

SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 8th June 2022 in the Parish Council Office, Silver End Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Bugg (Chair,) Cllr Waine, Cllr Hughes, Cllr McDonald, Mrs Temple (Clerk) and Cllr Abbott (BDC – left during 0622/FC1788.)

0622/FC1780 **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Galley, Hopkins, Bailey and Ashford, Cllr Playle (ECC) and Cllr Wright (BDC.)
Absent without apologies: None.

0622/FC1781 **Consideration to be given to the formal resignation of Cllr Mick Galley**

The Clerk notified everyone present that she has received, from Cllr Galley, a letter of resignation from the Parish Council. The main reasons cited:

- The derogatory remarks made by Members of the Public towards the PC. Councillors give up their time freely only to be criticised by those that then don't have the courage to attend a meeting to discuss matters face to face.
- Disappointment that the PC are not being able to move into the 'modern world' as far as IT is concerned. It's 2022 and the IT available could and should be used to greater effect as it could greatly improve efficiency and transparency. Might also encourage younger members to join, by being more present in approach and reduce the need to meet as regularly for in person meetings.
- Totally respects personal choice but believes that SEPC are restricted by the Chairman not having an IT presence. Unable to be included outside of the monthly meeting, left out of email conversations and unable to make comment.
- Respect for all Members and their views and whilst not always in agreement, discussions and decisions are always taken with good heart and without animosity.

All Members accepted Cllr Galley's resignation and the **Clerk** was asked to write him a letter of thanks for his years spent on the PC. – **Cllr Bugg** would like to view before it is sent. The **Clerk** will notify the new Electoral Officer at BDC to allow them to prepare a notice of a casual vacancy.

The Clerk added that today she has received the written resignation from Cllr Hopkins. Consideration of acceptance will be placed on the **agenda for the next meeting.**

0622/FC1782 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda.
None offered.

0622/FC1783 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point (10-minute allocation.)
None present.

0622/FC1784 **Minutes of the last Meeting (Annual Parish Council Meeting – APCM)** were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising from those minutes/Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported that:

- Application is to be made to **BDC's Locality grant** for 2 dog bins.
- The pathway by the new gate to the pavilion has been laid.
- A new volunteer for the **Luncheon Club** is having a trial this coming Friday.
- BDC have agreed to replace the lid/bin by the pond in the Memorial Gardens.
- BDC do not feel that there is any benefit to completing any works to the conifer in the Memorial Garden's Pond. In the winter they will review the area and consider whether to reduce its weight and bring it away from the water's surface.
- The **benches** to the front of the Co-op site are still missing. The Clerk chased Joscelyne Chase who have committed to repair/replace them.
- 3 Parishes Meeting is booked for Monday 4th July – 7.30pm – to be held in the office. Clerk to be notified of any agenda items and of attendance.

0622/FC1785 **Report from County/District Councillors**

Cllr Abbott (BDC) gave the following report:

- Conifer in pond – he agrees it needs work.
- Litter picker that covers Western Road should be commended for all of her hard work. She does a fantastic job for the village.
- Welcome involvement in discussions re multi sports court/tennis court. Keep him in the loop. **Clerk** to notify Cllr Ashford.
- He continues to report potholes and blocked drains.
- Pleased that Grooms Lane has been resurfaced but he has received many complaints that the quality of the work is not to a good standard. Pathways were not touched although they are in a poor state of repair. He has contacted ECC.
- Reports of defects on non-ECC/BDC land continue to be an issue. The land behind the Congregational Church has still not been identified re ownership but he has asked BDC to investigate once more.

- He has received complaints about vegetation issues which are always a problem at this time of year. He often contacts Eastlight first as they will do the work if a resident is elderly.
- Local Plan – still waiting.
- Planning Forums – response from all PC's by 1/7. Proposals of up to 2 members of each PC will be invited to every forum. Intended for larger developments. Not a decision process but questions can be asked. Change in scheme of delegation.
- BDC – 3-year contract for rural verges – 1 cut per year to encourage wildflowers/wildlife.
- National Grid proposal – Rivenhall agreed that cables should go offshore, they are likely to be particularly affected. Silver End potentially from Western Road to Whiteheads Farm.
- BDC new Chief Exec in June.
- Motion re cost of living – offer more support.
- Indaver held a launch event in May, including many dignitaries from Belgium. In paperwork it was stated that they are going to breach current application.
- Congratulations to all involved in the Jubilee Events – fantastic weather and all local events were wonderful.

