

SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 8th February 2023 in the Parish Council Office, Silver End Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Bugg (Chair,) Cllr Waine, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Ashford, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Bailey and Mrs Temple (Clerk.)

0223/FC1890 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Playle (ECC,) Cllr Abbott and Cllr Wright (BDC.)
Absent without apologies: None.

0223/FC1891 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda.
None offered.

0223/FC1892 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point (10-minute allocation.)
None in attendance.

0223/FC1893 **Minutes of the last Meeting** were signed as a true record of the meeting.
Matters arising from those minutes/Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported:

- **Staff appraisals** have been booked for 22nd March, 7pm onwards. Cllrs Bugg and Hughes, along with the Clerk to attend.
- There is now a query with ECC as to whether the ECC grant will be available for 2023/24. This being the case ECC have suggested that an alternative location is found for the benches. The Clerk has queried what will happen to the existing benches that are a health and safety issue but so far has not received a response. **Clerk** to liaise with Cllr Playle. Cllr McDonald stated that BALC may be able to help with funding.
- Photos of the location of the missing benches to the front of the Co-op have been sent to **Joselyne Chase**. They will investigate.
- Streetlights that have been reported as not working have been reported on the ECC system.
- BDC have confirmed SEPC's precept figure of £88,000 for 2023/24, meaning a decrease of 0.12%. Payable in April.
- All items discussed (0123/FC1883) were requested for inclusion in BDC's Open Spaces Action Plan.
- A notice has been placed on the notice boards, website, WoSE and social media advertising the '**surgery**' to explain the role of a parish councillor. As a reminder this is on Saturday 11th March 2-4pm, in SEPC's office.
- A place has been booked for her to attend EALC's **Election Briefing** on 27th February.
- The defib and waterproof cabinet have been ordered and delivered. The **Clerk** is now waiting for Kev Lay to install.
- SEPC's pension re-declaration has been made as required by law.
- All local organisations have been emailed to gauge interest in involvement in the 100th anniversary.

0223/FC1894 **Report from District/County Councillors (if present)**

Both Cllrs Abbott and Playle offered their apologies but sent a report to be included in the minutes:

Cllr Abbott:

'BDC will set its Budget at its meeting on 20th February. There have been some last-minute changes, which include several items our group has been asking for, including we are pleased to say, at least for this coming year, the reinstatement of the full parish council street cleaning grant.

BDC is proposing to increase its share of council tax by 2.5% but give a £25 payment back to all qualifying households. Our group is calling for a council tax rise of no more than 1%.

There are some additional Cost-of-Living support measures that will be coming forward from BDC following a decision to use most of this year's New Homes Bonus award from central Government for that purpose. It will be focused on supporting groups and organisations that already deliver Cost-of-Living support.

The Budget still includes the £5k for the dropped kerb at the Bowls Club.

There has understandably been a lot of public comment about BDC's proposal to start charging for garden waste collections.

Details will be decided at the March BDC Cabinet meeting, and not at the February 20th Budget meeting. If it is agreed, charging would start in April 2024 and would be "opt-in". Our group is opposed to the new charge and to the booking requirements being introduced at the ECC run Recycling Centres as we think it will reduce recycling and could lead to more fly-tipping and also green waste being put into black bins - which in turn would lead to it being landfilled. Currently 88% of households use the green bin collection system and if charges do come in, that percentage will fall - the BDC Cabinet member has said they anticipate it will.

We are also pressing BDC not to scrap the Recycling Calendars which many residents find helpful in reminding them of collection days and what items can be put out for collection.

I sent details to local parish councils of the new grant fund that BDC has available, which totals £589k. Bids can be made from this month. Any "legal basis" entity can apply via BDC including parish councils, charities, voluntary groups and local businesses. Applications must be for capital spend only. The rules are quite tricky though, one being that a grant is awarded only on completion of a project and given that applications need to be in the range £10k to £50k, that could be a barrier to some.

