



SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th April 2024 in the Parish Council Office, Silver End Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Bugg (Chair,) Cllr McDonald, Cllr Sullivan, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Hughes, Mrs Temple (Clerk,) Cllr Wright (BDC, left after 0424/FC2105,) Cllr Playle (ECC, left after 0424/FC2105 after his report) and Stephen Allaker (Co-opted during 0424/FC2102, then joined Members at the table.)

0424/FC2100 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Abbott (BDC.)
Absent without apologies: None.

0424/FC2101 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda.
None offered.

0424/FC2102 **Co-option – consideration to be given to Stephen Allaker becoming a Member of Silver End Parish Council**

All Members have received a copy of the application form in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Bugg proposed that Mr Allaker be co-opted onto Silver End Parish Council with Cllr Taylor acting as second. A vote was taken with unanimous agreement in favour. Cllr Allaker joined the other Members at the table. The Clerk asked him to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of office, which she witnessed and signed. He will complete a Register of Interests in preparation of the next meeting which the Clerk will send to BDC.

0424/FC2103 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point, however none were present.

0424/FC2104 **Minutes of the previous Full Parish Council Meeting** were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.
Clerk's Report and any matters arising from the last minutes:

- Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 22nd April at 7.30pm, in the small hall. Invitations have gone out to all, small response so far. The **Clerk** will send a reminder email with the agenda, a week before.
- The benches have been ordered for delivery to The Manors Garage. Invoice has been paid and ECC have been notified of the amount to be recredited. Once done the **Clerk** can formalise the Licence.
- 2 bleed kits have been ordered and are now in the office ready for install – **Clerk** to notify Valentine House when this will be. Cllr Bailey confirmed that this will be on Tuesday.
- The King's portrait has been delivered for display in the office..
- The Clerk has been in touch with BDC regarding the purchase of 3 new dog bins. They have asked for this to go on hold for the time being whilst they carry out a district wide review of the location of all bins. They will contact the **Clerk** once this is complete. **Cllrs Ashford and Sullivan** confirmed that the 2 in the Memorial Garden are still to be moved.
- The SEPC domain name is to be renewed and Leila Hobart will do so with Firstserv – cost detailed below.
- The beech trees have been purchased and planted by the contractor and Cllr Abbott has kindly donated guards for them.
- Cllr Ashford has been in touch with Silver End Utd FC regarding BDC's plans for parking at the pavilion site.
- The hardstanding has been laid for the table tennis table and the table will be in situ shortly – **Clerk** to notify BDC.
- Colne Valley Community Energy Project – having liaised with the Jane Taylor, Chair of White Notley PC, the Clerk confirmed that they are looking for the support of parish councils in finding 300 properties in the district that would like to be funded for solar panels. If participation is needed they would hold a public meeting with presentations from ECC. They would require a group of volunteers from the parish to assist, along with a house to house leaflet drop and as a point of contact from queries arising from the leaflet drop. **Agenda item for June's next meeting.** The **Clerk** will contact Cllr Taylor about the possibility of a presentation.
- Reminder sent to village organisations of 100th anniversary meeting on 23/4, 7.30pm.

0424/FC2105 **Report from District/County Councillors**

Cllr Wright reported based on the following details provided in advance by Cllr Abbott:

- Long Green is now open again but the roundabout construction works for the 250 houses being built on land off there are still not complete so a further closure seems likely.
- The formal consultation on the proposed National Grid pylons starts today. BDC did submit a robust response to the previous consultation about impacts on the countryside, ancient woodlands, heritage assets etc.
- We have asked BDC now for the 4th time about the idea of solar panels for the village hall. Still no response despite taking it to Corporate Director level. If there is no reply soon we will submit as a Written Question which they have to respond to.
- The meeting we held at the village hall in March went well. This was one of our regular district councillor planning update meetings for local residents. As ever lots of questions were asked about the numerous developments and planning issues for the area and there was strong feeling about the lack of delivery on upgraded services, especially the GP

surgery. We said that BDC was liaising with the parish council and that we attended the meetings on s106 benefits but that it was a slow process on the major items.