The Chair opened the floor to questions:

AW – Eastlight only cut vegetation once a year, despite claiming that they do it twice. Cllr Abbott stated that where there is a public footway, they will send contractors in quickly. He will contact BDC re any sight line issues.

KM – Sheepcotes Lane – any developments regarding the walkway/promised access? Cllr Abbott replied that the owners have a right to act as they have as it is private land, but he will see if he can get something from BDC in writing.

KM – commented on objections to 20mph limit. Cllr Abbott stated that if there are enough it needs Cabinet Member approval.

The **Clerk** was asked to send a letter of support to ECC.

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

In his absence Cllr Playle asked the Clerk to make the following report:

Community Initiative Fund

The Community Initiative Fund is now open for bids, with a closing date of 19th August 2022.

There are 2 grants available: 1. Up to £10,000 for community groups, organisations, Parish Councils etc for schemes that benefit the wider community. 2. Up to £500 for grassroots groups for initiatives that help to reduce social isolation or improve community wellbeing. For details and guidance, visit: www.ealc.gov.uk/community-initiative-fund.

Pothole Fund

An update on my previous report that each County Member will have 36 potholes each repaired. These will be done in two tranches of 18 to ensure everywhere gets an early bite of the cherry. The first repairs in our area will take place week commencing 8th August. I would be grateful if Councillors could share any questions for Silver End with me by 1st July.

Verge cutting

Like last year's pilot, the ECC contract with BDC will be for one cut to rural verges later this summer across the district. This of course, excludes cases where overgrown vegetation may be a visual-impaired risk to pedestrians or vehicles.

Braintree LHP update

There has been a recent and sudden personal change to Braintree's Local Highways Panel (LHP). I am meeting with a senior LHP officer to find out where this leaves the current schemes on the agenda and if there are any updates on these moving forward.

More broadly, there is currently a review of the LHP system taking place and how this can work better for all of us on a local level. I will keep Councillors updated as more information becomes available.

Highways work (road closure) signs

I am getting increasing number of complaints about road signs from highway or utility works being left behind long after the work has been completed. If you are aware of any, please let me know so I can report for these to be collected.

0622/FC1786 Planning Applications – agreed via email communication since the last meeting. Only objections/comments noted:

No objections/comments.

0622/FC1787 Correspondence – not already covered in the Clerk's Report

Member of the Public – after visiting the last parish council meeting, he asked for additional information to be passed to Members regarding the proposals for pylon transmission. He reminded everyone that the consultation cut-off date is 16th June. All agreed that the **Clerk** should object, stating that the only option should be for the transmission to be offshore. Any unused money allocated for compensation as a result of the pylon installation can be put towards the additional cost.

BDC – a full verge cut will continue annually (autumn) for the next 3 years. Safety cut will continue if deemed necessary.

EALC – Food Support Fund has been set up. Max. £2k per area, based on £15pw per family. Info has been passed to Leila Hobart.

Witham TC – new mayor elected – Cllr Jack Bayford.

BDC – broken dog litter bin by gate on approach to Silver Street pavilion has been repaired/replaced.

Member of the Public – reports of children accessing the Memorial Gardens after the gates are locked. The Clerk has notified BDC and asked the MoP to ensure that a report is made to the police if it happens again in the future.

Steve Daynes, Electoral Officer, BDC – notification of his retirement as of 31/5. His replacement, Heather Patorou, starts work on 13th June.

BDC – Levelling Up Launch on 10th June at 10am. **Cllr McDonald** to attend in place of the Chair, who is not available.

EALC – Community Initiative Fund has been launched with applications open until 19/8. Panel Day is 11/10. £30k available in total with individual grants up to 10k but must have matched funding.

Gigiclear – seeking engagement with SEPC to present their plans for the village (about 1 hour), ideally outside of a PC meeting.

ECC – invitation to webinar – 4pm on 16/6 – Helping Parishes and Community Groups to take climate emergency action on energy and housing.

