



**MINUTES OF NOAK BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD REMOTELY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CORONAVIRUS ACT 2020
ON TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2021 at 7.00pm**

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Terri Sargent

CLLR'S PRESENT: Cllr Jane Bunting; Cllr Mark Cottrell; Cllr Jacqui Dowton; Cllr James Guthrie

ALSO PRESENT: Essex County Cllr's Tony Ball; Malcolm Buckley; Borough Cllr Stuart Allen;
Project Manager Paul Downes

300/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
None

301/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests by Members relating to any agenda items

302/2021 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:
To receive and agree the minutes of Noak Bridge Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th JANUARY 2020, proposed by Cllr Bunting, seconded by Cllr Cottrell that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting - **Agreed**

303/2021 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:
The chairman reported the Council are seeking to appoint a new consultant hopefully by the next meeting to continue with the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Sargent proposed the Council appoint a consultant, seconded Cllr Cottrell - **Agreed**

304/2021 CENSUS 2021:
The Council have posted census material and poster on their website and Paul Downes has posted the information on the residents' website and discussion page to assist with publicity

305/2021 NOAK BRIDGE CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL:
The Council met with 2 members of Basildon Council and 2 members of the Essex County Council Design Guide Team who are undertaking the Noak Bridge Conservation Area Appraisal on behalf of Basildon Council. The Parish Council were asked to list their key themes as discussed in the meeting and send them to officers to be considered in the appraisal. The key themes were sent to ECCDGT mid-February and are attached to minutes

- 306/2021 LOAL COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING:**
Further to the Parish Council sending a draft proposal to Basildon Council to set a fair and equal process for appointing parish/town Cllrs to outside bodies, Paul Burkinshaw the monitoring officer informed the meeting that he would discuss the proposal with the ABLC
Items discussed included an update on the Local Plan; Youth Zone Project where members raised that children and young people in their parishes would not find it easy to get to, other facilities were available elsewhere such as the sporting village where a number of existing activities took place and the actual cost of the Youth Zone building; Waste Collection changes in the future; Neighbourhood Plan update; Community Governance Review including the Wickford Town Shadow Council
- 307/2021 LOCAL ELECTION UPDATE:**
The chairman reported the Government announcement that local elections would take place on May 6th 2021. Election leaflets and canvassing arrangements would soon be made
- 308/2021 COMMUNITY PROJECTS:**
Bridgecote Lane Sign
The sign is slowly progressing
Durban Lane Pond
Cllr Downton reported the second phase of the project would be taking place in March. Logs that were set aside for insect homes were being used, an advisory note to be put on the logs
Equipment for Village Green Park
The Council had chosen a Seesaw as the new item of equipment for the play park on the village green. Proposed by Cllr Bunting, seconded Cllr Guthrie to order the Seesaw - **Agreed**
VAS Bridge Street
Cllr Ball said the report would be submitted to the next Local Highway Panel
Street Library Project
The Council considered the installation of a Street Library, picture examples had been distributed, costs and a suitable location would need to be found. The Council agreed to fund the Street Library project, managed by Paul Downes, proposed by Cllr Dowton, seconded by Cllr Cottrell - **Agreed**
- 309/2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER:**
The chairmen reported the spring newsletter would soon be ready for printing, distribution was discussed and would be subject to Government arrangements for delivering. A Government announcement was expected soon regarding newsletter and leaflet deliveries
- 310/2021 CROUCH SOLAR FARM:**
Parish Cllrs' attended a briefing with Borough Cllrs' on the Crouch Solar Farm. The proposal would occupy farmland on a 40 year lease with the farmer in Basildon, Dunton Road and Brentwood. It was a very environmental friendly proposal ensuring the land was maintained and also proposed to allow sheep to graze and local people could store beehives on the land
- 311/2021 FINANCE:**
 1. Noted January payments
 2. Monthly Budget Sheet
 3. Monthly Bank Reconciliation
 4. February payments, Online payment and transfers
Cllr Bunting proposed agreement of the budget sheet, bank reconciliation and February payment and bank transfers, seconded by Cllr Sargent - **Agreed**