Another planning appeal has gone the way of developers, this time for the application to build up to 94 houses on land off Boars Tye Road. This Appeal was defended by BDC and it was astonishing that the Inspector said he would have granted it anyway even if BDC had a 5-year Housing Land Supply. It begs the question as to why the Government on the one hand says Local Plans are very important yet their Inspectors are ignoring the Braintree District Local Plan. As well as that site and the 230 houses at Rivenhall granted on appeal in January, 300 houses at Kelvedon have also been granted on appeal recently. All 3 are unallocated greenfield sites. Residents contacted me to ask if the Boars Tye Road decision could be appealed. Unfortunately, the only possible challenge is to the High Court. As the consent is in Outline, no building can start yet and a further detailed application will be needed, including as to where exactly the access will be.

The first Planning Forum meeting was held at BDC last month. Both the Forums and Planning Committee are now on a 3-week cycle.

As you are aware we are still yet to hear from BDC about the Conservation Area Appraisal, which was promised in 2022 and then again "early in the New Year". Given the lack of delivery on that, the lack of progress on the GP Surgery and the failure to progress 2 improvements on BDC land for local organisations, which in one case has been ongoing for over 3 years, I will be making a statement at the BDC Full Council meeting on 20th February about the need for support and investment in Silver End. I have also once again written to all relevant officers and Cabinet members at BDC asking why villages such as Silver End are not getting the support they need whilst housing growth continues, and yet Braintree town is getting tens of millions of pounds a year in investment from BDC.

Cllr Wright and I met with the Chief Executive of BDC recently to have a walk about the village to look at local issues and we again suggested to him that BDC purchases the old factory site as an investment opportunity, working with the local community on a mix used redevelopment that would benefit the village.

I have had numerous complaints from residents in Silver End and Rivenhall about how bright the new LED streetlights are and that they are not on the part-night system. I have contacted the Cabinet member at ECC and he says he will act on this. I was involved many years ago in the original scrutiny investigations at County Hall into the new streetlighting system and it is disappointing to see ECC not following their own agreed plans for the roll-out.

I have also had further complaints about the floodlights at the waste site which appear to be in breach of their planning consent. I have raised this with Indaver and ECC. The next waste site liaison meeting is in March. Further Abnormal Loads have been announced by Indaver coming through Silver End - I believe notice of these are sent round to all the parish councils. Indaver's Appeal on condition 66 will not now be heard until May - this is the tussle over whether they have to build to their consent for an 'integrated' facility or not.

The Partnership Scrutiny meeting at BDC this evening will be signing off its reports into litter control which includes recommendations on better ways of working with National Highways to clear litter on the A12 and A120 as well as working more with local schools.

Cllr Bob Wright and I attended the recent annual 'Oscars' awards for Silver End Scouts, and MP Priti Patel was also there. It was once again amazing to hear about all their activities over the past year. I attended one of them in 2022 which was where they were making contact in real time with scouts all over the world.'

Cllr Playle:

'I'm told by my highways liaison Officer someone will be back to inspect the 4th drain on Boars Tye Road.

If councillors have any other questions, then please do let me know.'

Cllr Ashford reported that 3 of the drains have been filled temporarily with tarmac by ECC contractors. The fourth was left untouched. He has messaged Cllr Playle and asked him to investigate.

Cllr McDonald planned to ask both councillors about S106 reported on by BDC's Scrutiny Committee. The minutes read that A vast amount of money remains unallocated, some for over 10 years. The **Clerk** was asked to ask the question what S106 monies have been allocated to Silver End (contact Scrutiny Review.)

Cllr McDonald also planned to ask about levelling up funds and how much BDC and ECC have spent on this.

Cllr Bugg asked the **Clerk** to notify Cllr Playle of the following blocked footpaths:

- Rear of Manor Grove – bridge is no longer connected to the footpath.
- Bradwell Hall – footpath diverted and not being maintained due to being overgrown.

0223/FC1895 **Planning Applications**

Only applications that are objected to or have comments raised are minuted and reported to BDC. All other applications are assumed as 'no comment.'

Application No: 23/00197/TPOCON 26 Silver Street

Tree works

No comment or objection can be made at this point as the reason for felling has not been given.

Application No: 23/00269/TPOCON 71 Boars Tye Rd

Tree works

No comment

Application No: 23/00249/FUL Land to rear of Boars Tye Residential Home, Boars Tye Road

2 storey 4 bedroom detached dwelling with double garage and assoc. landscaping.

