

**MINUTES OF THE BOWERS GIFFORD AND NORTH BENFLEET
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE BENBOW CLUB BOWERS GIFFORD
ON WEDNESDAY 31ST JULY 2013 AT 7.30 PM.**

Present:

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

Officer: Christine Barlow – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: 18 members of the public

Essex County Councillor Councillor Keith Bobbin

23/13 Apologies for absence – Councillor Barbara Williams

24/13 Declarations of member's interest – To receive any declarations of interest by members on any agenda items.

There were no declarations received of any interests by members in regard to (i) Disclosable interests (ii) Pecuniary interests (iii) Non pecuniary interests.

25/13 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) Residents commented (i) that there was asbestos sheeting at the gate leading to Bowers Marshes. (ii) that a load of wood chippings had been deposited on the road the other side of the subway leading to the RSPB site (iii) that since the trees/shrubs had been removed the path leading from St Margaret's Church to Jotmans Farm now became flooded during period of heavy rain.

Councillor Wall, accompanied by Chris Barlow, the Parish Clerk, would carry out a visit to all the sites mentioned in order to view the issues raised.

(ii) The Parish Clerk had received an email from a resident regarding the uncut Highways verges in Pound Lane and the increasing untidiness of the verges. These concerns were also reiterated by residents present at the meeting. The Parish Clerk advised that she had raised this issue with Basildon Council on several occasions and been advised that the schedule for cutting these highways verges was for only two cuts per year and then for only a width of one (1) meter. The Parish Clerk, on behalf of the Parish Council, would continue to

press for improvements to the and would update the Parish Council of the response received.

(iii) Complaints were received regarding the increased number of signs appearing in Pound Lane which gave the area an untidy look. The Parish Clerk was asked to make enquires of Trading Standards and Essex County Council Highways to see if any unwanted or illegal signs could be removed.

(iv) Residents asked if there was any progress regarding resolving the parking problems at St. Margaret's School and Ilfracombe Avenue.

Councillor Smillie advised that since he and the Parish Clerk had met with school representatives in May there had been a number of changes within the make-up of the consultation group not least the resignation of some School Governors. Having spoken to Emma Wigmore, the headmistress, before the school broke up for the summer holidays it had been agreed for a meeting to take place, for the recommencement of discussions, on the schools' return from their break in September.

26/13 Superfast Broadband – A presentation by Navin Sankersingh, Senior Programme Manager, Next Generation Access (NGA) on bringing Superfast Broadband to the Parish.

Navin Sankersingh gave a presentation on the proposals to give rural areas in Essex Superfast Broadband and outlined the timeline and proposals for providing this service. He signposted the Essex County Council website www.superfastbroadband to give residents more information and urged residents to log in and register the need for improved broadband connections in the area. (The Chair closed the meeting to give those present the opportunity to ask questions in relation to the project.) The overall opinion was that broadband connectivity across the Parish was generally poor and a high level of lobbying was needed to improve parish chances of being given a higher connection priority when the project and installations commenced. The Parish Council resolved to make representations, via the channels open to it, in order to improve internet speed for those who wanted it.

27/13 Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2013 - Council to agree to sign minutes of 29th May 2013 and agree the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2013. The Chair to sign as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2013, which had been unable to be signed on 26th June 2013, due to the meeting being inquorate, were signed by the Chair as an accurate account of that meeting.

The minutes of 26th June 2013 were **AGREED** as accurate record of the meeting by all present and were duly signed as such by the Chair, Councillor Robert Smille.

28/13 Policing update - Local Police officers to attend and inform of policing activities and statistics for Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet.

The Police were not in attendance and therefore no update was given.

It was commented that parking had improved in William Road. This may have been as a result of action taken by the Police and/or the Parish Council raising the issue with the relevant authorities.

Councillors advised that hatching had been painted outside 98 Pound Lane and may have been as a result of the Parish Council raising the issue, as reported at a previous Parish Council meetings, with Essex County Council Highways Department.

Councillor Griffin reported that there had been a head-on collision recently at the junction of William Road /Pound Lane and suggested that the difficulties of a clear sight – line when pulling out of the junction may have been a contributory factor. Councillor Griffin also asked regarding the erection of a ‘No Through Road’ sign for Katherine Road/Thomas Road as residents had complained about cars speeding along the road. Councillors were advised by the Parish Clerk that a new road sign had been erected by Basildon Council but if a further sign was to be erected this would have to go through Essex County Council Highways Department. The Parish Clerk advised she would make enquiries regarding the cost of this additional sign.

29/13 Parish Clerk’s Report – Parish Clerk to update on relevant business and correspondence since the last meeting on 26th June 2013.

(i) The Bowers Bugle newsletter (Summer edition- Issue 9) had been delivered to all households in the Parish and the Parish Clerk thanked all the volunteers involved with the delivery.