February Payments & Transfers
British Telecommunications - card payment £143.42
Transfer Earmarked Funds from Business to savings Account - £100,000

312/2021

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

21/00088/FULL Location: 72 Durban Lane, Noak Bridge

Replace existing timber framed windows and doors with UPVC

***No objection as long as it is like for like in design**

21/00080/OUT Location: Bensons Farm, Wash Road

Erection of 3 No. detached three bedroom dwellings

(Outline application - land to east of barn)

***The Parish Council object to the planning application as inappropriate development in the green belt that will cause harm to the openness. Access to the site is situated off Wash Road which is an extremely busy road, used as a rat run and a speed track. It is opposite the Noak Bridge Village residences who continually experience problems entering and exiting their properties from high volume speeding traffic. In addition to the houses, Wash Road has a number of sporadic small businesses. Along Barleylands Road there are many leisure and recreational activities including 42 football pitches and a Waste Depot. The former Bensons Farm proposal was considered in the draft local plan for 350 homes but was deleted as unsustainable. The current proposal is offering piecemeal development. The planning statement claims the land is a Brownfield site, however it is shown on Council documents as a constraint, green belt. The Parish Council are currently developing a Neighbourhood Plan to develop policy design to new homes within Noak Bridge. There is already a proposal for 400 homes to the East of Wash Road which residents object to. That proposal is due to be examined by the Local Plan Inspector.**

20/01487/FULL Location: 49 New Waverley Road, Noak Bridge

To replace glazed wooden windows with double glazed UPVC windows

***No objection as long as it is like for like in design**

21/00040/ABAS Location: Roundabout At Noak Hill Road and Upper Mayne

Display of 3 X non-illuminated signs on roundabout of Noak Hill Road and Uppermayne

***No objection object**

21/00159/S211 Location: 79 Bridgecote Lane, Noak Bridge

Section 211 Notice - T2 (Oak) of TPO/06/01 Crown reduction by 2.5m to 3m

***No objection**

21/00160/S211 Location: 73 Bridgecote Lane, Noak Bridge

Section 211 Notice - T4 (Oak) of TPO/02/11 Crown reduction by 2.5m to 3m

***No objection**

21/00231/FULL Location: 37 Fore Street, Noak Bridge

Erection of a front porch

***The Parish Council object to this proposal. The current extension taking place on the property, recently granted planning permission, is a significant size and resembles a block of flats. There is no frontage on the property and will look out of keeping with the street scene**

TO NOTE APPLICATIONS DECIDED:

20/01556/FULL Location: 28 Thistle Close, Noak Bridge

Single storey rear extension - **Granted**

313/2021

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Q. Can we ask the County Councillors to investigate the frequent flooding when it rains on the left hand lane of the eastbound carriageway (coming from the Billericay direction) of Noak Hill Road where it meets the roundabout at its junction with South Wash Road? It floods about half the width of the road and to avoid the deep water I have used the right hand lane (in light traffic) before turning left into South Wash Road

On the Essex County Council website it is reported as "Standing Water" on Defect 3456583 and possibly some others nearby which refer to "Blocked Connection". The reference to be considered, does not suggest the urgency needed.

A. The chairman had sent the question to County Councillors prior to the meeting and responded they would follow up the cause of the excess water

314/2021

BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORT:

Cllr Ball reported on the ECC Budget where it was proposed, no increase in Council Tax and 1½% rise in adult social care to assist the care of the elderly and vulnerable.