Objection:

Recommend refusal as the proposed development application will have a detrimental impact on the surrounding listed buildings. It would fall entirely within the curtilage of listed buildings, being surrounded by them. They formed the original principle of Silver End itself. Detailed information for a full application has not been provided, specifically in relation to proposed materials.

Windows/doors do not appear to conform to current conservation guidelines. Listed buildings consent is required before any construction can be considered.

0223/FC1896 **Correspondence (not already covered within the Clerk's report)**

Indaver – notice of abnormal load to travel through the village on 21st February.

BALC – newsletter sent to all.

Cllr McDonald – sending up to date information regarding the proposed pylons, whenever there is new information.

Gigiclear – new dates of works in Silver End.

Member of the Public – asked for information on how to become a councillor. The Clerk explained the current options regarding co-option or applying for the new elections. Notified her of the ‘surgery’ on March 11th. She has confirmed that she plans to attend.

BDC – next Transport Meeting on 13th March at 10am.

Anglian Water – notice re the laying of new sewer pipe to serve the Redrow site. Starts on 13th February, with completion aimed for the end of April.

Neighbourhood Watch – letter of thanks for the donation from SEPC that was agreed at the last meeting.

Essex Police – Rural Crime Day on 10th March from 1-4pm at Layer Marney Tower. Notice placed on the notice board.

BDC – Rural Prosperity Fund available with £589k available. For capital spends only with payment following completion. Applications of £10-50k.

Cllr McDonald – BALC latest meeting notes sent to all councillors.

Silver End Churchwarden – new Team Vicar for Silver End – Rev. Jane.

EALC – photo ID needed to vote from May. A Voter Authority Certificate is available for those without photo ID.

All items were noted.

0223/FC1897 **Reports**

Reports from Silver End Parish Councillors – Meeting/Activities

Cllr McDonald:

- reported on an informative BALC meeting. Suggested that **parishes** invite the police to a meeting. He will send further info of the meeting to all councillors.
- LHP meeting. Recycling calendar can be printed by PCs if needed. Green bins – Green Bill for 2024/25 will state that all green bins will need to be free for collection. Awards for All – Lottery funding – is it worthwhile considering for the Tori Arch? Asked Cllr Bugg for photos to show the carpenter for a quote.
- Transport Meeting on 13/3 – he will attend via Teams. Any issues let him know.

Cllr Hughes reported that he and Cllr Bugg did a walk around the Memorial Gardens. Noted that BDC's work is noticeably different to SEPC's. BDC have removed the tree fallen into the pond. Bamboo still needs to be removed in order to resurrect the proposed Tori Arch. **Clerk** to mention to Rick Sargent (BDC) at next meeting, along with the fact that the seats around the pond and covered in duck mess. Leaves very present in BDC's area. Work needed covering the base of the pergola with soil which he and Cllr Bugg will organise shortly.

Cllr Bailey mentioned that eight heathers were removed from the mound. He put a plea for their return on social media and they have since been put back.

ECC/BDC reports

Cllr Ashford proposed that the **Clerk** apply to the LHP to extend the 30mph limit to ensure that the new Boars Tye Road development is within it. Suggest that the 30mph is moved to where the current 40mph starts at Henry's Body Shop and 40mph start by entrance to Egypt's Farm. Cllr Hughes acted as second. All agreed.

Cllr Bugg reported that new residents at 105 Boars Tye Road (Eastlight property) are parking on pavement outside the house. Pedestrians are forced onto either the grass verge or into the road to pass. There is therefore no access to pedestrians, prams or wheelchairs. **Clerk** to contact Eastlight.

Cllr Bugg further reported that streetlight No 1 in Silver Street is out. **Clerk** to report to ECC.

Cllr Waine asked the **Clerk** to report that 5 cars regularly park on the path outside the Chinese Takeaway. A tree was there but now filled in with tarmac. Tree to be replaced.

Cllr Ashford reported that the Broadway houses (Eastlight) are continuing to park on the greensward which is causing the grass to now be in a terrible state. **Clerk** to report to Eastlight.

