



## SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in the Parish Council Office, Silver End Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Bugg (Chair,) Cllr McDonald, Cllr Sullivan, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Bailey, Mrs Temple (Clerk,) Cllr Abbott (BDC, left during 0324/FC2092, after his report) and Jan Stobart (RCCE, left after her presentation, before 0324/FC2089.)

0324/FC2088     **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Ashford, Cllr Wright (BDC) and Cllr Playle (ECC.)  
                  **Absent without apologies:** Cllr Hughes.

Before the meeting began in full Jan Stobart, Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) gave a presentation introducing Neighbourhood Plans. The main areas of discussion were:

- Different to the original Parish Plan as that was project based.
- Relates to land use and development and becomes part of BDC Local Plan. If it is more recent then it is the first point of reference for planning applications. Has to be in general conformity with all other plans.
- Proactively looks 15-20 years ahead of time. Discuss with community to agree and start local conversation – looks at compromise.
- Affordable Housing is difficult to include as must meet the need on BDC housing list. Could look at acquiring land for community led housing scheme.

At this point Jan Stobart opened the floor to questions.

JB – are they successful? JA - Neighbourhood Plans give power as it forms part of the Local Plan. Success has been mixed but it is the best tool available to parishes. Needs to be effective as it takes a lot of work.

Jan then continued with details on how to complete the plan:

- Process – A group needs to be formed - in line with paperwork provided. Evidence needs to back everything up. Must understand that personal opinion cannot effect the process/evidence. The environment and heritage needs to be considered positively. BDC will take it on and it will become part of the Local Plan. Lots of help can be given.
- Application needed to have the area designated as a parish area.
- Consultation to be undertaken by the parish council, after which BDC will provide a list of those to contact.
- After any changes are made following consultation, the amended plan is then submitted to the local authority. At this point it becomes their property. Needs to go to an Independent Examiner and then goes to referendum after any changes that need to be made.
- Can take from 18 months to 3 years. Funding comes to an end on 31/3/24 but hoping that government set up more, although this is still not known. NALC are promoting Neighbourhood Plans in September so possibly something is afoot. £18k was available + free consultancy packages. Most parishes have found that this is sufficient and have not needed to use precept.

The floor was again opened to questions:

KM – how many people are required to form a working party – JS – core of 5-9 people. Suggests holding an open session to explain and discuss Neighbourhood Plans. She can provide posters/flyers etc to help set this up.

JS will email the **Clerk** with links and info regarding the process.

The Chair thanked Jan very much for her attendance and her presentation and she left the meeting at this point.

0324/FC2089     **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda.  
None offered.

0324/FC2090     **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point, however none were present.

0324/FC2091     **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:**

- Refuse trucks have been booked for 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Notices have been placed on the boards and on the website.
- Luncheon Club dates have been booked ahead for the year 24/25 – 20 sessions in total, as last year. Cllr Bugg reported that the quality of the food has improved.
- BDC have agreed that the licence for the table tennis table installation can proceed based upon discussions already had. The **Clerk** has notified our contractors and they aim to have completed work by the end of April. BDC require a photo once completed.
- A date for the next **S106 meeting** has been arranged – 21<sup>st</sup> March, 10am in the SEPC office.
- The **Annual Parish Meeting** has been booked for Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm.
- The ECC grant for the benches has been agreed. The **Clerk** has to purchase the benches and then send a receipt to them for re-imbursement. Payment included in 0324/FC2096.

- Speedwatch – no additional trainees at this point but waiting for response from Cressing and Rivenhall PC's re joint working.
- Confirmation from Cllr Bailey that 2 bleed kits need to be purchased – **Clerk** to order.
- Framed High Sherriff's award for Erica Peagram has been handed to the **Chair** for presentation.
- Additional letters re dog bins have been sent to Bower Hall and Redrow for written agreement. The Clerk has reminded Cllr Ashford that he planned to contact the residents of Daniel Way. The **Clerk** suggested that she instruct BDC to purchase 3 bins, in anticipation of installation at these locations – all agreed. Following a resident's request to have a dog bin outside the Memorial Gardens for when the gates are shut, **Cllrs Bailey and Sullivan** agreed to move 2, from one side of the gates to the other.
- Details re local listings as provided by Cllr McDonald have been sent to Chris Paggi at BDC Planning. **Awaiting reply.**
- The SIDs has been ordered for delivery to Cllr Ashford. There is currently a promotion meaning a discount of £500.
- The website domain is due for renewal – **Leila Hobart** is looking at the available options.
- Eastlight have confirmed that the Bristol Court land can be used to plant the trees as already discussed. **Cllr Bailey** will organise trees for planting, along with the beech hedging for the Memorial Gardens, as previously agreed.

