

# SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th January 2019 in the Parish Council Office, Silver End Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Galley, (Chair,) Cllr Ashford (arrived during 0119/FC1398,) Cllr Hughes, Cllr Waine, Cllr Bugg, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Fecitt, Mrs Temple (Clerk) and Cllr Abbott (left just before 0119/FC1396.)

0119/FC1391 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Holmes, Cllr Pharo, Cllr Vickers, Cllr Bowers and Cllr Ashford for his late arrival.

**Absent without apologies:** None.

The Clerk notified Members that along with her apologies Cllr Vickers offered her letter of resignation from SEPC. This is due to family and work commitments making it impossible to dedicate sufficient time to the position. **Agenda item** for February's meeting for formal acceptance.

0119/FC1392 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda.  
None.

0119/FC1393 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point.  
No Members of the Public were present at the meeting.

0119/FC1394 **Minutes of the last Full Council Meeting** were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.  
**Matters arising:**

The Clerk reported that:

- She has chased the **Head of Silver End Academy** and expects her to suggest a date, to meet with the Chair, next week.
- The public exhibition held by Gent Fairhead and Indaver will take place on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**. The meeting with SEPC will be held from 7-8pm, in the SEPC office. Cllr Abbott has been invited and plans to attend.
- BDC have cleaned up the graffiti and general mess in the Memorial Gardens toilets and they were re-opened before Christmas.
- Cllr McDonald has prepared a letter to send to all village organisations asking if they would like a visit from SEPC to discuss the workings of SEPC with a particular focus on local planning matters/applications and how information can be accessed. Thanks, given to Cllr McDonald and all agreed that the letters should be sent by the **Clerk**.

0119/FC1395 **Report from District/County Councillor**

Cllr Abbott reported that:

- Scoping opinion for the quarry – not in Silver End but a huge site that goes out as far as the Polish Camp. There is a further application that is outside of Silver End's area which is even larger. Cllr Abbott was aware of it but did not expect to hear anything for a long period of time. He has notified Claire Tomlin that this area is being bombarded with applications generally.
- Bower Hall application has gone to appeal. It is understood that BDC would have appealed but it went past the regulated time frame (non-determination.)
- Redrow site – archaeological searches started.
- Consultation to the Local Plan – large consultation still to follow in Feb/March when Silver End Garden Suburb will be discussed.
- Next LHP is a week tomorrow – open to public, need to notify BDC for attendance.
- Meeting tomorrow re Boars Tye Rd pathways and gateways.
- Waste site application – no dates given for decisions
- Top 20 road defects have been hugely successful, Temple Lane has been repaired.
- Street lights continue to be a problem – continuing to chase, along with the Clerk.
- Rivenhall also agreed not sign up to the Devolution Project for the same reasons as SEPC – money offered not sufficient to cover the risk and there is not enough information of what is required.

At this point The Chair asked for Members' agreement to bring an item up the agenda to allow Cllr Abbott's input. All Agreed.

0119/FC1400 **ECC - Essex Libraries Service Consultation**

Cllr Abbott commented that the Consultation regarding the potential closure of some libraries runs until the end of February. Need as many people to send comments online. He provided the Clerk with footfall details for Silver End, which is in the lowest tier. Footfall is 64% of what it was 10 years ago – library now open 3 half days a week. Active membership has not changed hugely. Silver End is doing well compared to many other Tier 4 libraries, so this helps with the argument. Village will increase hugely over the coming years and there is no other library nearby. **Clerk** asked to comment: respectfully request ECC increase the hours to allow more people to attend the library – ideally encouraging different people to attend who cannot make it during the current restrictive hours. With significant building in the area the library would be potentially used more. Already co-located which should be seen as a positive. Consider amending staffing levels as a way to save money.

Cllr Abbott was thanked for his input and left the meeting at this point. The Chair called the meeting back to its original order.

0119/FC1396 **Planning Applications**

**Application No:** ESS/44/18/BTE/SPO Bradwell Quarry

Request for Scoping Opinion of the proposed development extraction of 6.5m tonnes of sand and gravel from Site A7.

No comment

**Appeal to Planning Inspectorate**

**Application No:** 18/01842/OUT Bower Hall

No additional comments to be added to those already made.

**Planning Applications received after agenda setting**

None.

0119/FC1397 **Correspondence**

Will Hull, Bee Brook – letter stating that they can no longer continue working in the Memorial Gardens as it is not financially viable for them to do so. Discuss during budget and if necessary, make an agenda item for next meeting. BDC have been informed.

Alex Evans, BDC – New Entry forms for inclusion in the Open Spaces Plan 2019 are to be returned by 31<sup>st</sup> January. **Clerk** asked to ask for the inclusion of re-instating the play area on the Pavilion field and completing the Woodland Walk on the old BMX site. This would re-use a derelict piece of BDC land but would need consideration to be made to disabled access.

