

SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 2022 in the Small Hall of Silver End Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Bugg (Chair), Cllr Waine, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Ashford, Cllr McDonald, Mrs Temple (Clerk), Cllr Wright (BDC – left after 0222/FC1715) and Cllr Playle (ECC – left after 0222/FC1715.)

0222/FC1711 **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Galley, Hopkins, Bailey (SEPC) and Cllr Abbott (BDC.)
Absent without apologies: None.

0222/FC1712 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda. None offered.

0222/FC1713 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point (10-minute allocation.)
None were present.

0222/FC1714 **Minutes of the last Full Council Meeting** were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting
Matters arising from those minutes/Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported that:

- BDC are arranging a quote for, ideally, a double galvanised gate on the approach to the pavilion and the Scout Hut. Mr Sargent (BDC) described the current one as 'Jurassic.' The quote will also include hardstanding to the side to allow pedestrian access.
- A meeting was held in the Memorial Gardens (6 monthly) to review the contract works. BDC are happy with everything but want to be sure that the roses will be pruned again in the near future. **Clerk** to liaise with the contractor.
- The tree that has bent in half next to the pond in the Memorial Gardens is still at a 90' angle. BDC will speak to Landscape Services again to ensure that if it falls further and causes any damage then BDC will be responsible for making good any damage.
- **Cllr Bailey** to provide photos for BDC of the planned location for the membrane and stones.
- Talks have commenced with BDC about an initiative for parishes to recycle waste more efficiently. In BDC's hands currently but the **Clerk** will report with their suggestions.
- BDC's response to the Clerk's suggestion for an increase in the Street Cleaning Partnership monies has been rejected. Even though Silver End is increasing in size, both population and streets, they claim to be unable to make a financial increase. Their aim is more volunteers to fill the gap.
- There has been a response from the NHS regarding issues with the doctor's surgery. Unhelpful suggestion is to raise the complaint with the surgery itself. With the recent rebranding it was agreed that a restart of the patient liaison group would be suggested to the practice manager.
- As already notified to Members the Clerk approached ECC about bodycams for the crossing patrol staff. They are in the process of setting up a scheme whereby they initially purchase 5-8 body cams to circulate between their staff. The Clerk asked if it would help if SEPC purchased 2 cameras specifically for the Silver End staff. Although they were very grateful it was deemed unnecessary as the problem is in the time and paperwork involved in any incident, not the funding of the cams themselves. Currently they do not have the resources to cover more than the 5-8 they are currently planning for. At this stage SEPC can be most effective by promoting the new initiative and advertising it as much as they can. Aim for it to be effective in early Spring. It was pointed out that there have been 4 incidents in Silver End recently and Cllr Ashford felt strongly that the cameras should be purchased regardless, stating that they will only be effective if everyone has one. Cllr McDonald was in agreement but did raise the issue of GDPR with any images, querying who would be responsible for monitoring them. Cllr Playle stated that he would be happy to intervene as ECC's approach doesn't appear to a positive one. **Clerk** to send him the details of her contact with them to date. **Agenda item** for next meeting.

Cllr Bugg reported that the whips and bulbs are still in the shed. **Clerk** asked to contact Cllr Bailey and Cllr Hughes offered his assistance as long as he is directed where to plant.

0222/FC1715 **Report from County/District Councillors**

Cllr Wright (BDC) reported:

- Information on waste sites was circulated by Cllr Abbott.
- Grant money of £1250 each will continue for the next financial year.
- BDC's budget will be voted for on 21/2 – 2.68% increase for BDC with ECC's being over 4%.
- No major funding in BDC – except to increase Planning Enforcement.
- Planning forums to be introduced – where developers, BDC and PCs meet together to discuss.
- District Councillors are to be able to put capital spends forward in their wards.
- Service level agreement for libraries to be halted.
- Local Plan consultation now over. Waiting for Inspector's report in next couple of months. Should stop speculation for new developments.
- Woodhouse Farm meeting re incinerator. Minimal interference and as much area left to wildlife. Indaver want to open the entrance to Woodhouse Farm and have put application forward to use temporarily for 5 years. No HGVs have been guaranteed.

Cllr McDonald asked Cllr Wright to look into why the walkway through Lyons Square to Boars Tye Road has been fenced off, believing that it goes against the ethos of a garden village. He will liaise with Cllr Wright via email.