Budget Investments: £1m in Environment Commission Act to lower carbon footprint; £10k to each Cllr for Locality Budget projects; £7.2m on Highways; £200k per Highway Panel; £1m on Mental Health and Pandemic recovery; £1½m on education recovery task force, children missing education and expand summer camps; £500k to cut violent gang culture; £2m to boost the economy; £2m passed to Councils from Government; £2½m to reopen economy and promote confidence to spend and ECC as business as usual

Cllr Buckley expanded on the locality budgets, more projects were needed and to be sent in earlier, project criteria for applications

Cllr Buckley wished to set the record straight when the Leader of Basildon Council Cllr Callaghan claimed publicly that £81m on spent Highways. This was not the case as the funding also included the vast budgets of social care and education. Cllr Finch Leader of ECC is standing down and not seeking re-election in May

Cllr Allen spoke of the planning application to build three tower blocks in the Town Centre opposite Wilko. The blocks would change the face of Basildon and residents have raised objection to them. This was the first application for Tower Blocks, more were to follow

315/2021

TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Correspondence was noted

316/2021

DATE OF 2021 MEETINGS:

The Council considered the 2021 meetings, they were subject to change: March 16th; April 20th Annual Parish; May 18th AGM; June 15th; July 20th; September 21st; October 19th; November 16th

Cllr Bunting proposed the annual dates, seconded by Cllr Guthrie - **Agreed**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Signed

Chairman.....

Date.....

**NOAK BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL INPUT INTO THE NOAK BRIDGE CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL WORKING
ALONGSIDE BASILDON COUNCIL & ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

KEY THEMES

1) Significant - Essex Design Guide

- Character - Special Interests - Uniqueness – Style - Individual Elements – Feature - Design
- Street View - Fencing / Gates - Street furniture - Original features - Materials - Fingerpost signs
- Noak Bridge is set apart with Landscaping & Green areas, they must be retained at all cost as part of its plotland heritage
- Neighbourhood Plan proposals

2) Issues faced - To Retain Conservation Area Status – Going Forward Enforcement is a Must

- Planning applications should apply on all extensions whether rear, side or front
- No Permitted development rights
- Apply Article 4 to all residential applications
- Parking problems - too many cars not enough spaces - work vans, lorries, trucks brought home parked on highways
- Removal of 5 bar gates & filling in built in car ports decreases car parking spaces
- Lack of resident awareness of the Conservation Area
- Satellite dishes - if a digital method is designed, resident must remove their SD
- Council Housing Service must comply with the Conservation Area when working on homes and the neighbourhood
- Housing staff and contractor awareness of the CA
- New waste proposals could mean more containers - storage issues – unsightly ‘not in keeping’
- Planning application breaches - difficulty with enforcement
- Planning application refusals are not enforced to remove / replace to comply - creates wrong mindset
- Prevent applications being won on appeal by making sure the CA is recognised by residents & estate agents
- Exceptional non-compliance must be enforced

3) Main Proposals - To encourage and maintain Noak Bridge as a conservation area

- Planning permissions - windows & doors, UVPC versus Wood, too expensive?
- Set quality UVPC standard and grades to window & door profiles
- Leaflet - include - suggestions - outcomes - CA awareness
- Introduce penalties for not complying with CA regulations
- Consider extending the CA to Bramble Tye & Handleys Chase - consultation?
- Fees for planning applications in the CA should be reasonable and proportionate
- Residents who avoid the planning application process should have penalties applied
- Failure to enforce could encourage fewer planning applications with changes made without permission
- Resident exhibition on CA Appraisal is a must to test proposals and highlight the CA
- Robust resident consultation
- Grasscrete areas to tidy up grass verges and add parking spaces
- NB conservation area compliance guidance leaflet (PDF) for new residents and estate agents
- Ensure that this appraisal is rigorously enforced unlike the previous appraisal
- The design of any new development should retain the conservation area design

4) Opportunity - Our aspirations & what would we like the appraisal to achieve

- The appraisal outcome will fit in with our Neighbourhood Plan proposals
- Raise resident awareness & compliance of the CA
- Develop a conservation area enforcement policy
- Develop a new Conservation Area management plan
- Ensure the Neighbourhood Plan Appraisal is mentioned in the Local Plan
- Communication must be enhanced for CA compliance to succeed
- Develop a penalty charging scheme for non-compliance to CA
- Develop community projects that retain the beauty of the landscaping & green space
- Consider creating existing verges as car parking spaces using Grasscrete