Cllr Waive stated that an application would be made by SEHS to ensure they are given the opportunity to consider and add projects they might want to see in the Open Spaces Plan.

Letter of thanks from Greener Silver End for the donation towards bulb planting at the end of 2018. About 800 bulbs were planted by the hedgerow along Boars Tye Rd and more outside St Francis Church and on the crossroad of Silver Street/Broadway. 20/30 participants took part, including local cubs and guides.

Letter of thanks from Silver End Scout Group for the donation towards the Santa Patrol.

0119/FC1398 **Reports**

- **Police**

Reports emailed to members by the Clerk, when received.

- **SEPC Project Plan/Reports from Working Parties**

Cllr Ashford arrived at this point.

WoSE - agreed that Speedprint are going to be the best printing option for now. Publication for next edition end of Feb. **Clerk** to put an item in regarding the achievements of SEPC for 2018, rather than the Project Plan.

Christmas event – **Cllr Bailey** will look at getting additional lights to use up the budget for this year.

Christmas lights – Cllr Ashford discussed the available choices for the future of the lights on the Co-op. Either not use them again, hand them to Co-op or simply wrap strings of LED lights around the current decorations. All agreed that as long as we can use the original plugs to power them that the latter should be considered. All agreed that this should be handed over to **the Events Committee** to look into, along with liaising with BDC about the lights in the Memorial Gardens. Next event meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm.

Gateway signs to be discussed at a site meeting tomorrow.

Memorial – Cllr Waive offered his thanks to Cllr Bailey for a great job on the installation. **Cllr Waive** will take a small amount of the top off the hedging and **Cllr Bugg** will lower the bin.

- **General Reports from meetings since 12<sup>th</sup> December**

None.

- **ECC/BDC reports – update**

The report book was available to view at the meeting.

0119/FC1399 **Finance**

**Payments made since the last meeting on 12th December:**

Petty cash	15.87	BDC Office Service Charge	40.00
E-on	41.21	Essex Pension Fund	454.54
P&J Taxis	40.00	Christmas lights	128.97
Christmas event – C Hutchings	386.46	Vouchers for staff/volunteer	70.00
Ambershire Christmas tree	230.00	Chelmsford Safety Supplies	32.99
RCCE membership	105.60	Petrol & 2 stroke – leaf blower	28.80

**Payments to be made:**

Petty cash	16.11	BDC office service charge	40.00
E-on	42.87	Essex Pension Fund	454.54
P&J Taxis	80.00		

All agreed.

**Bank Balances**

Current Account	£ 2,964.10
Deposit Account	£ 12,034.50

**Budget 2019/20**

Cllr Hughes stated that SEPC should consider a more substantial increase this year due to the withdrawal of funding from BDC. If a significant increase is not made this year, then it will be harder to justify it in the future.

The Clerk went through the draft budget as recommended by the Finance Committee, item by item. The following comments were raised during discussions:

- Cllr Hughes – In order to raise standard of SEPC we should encourage councillors to attend training, without being compulsory, SEPC should support them. Particularly basic training with the election imminent. He moved to increase training to £500 with Cllr Bailey acting as second. Vote: all in favour.
- Cllr Ashford – Aimed to build a robust budget as may not have options in the future and not cut finances to the bones. Agrees that training is important for all, especially for new councillors and staff.
- Memorial Gardens – taken off budget as currently have no one working in there. Have put a contingency in the Open Spaces figure should councillors decide that they want to continue with an alternative contractor. Cllr Hughes is still keen to maintain to a higher standard than BDC but understands that there are restrictions money wise. Cllr Bailey stated that there is a need for the specification to be simple but effective. Agreed that the **Chair** will tighten the specification to welcome bids to the highest of standards and then the **Clerk** will go out to tender to see what quotes come back. Cllr Waine reiterated that the Memorial Gardens are an asset to the village and we should do all that we can to keep them maintained to a high standard. Consideration can then be given to the affordability and whether or not it will need to be handed back to BDC on financial grounds. Cllr McDonald questioned what standard could we expect if it is handed back to BDC with Cllr Bailey responding whether it could be worse than our current situation?
- It was agreed that the donation section should be re-headed as ‘Chairman’s Grant’ and run in a similar way to the ECC Community Grant. Details to be discussed at the next meeting.

After considering every item individually on the proposed agenda it was agreed that a larger percentage increase be considered for Precept 2019/20, taking into account that there is no longer any funding whatsoever from BDC. With this in mind Cllr Mc Donald proposed a precept figure of £72,000 with Cllr Bailey acting as second. With no further proposals a vote was taken: unanimous.

0119/FC1400                      **ECC - Essex Libraries Service Consultation**

This item was moved up to the agenda and therefore discussed earlier in the meeting, before 0119/FC1396.

0119/FC1401                      **Agenda items for the next meeting**

Chairman’s Grant

Mem Gardens – re tender for work

Resignation of a Member of Silver End PC

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 9.53pm.