Rivenhall Site Liaison Comm – next meeting 14/6 at 11.30am. Attendance on site or online. **Cllr McDonald** is attending on site.

Essex Police – new Rural Engagement Team set up to cover the following areas: high value theft of plant, large scale fly tipping, wildlife crime, rural road safety and unlawful encampments. They will work alongside Community and Local Policing Teams.

BDC Planning – Proposal for introduction of a Planning Committee Members Forum - details already sent to all Members.

Thoughts required by 1st July. All Members to consider the information and send comments to the **Clerk** by the cut-off date.

0622/FC1788 **Reports**

Reports from Silver End Parish Councillors – Meeting/Activities

Cllr Hughes reported that he has liaised with Leila Hobart about the Community Hub. He has suggested that she might like to prepare a piece about Silver End's involvement and how to apply for the magazine/noticeboard. The **Clerk** was asked to send her a message to see if she would like to move this forward.

Cllr Bugg felt that the Parish Assembly was a very positive meeting and that there was a good turnout. He was very impressed that most of the groups in the village were in attendance and continue to flourish following the pandemic. However, it was disappointing that there were no representatives from the Police or the Academy.

Cllr Waine reported that he has tidied the area around the Joan Lyon Memorial. Thanks were offered from the Chair.

Cllr Bugg notified members that Leila Hobart is trying to re initiate the youth bus, with a meeting in the PC Office on Friday. **Cllr Bugg** will be in attendance on behalf of SEPC. He will make a report at the next meeting.

It is understood that Cllr Bailey was abused, via social media, by a long-standing member of the village. Comments were made about SEPC and him personally. It is understood that the Police have been notified. Cllr Hughes commented that this is deplorable behaviour and a sad reflection on modern society. Unacceptable that a member of the PC was abused on behalf of SEPC. If **Cllr Bailey** would like us to take it further, then let the **Clerk** know. Cllr Abbott added that he too has been threatened on other matters and that the routes available are reporting to the police, contacting the social media pages asking for the comments to be removed or else, legal action.

Reports for ECC/BDC

None reported.

Project Plan – Quarterly Review

Cllr Abbott left the meeting during this item and was thanked for his attendance.

The **Clerk** provided a copy of the plan to all Members, and she was asked to update items as requested. New plan to be placed in the noticeboard.

0622/FC1789 **Finance**

Payments made since the last meeting:

Petty cash	19.21	BDC Office service charge	40.00
Essex Pension Fund	507.01	Tiptree Meals (6.5.22)	142.00
Memorial Gardens Contract	462.00	BDC Transport	60.00
Parish Assembly refreshments	38.86	Printer ink	9.99
Riffhams Donkeys (Jubilee)	345.00	Tiptree Meals (20.5.22)	132.00
D Sutton (Jubilee)	159.10	Meridian Roadshow (Jubilee)	600.00

Payments to be made:

Office service charge	40.00	Petty cash	18.74
Essex Pension Fund	507.01	Tiptree Meals (10.6.22)	147.00
Tiptree Meals (17.6.22)	162.00	Memorial Gardens contract	462.00
Speedprint (WoSE Jubilee edition)	560.00	BDC Transport (L/Club)	31.00
Printer ink	9.99	CSS (toilet cleaning supplies)	29.95
First aid hi viz (Jubilee)	15.98	Carol Hutchings (Jubilee)	151.87
Eon	263.75	BDC Transport	64.00

The original bill for Speedprint was £592 for 1700 copies. Only 1600 were delivered in advance for delivery with the final 100 arriving on the morning of the Jubilee event...therefore too late for delivery and will need to be disposed of. The payment has been adjusted to allow for 1600 copies rather than 1700.

Agreed.

Bank Balances

Current Account	£ 4,121.05
Deposit Account	£40,000.00

New bank mandate

A new mandate is required following the APCM – Cllrs Bugg and Bailey and the Clerk to sign. Removal of Cllrs Ashford/Galley..

0622/FC1790 **Debrief of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr Waine reported that the event had been very successful and that Cllr Bugg and the Events working party did a fantastic job.

The **Clerk** was asked to send a note of thanks to Carol Hutchings, Dan Sutton and to the WI. The venue was perfect and well maintained with the rose garden looking great – **Clerk** to send thanks and congratulations to the contractor and to BDC.