The Chair thanked Cllr Wright for his attendance and his report.

Cllr Playle (ECC) then made his report:

- ECC's winter services are under way – grit bins should be filled but let him know if not.
- Issues with bus cancellations raised recently by the Chair have been discussed with the bus company. If tickets have been purchased and the service is then cancelled, customers can make a claim for compensation, however the bus company need to advertise this more.
- Recycling Centres – vans/commercial vehicles using Braintree now have to book using an online system.
- Condition 66 at Incinerator – increasingly likely that it will come before ECC Committee this month. He will be speaking.
- ECC – 4.49% increase in precept – meeting tomorrow to finalise - £60 increase for Band D properties. 50% of this increase will be wiped out by social care.
- Locality Budget – no details yet but is thought that money will be carried over to next year. He is happy to allocate SEPC £1000 for benches from this year and another £1000 for next, if needed. The **Clerk** will look into the potential costs.

Cllr Ashford – gave his thanks for the removal of the layby outside the school. Some negativities on Facebook but most of the feedback is positive.

Cllr McDonald – Levelling Up Essex – asked about early years provision in Silver End. He commented that the Redrow site has allocated space for Early Years provision – 10 years to use. Cllr Playle stated that he met with officers last year on the subject and he is keen to make use of the intended site within the time frame. Cllr Ashford believes that the school are keen to be involved. The Chair thanked Cllr Playle for his attendance and his report. Both he and Cllr Wright left the meeting at this point.

0222/FC1716 **Planning Applications – agreed via email communication since the last meeting. Only objections/comments noted:**

No objections/comments made.

ECC application by Indaver– Woodhouse Farm access – Object that at the enquiry it was agreed that this entrance should not be used at any time. As this was part of the enquiry it should be upheld. Access should be via the A120 as this is the proposed route. All agreed.

0222/FC1717 **Correspondence – not already covered in the Clerk's Report**

EALC – encouragement to take part in the lighting of beacons to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2nd June.

Sport England – grants available under the Queens's Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund.

Witham Town Council – Celebration for the Platinum Jubilee – Thursday 2nd June, 4-10pm on the river walk, Witham.

Wellbeing Service – the public are able to contact them for a free of charge lift, to and from vaccination appointments.

0222/FC1718 **Reports**

Reports from Silver End Parish Councillors – Meeting/Activities

Apologies from Cllr McDonald that he was unable to attend the BALC and Woodhouse Farm meetings.

Reports for ECC/BDC

Clerk to report:

- Streetlights still out by Cllr Waine's and Ashford's houses.
- Hedge behind hall still not cut back.
- Drain cover behind St Francis' church has lifted and is a safety/trip hazard. **Cllr Ashford** to send a photo to the Clerk.
- Streetlights still out at the front of the Co-op.
- Parking at the front of bungalows, on the grass on Broadway, is still an issue and the horsebox is still parked outside The Manors.

0222/FC1719 **Finance**

Payments made since the last meeting:

Office service charge	40.00	Essex Pension Fund	507.01
M/Gardens Contract	252.00	Petty cash	17.68
Eon	266.31	Tiptree Meals (28 th January)	127.00
BDC Community Transport L/Club	30.00	MacAfee	74.99
Microsoft Business Package	135.00	Eon	104.78

Payments could not be agreed at the last meeting as there was no quorum. Agreement was made after the meeting, via email.

Payments to be made:

Office service charge	40.00	Essex Pension Fund	507.01
M/Gardens Contract	252.00	Petty cash	18.21
Eon	155.21	Tiptree Meals (11 th & 25 th Feb)	284.00
Printer ink (monthly plan)	9.99	S Hopkins (website hosting Wordpress)	75.51

Bank Balances

Current Account	£ 4,111,70
Deposit Account	£20,000.00

Budget/Precept 2022/23

The Clerk presented the draft budget to all present at the last meeting. As this meeting was non quorate and the precept figure was to be provided to BDC by 31st January, **agreement** was made via email and the precept form signed as the date of this meeting by

the Chair and the Clerk. The agreed figure of £80,065 (meaning an increase of 0%) is therefore minuted at this meeting. BDC have confirmed acceptance of this figure.

Letter from BDC confirming that there will be no collection fund surplus for 2022/23.