0223/FC1898

Payments made since the meeting on 11th January:

Office service charge	40.00	Petty cash	15.37
Essex Pension Fund	507.01	Tiptree meals (February)	142.00
Printer ink	9.99	Memorial Gardens contract	252.00
Microsoft business subs	135.36	Tiptree Meals	154.00
Neighbourhood Watch donation	25.00	HMRC (Q3)	1475.55
BHF defibrillator and cabinet	1883.99		

Payments to be made:

Office service charge	40.00	Petty cash	18.12
Essex Pension Fund	507.01	Printer ink	9.99
Memorial Gardens contract	252.00	Tiptree meals (17/2)	132.00
Tiptree Meals (3/3)	max 200.00	EALC (election briefing)	54.00
L Hobart (website x 1 hr)	22.00	BDC (refuse truck)	237.50
Website hosting and install (LHobart)	118.20		

All agreed.

Bank Balances

Current Account: £ 4,971.99
Deposit Account: £ 35,000.00

0223/FC1899 First Aid Training

The Clerk contacted all local organisations and along with the names put forward to Cllr Ashford on social media and interested councillors there are approx. 20/22 proposed attendees.

The course that Cllr Waine initially suggested is no longer available and a similar course with St John's was quoted as £2778 versus £200 max as originally discussed.

The **Clerk** is currently awaiting quotes from Red Cross but Tigerlily Training offer 2 options:

- A 3 hour talk and demonstration at your venue for £475 for up to 24 people.
- £950 for 24 people for a fully practical course using mannequins; again 3 hours (2 people demonstrate and assist.) A certificate is awarded.

Cllr Ashford proposed the more expensive option with Cllrs Waine, Hughes Ashford and Bailey offering their councillor grants to fund. Cllr McDonald acted as second. No further proposals. Vote: All in favour and therefore carried.

It was further agreed that the small hall should be booked for 4 hours.

Agenda item for the next meeting.

0223/FC1900 Website hosting update

The Clerk met Leila Hobart recently for an initial meeting about taking over the operation of the website. She is happy to work on an initial 4-month trial basis until the new council is in situ at which point there will be an **agenda item** to decide longer term plans. She has made the obvious updates to the information on the site and added all outstanding information provided by the Clerk.

In the meantime, Simon Hopkins, the past webmaster, has received a renewal for the website host, WordPress. After discussion with Leila she has made the 3 following suggestions but on the understanding that she feels that WordPress is a more expensive and less user friendly option.

1 – Renew WordPress for a further year (tied in for full term) but be restricted to what can be achieved within that year. More expensive.

2 – Move to Wix for £79.20 to start the process of a more user-friendly site with less pages than the 22 currently. Start with the minimum pages needed as a starting point before increasing potentially in May. A new website would not need a monthly fee as it would be easy enough for the Clerk to add information herself. The estimated cost of this option would be £700 based on an initial 3 pages until May.

3 – Move over now and re-vamp the site with Wix. She believes that 10 pages would be needed. Estimated cost of £2000.

A decision needs to be made this evening as the site is currently down, awaiting a decision. Option 3 could be chosen, and the cost spread into 2 payments across the 2 financial years.

Cllr Waine proposed the interim measure, but no one volunteered as second.

Cllr Hughes proposed staying with Wordpress for this year as feels the cost of the 2nd and 3rd options is higher than we can commit a new council to. Ask Leila to do a detailed proposal for the new council to consider after May, ideally giving an idea of what a new site might look like. Currently councillors are not convinced that it will be good value for money. Ideally, she will be able to attend the meeting. Cllr Ashford acted as second. No further proposals. Vote: All in favour and therefore carried. The **Clerk** will notify Leila.

0223/FC1901 Conservation Area Appraisal – consideration to be given to proposed wording

The Clerk reported that Cllr Abbott has chased BDC on this issue, without success. **Clerk** asked to chase them on behalf of SEPC.

0223/FC1902 Agenda items for next meeting

Next Full Council meeting is to be held on 8th March.

Memorial Gardens maintenance – future projects

Dropped kerbs -review of proposals and future progress

Project Plan – Quarterly review

First Aid Training

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 21.45pm.