(ii) An estimate for the cleaning of the bus shelters had been received but the quotation was higher than expected due to the small number of shelters to be cleaned. The Parish Clerk will again take the matter up with Essex County Council Highways Infrastructure Manager and report back to the Parish Council as soon as a response was received.

(iii) Essex County Council had provided posters in respect of the Mobile Library Service and these would be displayed, as and when there was room, in the Parish Council noticeboards.

(iv) The Parish Council newsletter had been entered into Essex Association of Local Council's Annual Communication Awards Competition.

(v) A notification from The Planning Inspectorate regarding a definitive map modification to No 529 (Byway open to traffic 90 Benfleet, Castle Point and 270 Bowers Gifford, Basildon Borough) Order 2012 had been received for information. A map of the specific area had been requested to enable the Council to identify the location mentioned in the letter. The order will be determined at an inquiry due to be held in Chelmsford at the Essex Record Office, Wharf Road on 7th January 2014 at 10am for two days. A copy of the order was distributed to Councillors for information.

30/13 Finance Report – The Responsible Finance Officer to update the Parish Council on financial matters since the last meeting.

Chris Barlow, Responsible Finance Officer, presented the monthly financial statement to Councillors.

Balance as at 26 th June 2013	£20,420.07
Balance as at 31 st July 2013	£19,706.47
Payments	£713.60

Breakdown of payments:

Affiliation to Association of Basildon Local Councils	£ 20.00
Clerks Wages (July)	£402.00
HMRC Clerks Tax (3 Months- April/May/June)	£291.60

31/13 CILCA Training – To discuss and agree the Parish Clerk attending a two-day refresher course to enable completion of the CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration)

The Parish Council discussed the request by the Parish Clerk to attend a two day CILCA (Certificate of Local Council Administration) refresher course to enable her to complete the CILCA accreditation.

The Parish Council **AGREED** to the request and for all costs incurred as a result to be covered by the Parish Council.

32/13 Little Chalvedon Hall Farm Planning Application – to update and inform on recent outcomes in connection with the proposed development of this site.

The Parish Council welcomed Councillors Hopkins and Mathews and Hayley Bloomfield, Parish Clerk from Rawreth Parish Council to the meeting.

Councillor Griffin advised that the Residents Association had handed the e-petition into Basildon Council but because it did not contain signatures it would only hold limited weight. Councillor Griffin updated the meeting on progress of

proposals and advised that there would be a public meeting in Pitsea on 12th August and she would also be collecting more signatures in Pitsea on 10th August.

Rawreth Councillors discussed with the Parish Council concerns regarding the impact of the proposed large scale development on water levels and that any flooding would not only impact on the Parish but it would also increase the probability of flooding in Rawreth. A discussion followed and it was resolved by all present to continue dialog with each respective Councillors in respect of progress and outcomes in regard to the proposed development.

33/13 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:
13/00576/FULL**

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

The Parish Council had no objections to the application.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPLICATION NO:
13/00607/FULL**

Demolition of bungalow and erection of four bedroom chalet style dwelling with detached garage/carport (Revised Scheme) - The Cedars Elm Road, Pitsea, Basildon.

The Parish Council had no objections to the application.

**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.

This had been presented to the Transport and Development Committee but it appeared that no decision, to date, had been made on the application.

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

No decisions had been received.

34/13 Feedback on meetings attended by Councillors – A brief update on meetings attended by Councillors during July.

Councillors Foster gave a brief feedback on issues raised at the Standards Committee meeting he had attended on behalf of the Association of Basildon Council's.

35/13 Parish Councillor Vacancies - to discuss the position around Parish Councillor vacancies.

A letter had been received from Councillor Barbara Williams tendering her resignation due to family commitments and as a result not being able to fully devote the time to the job of Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council acknowledged that Councillor Williams would be very much missed and complemented her on her achievements over the previous four years as a Councillor and previously as a member of the Parish Council Steering Committee. It was **AGREED** a bouquet of flowers, in appreciation, should be sent to her.

36/13 Parish Clerks salary – To agree the increase of the Parish Clerk's salary in line with the 2013/2014 National Association of Local Council's National salary pay award for Local Council Clerks.

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services had reached agreement on pay scales for 2013/2014 and as a consequence it was recommended that the salary scales for full-time and part-time clerks should be adjusted in accordance with the new spinal column points (SCP). The new rates of pay should be applied from 1st April 2013.

The Parish Council **AGREED**, by a show of hands, to accept the recommendation and increase the Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer's salary (SCP 22) proportionately as indicated by the revised pay scales from 1st April 2013.

37/13 Date of next meeting - The date of the next meeting was Wednesday 28th August 2013 at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford commencing at 7.30 p.m. The public and press were invited to attend.