0222/FC1720 **Diversity and Inclusion Policy – agreement and adoption**

As discussed at the last meeting, the Clerk provided Members with a draft policy for their consideration.

Cllr Ashford proposed adopted with Cllr Bugg acting as second. Vote: all in favour. Carried.

The **Clerk** will ask Cllr Hopkins to add this to the website with a **review in 2024**.

0222/FC1721 **Memorial Gardens Contract Tender**

As discussed at the last meeting BDC have decided that they will not be carrying out a tender process on SEPC's area of responsibility maintenance wise in the Memorial Gardens. However, this could not be agreed as the meeting was non quorate. Cllrs Hughes and Bugg reported that the contractor is the best we have had and is conscientious and takes a pride in his work. Cllr Ashford proposed that the partnership agreement with BDC for the next 3 years is signed by the Chair. Cllr Hughes acted as second. Vote: All in favour. Carried.

Cllr Waine asked whether or not the table tennis table is to be installed in the gardens. **Cllr Ashford** suggested that it be installed at the top of the gardens, by the gates. He will discuss with councillors outside of the meeting.

0222/FC1722 **Community Speedwatch**

Cllrs Ashford and Hopkins will collate a list to put forward for training/retraining. Site reference to be provided too for new Speedwatch locations. They will notify the **Clerk**.

0222/FC1723 **Increase in cost of electricity for floodlights**

It has come to the Clerk's attention that the electricity costs for the floodlights have increased significantly. She spoke with Eon regarding the possibility of fixing the cost, but it appears that there is currently no cheaper deal. Eon have sent some consumption data, but this doesn't go back far enough as it appears that usage increased when the football pavilion was added onto the metre (this used to be connected directly to the village hall and electricity was part of their rental agreement.) The Clerk is waiting for this and hopes that she is able to make some sense of it all.

Kev Lay (SEPC electrician) has given suggestions as how best to proceed to establish how much of the increase is due to the Club. Further confusion has been added that an amendment had been made to the last bill that the **Clerk** needs to clarify with Eon. Cllr Galley has confirmed that the football club are prepared to contribute in the future.

Cllr Ashford clarified that the floodlights used to run to the tennis club shed but this became unsafe as it was no longer weather tight. At this point he brought it to SEPC's attention, and it was agreed to move the supply to the football pavilion. The football club used to feed out of Village Hall, but this wasn't adequate for their needs. Question raised at the time about whether we sub metre so that we could decide who pays for what, but this was prohibitively expensive. Kev Lay suggests that we ask the club for contribution. Cllr Hughes questioned whether we should also ask the club to pay for the floodlights as they are the only users. Cllr Bugg added that there has been an increased usage by the football club, including the installation of a heater. He feels that SEPC shouldn't be paying the costs for just one group in the village. Cllr Ashford suggested approaching them to organise a meeting to explain that we are now on the same metre as floodlights and have a discussion about the huge increase in the electricity costs. Ideally start a dialogue and work together for a resolution. **Clerk** to organise and include Cllrs Bugg and Ashford. **Agenda item** for next meeting.

0222/FC1724 **Window on Silver End**

Cllr McDonald pointed out that the next edition is due shortly, meaning the following edition will miss any information about the Jubilee as organisations won't be able to advertise their events in time. Asked if it could be brought forward to the beginning of May. Cllr Ashford suggested that this Jubilee edition be the final print run of 1700 and then go back to the original plan for a reduced print run, supplemented by access to the magazine by via the website and collection points in the village. All agreed. Cllr Bugg reminded everyone that there are still issues with a lack of delivery volunteers.

0222/FC1725 **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Ashford reported that Carol Hutchings (Guides) has approached him to see if SEPC are doing anything for the Platinum Jubilee. Both he and Cllr Hopkins will not be around as they will be on a Scout camp. Tea in the park was posed as an idea. Cllr Bugg suggested a meeting with Carol Hutchings with the possibility of working with the Congregational Church to hold it in the Memorial Gardens. Cllr Ashford will organise the meeting to include Cllrs Bugg and McDonald.

0222/FC1726 **Agenda items for next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 9th March, in the Small Hall.

Agenda items to include:

Increase in Electricity costs for floodlights

Defibrillator – Cllr McDonald

Body Cams for the Street Crossing Patrol Wardens

Silver End's 100th anniversary – Cllr McDonald

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 21.26 pm.