- We are continuing to press BDC about the Oak tree on Boars Tye Road which has had a notice put next to it saying it could be felled. BDC to date has declined to place a TPO on the tree despite agreeing it is an important local feature tree. Several residents have been in contact including some close to the tree location who want it to stay.
- James checked the new trees planted at the junction of Western Road and Grooms Lane following the concern expressed to the parish council by a resident. The trees are 2 birches and 2 ornamental limes and are well away from homes in terms of their future growth so it is unlikely they would have any adverse effects and look to be good additions to that area which has few street trees.
- An elderly resident asked us about the very poor state of the footway along the old factory site frontage in Western Road where she took a fall. We asked ECC when they are going to resurface this - as they have been asked many times before. ECC said they were sorry the lady fell and that it would be dealt with, but as ever gave no date.
- At the April Rivenhall PC meeting it was agreed to liaise with both Cressing and Silver End PCs about potential joint working on Speedwatch.

The Chair thanked Cllr Wright for his report and opened the floor to questions.

KM – Bowers Hall application. Asked for definition of ‘custom’ built houses.

IA – pathway by factory – temporary fill has helped but there are still major issues. Cllr Playle – viewed the site and it is to go through the Member led scheme so hopes that it can be fixed asap.

AB - Sheepcotes Lane – ditch is full of foul water again. Cllr Wright will investigate.

Cllr Playle reported

- Expecting changes to LHP shortly.
- Pylons – consultation open until 14/6.
- Benches – offered help re licence, if required.
- Factory site fencing is broken in places – he has organised for this to be repaired.
- SIDs – asked about the data collection. He will send to Essex Police if it is sent to him monthly – **Cllr Ashford** will organise.
- Progress made re Rivenhall flooding – water not building up currently so a positive step forward.

The Chair thanked them both for their attendance and their reports and they both left the meeting at this point.

0424/FC2106 Planning Applications – agreed via email communication since the last meeting. Only objections or formal comments noted.

Application No: 24/000613/FUL Bower Hall, Western Road
Erection of 3 dwellings & creation of new site access from Western Road

Objection:

- The access/egress is positioned on the bend. The Design and Access Statement mentions that at the exit point they achieve an adequate 43m vehicle vision splays in both directions. To exit the site a driver would certainly need to look over their shoulder, both ways, to exit. As we also know, speeding is a problem entering the village which could be dangerous at this point
- No mention of solar panels, car charging points, ground or air source heat pumps.
- Insufficient parking for residents and visitors has been allowed for considering the size of each property.
- It is stated that refuse collection vehicles will not be able to access the site but no mention as to how refuse will be collected. Will these vehicles have to park on the main road bend, opposite the Western Arms?
- No mention of who the communal grounds and pond will be maintained by.
- It states that the "scheme will protect and enhance the site's ecology and provide a net gain in biodiversity." There is no mention in any of the associated documents how this will be achieved. How does developing on an underdeveloped parcel of land with houses and a new road create an increase in biodiversity?
- It is mentioned in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal that the removal of the grassland and scrub could lead to the loss of hedgehogs. This document also mentions that this "loss of habitat would be inconsequential to local hedgehog populations owing to their low value". It also states that a precautionary working method would be instigated during construction and if anywhere found they be left to their own accord to move or be moved by hand. As hedgehog populations have shrunk to about 100,000 countrywide this statement is shocking.
- What are the consequences of the proposed site being within the curtilage of a listed farmhouse and listed barns?

Application No: 24/00596/HH 59 Valentine Way
Creation of off road parking and access

Comment:

The proposal must conform to current conservation guidelines

Any large Planning Applications or Applications received after agenda was set

None.

Applications received after the agenda was set.

None.

The Clerk reported that BDC have notified PCs today that they are reviewing the current Local Plan taking its end date from 2033 to 2041. They are currently entering the ‘Call for Sites’ stage whereby applications for potential building sites can be made by 5pm on 24th May.

0424/FC2107 **Correspondence – not already included in the Clerk’s report**

BALC – next meeting on 17/4, 6.15pm either via Zoom or in person at Witham Town Hall. Cllr McDonald to attend.

Cllr McDonald - continues to share information regarding the proposed pylons.

EALC – 80th AGM on 26/9 at Layer Suite, Colchester Stadium.

Claire Tomalin, ECC – regarding emails re, abnormal loads. As there has been confusion following cancellations, ECC have suggested that these emails are stopped and that the information is placed on their website – access details sent to all SEPC Members. All agreed that the notifications should continue so the **Clerk** will notify ECC. The replacement bridge over the Blackwater is underway and once complete all abnormal loads will cease.

RCCE – Village of the Year and Rural Community Awards 2024. Entries to be received by 3/6.