Sadly, the toilet was vandalised the evening before hand so Cllrs Bugg and Bailey had to clean and repair it so that it could be open before the start of the event. Cleaning cupboard has been repaired and new cleaning supplies have been ordered to replace what was destroyed. The bouncy castles were cancelled at the last minute due to the wind. But everything else went to plan. The WI were busy throughout, and it is thought that all stalls had a successful afternoon.

Comments on social media suggest that the community would like to see a repeat event every year. This will need to be discussed as part of the Events Committee debrief.

Cllr McDonald reported that the response on social media had been very positive, and the only negatives were that there were no soft drinks available, and that signage would have been helpful. Sadly, the banners were not ready stating that the event was sponsored by SEPC, but the compere mentioned it many times and a comment was placed on social media which was well received.

Cllr McDonald asked what had happened to be the proposed beer tent run by SEUFC. Cllr Bugg responded that sadly they felt that they weren't welcome, although Cllr Bugg explained to them that they were. It appears that the Bowls Club opened their doors to the public and were selling alcohol at cost price. It was disappointing that this wasn't brought to the attention of the Events Comm. during the planning stage and as such SEUFC felt it wasn't cost effective for them to run an additional bar, despite having gained a licence for the event

Cllr Hopkins has provided the Clerk with design options for banners for future events. It was agreed by all present that the preferred option was the design with SEPC's logo on it. **Clerk** to report this to **Cllr Hopkins** and state that the size remains as confirmed, via text, from Cllr Bugg.

Consideration to be given to Silver End's 100th anniversary in 2026

Cllr McDonald is conscious that we need to start making plans for this event which will also mark the Queen's 100th birthday, assuming she is still with us.

Cllr Bugg agreed but stated that there will be a new council in office at this stage. All agreed that that the event would be better held in the summer rather than in April. This event will be mentioned in the debrief meeting with the Events Committee. The **Clerk** was asked to add this to the agenda from time to time.

0622/FC1791 Conservation Area Guidelines Review, following the meeting with BDC/ECC

Cllr Bugg reported that the initial meeting was held today for BDC, ECC, SEPC and SEHS, and included a walk around the village. Positive meeting with BDC and ECC seeming genuine. It is thought that completion is due by September. SEPC will be asked to comment on any document compiled, before being agreed. Cllr Hughes stated that it needs to be considered as a planning document and therefore fully enforceable. Cllr Bugg reported that the general thought from BDC is that a line needs to be drawn under the current breaches and then move forwards, although this is unlikely to an easy task.

0622/FC1792 Consideration to be given to the purchase of a laptop/desktop due to current systems no longer being supported

As discussed at the last meeting the desktop in the office carries software that is no longer supported, and the laptop is likely to be in the same position shortly. As IT has not been purchased for many years it was agreed that the Clerk should place this item on the agenda for consideration.

It was thought that it was not necessary to have a desktop and a laptop and that Cllr Hopkin's suggestion will be considered for approval at the **next meeting**:

AIO laptop – Latitude 5520

Plus, support, keyboard, mouse and external hard drive.

Approx £1600.

The **Clerk** was asked to look into the full cost of the above and to liaise with EALC and BDC to investigate the possibility of support through them, although BDC have already suggested that this is unlikely through them.

0622/FC1793 Future use of the multi sports court

Due to Cllr Ashford's absence this item will be rolled over to the **next meeting**.

0622/FC1794 Members to consider the Full Council Meeting in November due to the Clerk's annual leave

The Clerk, having already discussed with the Chair, notified Members that she is taking a 3-week holiday in November from 9th – 30th. As she won't be in the country for the FC in November, she asked for agreement from Members of how they would wish to proceed.

It was fully agreed that the meeting in October would be moved to the 26th and that the November meeting will be cancelled.

0622/FC1795 Consideration to be given to the purchase of gardening equipment for use by staff and Members

It was agreed to leave this item until the **next meeting** where items can be discussed with Cllr Bailey.

0622/FC1796 Agenda items for next meeting on 13th July

Review of Clerk's attendance in the office as agreed at the meeting in April.

Cllr Hopkins resignation.

The future use of the multi sports court.

Gardening equipment.

Conservation Guideline Review (if anything to report.)

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 21.30pm.