

20/13 Flowers Beds – to discuss a request, by a resident, at a previous meeting to create flower beds to enhance the appearance of the junction at Pound Lane and London Road.

A request had been made by a resident at a previous meeting to install flower beds at the junction of Pound Lane and the London Road to improve the appearance of the area.

Councillors present approved the idea in principle and the Parish Clerk was asked to make initial enquires of Essex County Council Highways Department for permission as the land was in their ownership. Enquires would be made regarding the cost of installing a flower bed.

A resident stated that the ditches along Old Church Road and the London Road needed to be cleared. It was confirmed that the Parish Clerk and Councillor Wall would undertake a site visit to look at this issue.

21/13 Feedback on meetings attended by Councillors – A brief update on meetings attended by Councillors during June on behalf of the Parish Council.

- Councillors Wall and Foster and the Parish Clerk had attended a meeting at Hulbridge Parish Council in connection with the installation of Superfast Broadband in the Essex area and as a result arrangements had been made for a presentation and discussion to take place at the Parish Council meeting on 31st July.2013.

- Councillor Wall had attended Essex County Council's bi-monthly Bus Transport Liaison meeting. He advised that First Buses had made several changes to their routes but the routes which affected Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet were not scheduled into any discussion until 2014. It had been noticed that if First Buses were running late they would by-pass the Parish and go straight into Pitsea. Councillor Wall was asked to keep a diary of incidents of this nature. Also NIBS (the other bus company that serviced the Parish)

would not recognise any return fares if they were First Buses. Councillor Wall advised he had been invited to try out new Hydro buses that were being brought into service by First Buses. These were powered by both electric and diesel and the first 100 buses were now in operation.

Residents had asked Councillor Wall for another bus stop to be installed at Grange Road and he was making enquiries to see if this was feasible.

It was also noted that the bus shelters along Pound Lane were very dirty. The Parish Clerk advised she was obtaining quotes to clean but had also asked Essex County Council Infrastructure Team to carry out the task.

- Councillor Griffin advised that there had been no Resident Association meeting since 1st May. However all consultees had now responded to Basildon Borough Council in respect of the Little Chalvedon Hall Farm planning application, except Essex County Council Highways.

Councillor Griffin had attended the planning meeting in relation to Dry Street. ECC Highways spoke on behalf of this development and assessed that there would be no problem if the application was granted with traffic. Castle Point Council and South Benfleet action groups had raised concerns about the impact of new developments on traffic at Sadlers Farm, and as ECC Highways had not as yet responded to the LCHF application it this posed the question on what their comments would be in connection with Sadlers Farm. Councillor Griffin had been informed that there was evidence to suggest that drainage work undertaken by Essex County Council, when building the new A130, would increase flooding in Pound Lane and beyond. Having spoken to officers at Basildon Council they were unaware of any flood risk and Anglian Water had indicated that if the development went ahead and measures to prevent implemented, with mitigation and conditions on any development, there would be no risk of flooding or impact on drainage. Both these statements had been challenged.

Concerns regarding safety had also been raised by both the Parish Council and Residents Association in connection with the bus lane at Sadlers Farm roundabout.

The Parish Clerk informed she had been contacted by Rawreth Parish Council regarding flooding issues and an invitation, on behalf of the Parish Council, to attend the Parish Council meeting on 31st July to enable concerns of the impact of flooding on both parishes to be discussed had been accepted by both the Chair & Vice-Chair of Rawreth Parish Council.

The Committee date to hear the Little Chalvedon Hall Farm planning application had not as yet been set and Councillor Griffin advised there were now 4,700 names against the development on the petition.

22/13 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 29th July 2013 at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford commencing at 7.30 p.m.

A request was made to add an update on parking at St Margaret's School and related issues on a subsequent agenda. The Parish Clerk noted this request.