Member of the Public – has volunteered for Community Speedwatch but still not enough Silver End volunteers for training, although Cllr Allaker put his name forward too.

Jan Stobart, RCCE – following her presentation at the last meeting, the Clerk has forwarded her promised email with extra information, to all Members.

0424/FC2108 **Reports from Silver End Councillors – Meetings/activities**

Cllr Ashford gave an update on the S106 meeting with BDC, stating that is going to be a slow process. The Clerk highlighted items of SEPC responsibility, with the next meeting due in June:

- **Clerk** to contact Eastlight to cut back the hedgerows/tress to the scout hut.
- **Cllr Ashford** to establish the approx. location of the electricity cables to the pavilion.
- **Cllr McDonald** will place an article in the next WoSE to seek villager views about the MUGA. **Clerk** to contact Tracy Parry, BDC, for advice on a consultation.
- **Cllr Ashford** to liaise with Silver End United to see if they are aware of parking plans at the pavilion. SEUFC knew nothing about the plans nor did Paul Partridge, BDC. SEUFC are very pleased about the proposals and have suggested some ideas for consideration. **Cllr Ashford** will pass these suggestions onto Grace Alman at BDC, copying Mick Galley in.
- **Clerk** to notify Mike Shorten and the BDC Communication Team once the table tennis table is in place.
- **Cllrs Bugg/McDonald** to notify Sarah Burder of the exact locations for the proposed information boards.
- **The Clerk** will add an agenda item, if agreed by Members, to the meeting in June to discuss taking on the ownership and management of allotments to be provided on site at the Land West of Boars Tye Rd.
- **Cllr Ashford** - hand print tiles in Memorial Gardens. He has identified the company that produced the original tiles who have given an indication of price.
- **Clerk** – Hawthorn trees – to investigate replacements.
- **Cllr McDonald** to investigate production of the Torii arch.

Cllr Ashford reported that the SIDs have been installed at Western Road, Boars Tye Rd and the original re-located on Temple Lane.

Cllr McDonald will get together with **Cllr Sullivan** after the 24th April, the closing date for replies regarding the 20mph speed limit. So far there have been 190 replies via the website and 10 paper replies.

The **Clerk** was asked to produce a current list of SEPC positions following the last APCM to include the Members nominated. She will also include suggested additions for the coming year.

Cllr Bugg reported that there was no pharmacist at Boots on a Saturday morning, leaving a cancer patient left waiting for cancer medication outside on a chair as they could not be given the treatment as no pharmacist was there. **Clerk** to write to Boots.

ECC/BDC Reports

Rick Sargeant, BDC – notified that he will no longer be responsible for the liaison between BDC and SEPC regarding the Memorial Gardens. This has been passed over to the Operations Team although a specific contact has not yet been named.

0424/FC2109 **Finance**

Bank reconciliations and balances as at 31.3.24 (year-end)

The Clerk presented the statements and balances which were agreed and signed by the Chair of the meeting, and the Clerk as the RFO, as per appendix 0424i, as sent to Members with the agenda. All payments to be made, detailed on this appendix, were agreed and the balances as at 31.3.24 were noted.

Additional payments agreed, to be added to the appendix:

- RCCE – annual membership 87.30
- J Bailey Landscapes – table tennis base 1260.00 (0224/FC2086)
- Npower 314.25
- HMRC (Q4) max 2500.00 to be taken by direct debit
- Mounting clips for the SID post 32.93
- Postcrete for the SID posts 55.00 – invoice to follow

All were agreed.

The Clerk has finalised the end of year accounts 2023/24 and will present them for signing at the **next meeting**. A provisional date for the internal audit has been set as June 5th.

0424/FC2110 **Consideration to be given to the installation of a bench on Western Road**

Cllr McDonald suggested that he compose a letter to distribute to all residents in the vicinity. Once prepared he will send to the **Clerk** for printing and will hand deliver. All agreed.

0424/FC2111 **Tree Survey in Silver End – to identify those trees that have not been replaced by ECC/BDC**
This will be placed on the **agenda for the meeting in May or June.**

0424/FC2112 **Agenda items for the next meeting**
Audit 2023/24
Colne Valley Community Energy Project – June.
WoSE – suggestions for articles for the magazine.

Next meetings:

Annual Parish Meeting – 22nd April
Annual Parish Council Meeting – 8th May.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 8.51pm.