#### 0324/FC2092 **Report from District/County Councillors**

Cllr Abbott reported (based on his written report sent to the Clerk):

- Having reported the welcome news on planning last month that BDC has a 5 year Housing Land Supply (5.8 years) as well as its Local Plan (Adopted July 2022) the Local Plan Committee was told that BDC is going to embark on an early Review of the Local Plan with submission to Examination in 2025. This means there will be a short process and it will include a Call for Sites. Concerns raised: that the inevitable list of further development sites will be of concern to many in local communities and it could pose a risk of wasted work and costs as a General Election is imminent. Councils have to Review their Local Plans within 5 years, so awaiting the outcome of the General Election in terms of changes to the planning system under a new Government would still allow time for the review.
- Continue to press ECC to take action on the repeat flooding of roads and footways, particularly at the railway bridge in Rivenhall. It continues to occur and in the meantime we would flag the need for care when driving or cycling through there due to the very poor condition of the road caused by water erosion. We are aware of 6 people who have suffered vehicle damage at the railway bridge in the last few months due to potholes and flooding.
- Long Green has now closed again for the roundabout construction works for the 250 houses being built.
- The Rivenhall Airfield Waste Site Liaison meeting was held today. We again raised concerns about the cumulative impacts from so much development in this part of Braintree District, including quarries, the incinerator, glasshouses, major road expansion, solar farms, unplanned housing, commercial, pylons and more. The Minerals Plan consultation runs until 5pm on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Indaver did give an assurance that no waste site HGVs or abnormal loads should be coming through Silver End once the new haul road bridge over the River Blackwater is completed.
- We have added our requests to those from the parish council to restore the 2 pairs of ornamental hawthorn trees at the lower end of Broadway which are likely original plantings from when the village was built. Given the Conservation Area status we have asked BDC Landscapes if they can assist with securing agreement on replacements.
- Following the SEPC meeting in February we did ask BDC about trimming back along the access road off Silver Street.
- We also asked BDC about the idea of solar panels for the village hall, we will press for a reply.
- A resident asked us about dog bins near the Memorial Gardens - there are dog bins inside but it is closed off at night. This was discussed in the Clerk's report.
- We have booked another of our district councillors planning update meetings for local residents - to be held in the village hall on Friday at 7.30pm.

Cllr Abbott was thanked for the report and the Chair then opened the floor to questions:

KM - Contact magazine (BDC) states that from April they will not collect side waste – what do they expect residents to do with it? JA - decision made at executive level. Thinks their idea is for residents to store it or take it to the recycling centre.

KM - how to report vehicles going down Sheepcotes Lane. JA – need registration number. **KM** will put an item in WoSE.

AB – Bristol Ct – cars parking for the school, stopping residents from parking at their own properties. JA will report.

AB - Tree on Boars Tye Road by bungalows – who owns it as there are calls for felling as it has damaged property. JA will investigate.

AB - Surgery – as of 24/4 can only book online. Many people do not have access to the internet. CT/JB think that there is a government initiative to not allow this.

Cllr Abbott was thanked for his report and his attendance and he left the meeting at this point.

In his absence Cllr Playle asked the Clerk to read and minute the following report:

#### **Highways repairs**

Temple Lane, one of the last of my member-led pothole repairs, has been attended to near the entrance of the village. This was done outside the advertised permit window and the reinstatement work to the Western Road drain appears not to have been done. I am raising this with Essex Highways along with the Silver Street matter. I have another Highways Liaison visit this coming Friday and I will be taking them to the pavement outside the factory site to show how bad this has become.

#### **Bleed kits**

I have made the request for Essex County Council to consider Silver End as one of the locations to install a free bleed kit. If I hear any further information I shall let you know.

## Locality Budget

I am pleased to say that SEPC has approval to purchase the benches. I suggest this is done quickly as I believe all expenditure has to be made by the end of March.

## Minerals Plan Review 2025 – 2040 (REMINDER)

Essex County Council has a statutory duty to ensure it has an up to date plan to ensure that there are enough minerals for construction to meet the needs of Essex. The Council is currently reviewing the plan and previously undertook a 'call for sites'. Although there are no sites within the Silver End parish area, there are quite a few sites in neighbouring areas. To find out more information and to take part in the consultation, please visit: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/replacement-essex-minerals-local-plan-review-2025-2040>. The consultation ends on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

## Recycling centre booking system

It has been confirmed that the recycling centre booking system will be made permanent.

### 0324/FC2093 **Planning Applications – agreed via email communication since the last meeting. Only objections or formal comments noted.**

Application No: 24/00450/FUL Rascasse, Sheepcotes Lane  
Change of use of Land from Agriculture to C2 use as Part of Care Home.

Objection:

This extra land is only required for access due to previously granted over development of the site, and that safe emergency access should have been considered prior to spending time and money building an expensive and unusable development.

Note that the applicant claims it won't require removal of any trees etc, this is because they have already been cleared to allow unlawful use of this land during the construction of the development. There was, prior to construction commencing, hedgerow along the complete boundary.

#### **Any large Planning Applications or Applications received after agenda was set**

None.

#### **Applications received after the agenda was set.**

Application No: 24/00543/HH 42 Temple Lane  
Replacement front and side doors and frames

Objection: in contravention of current conservation guidelines.

The **Clerk** was asked to notify Planning Enforcement that front and side windows have been replaced with UPVC at 61 Silver Street. No planning application has been made.

### 0324/FC2094 **Correspondence – not already included in the Clerk's report**

Member of the Public – concern over speeding cars into the village from Rivenhall. Would like to see speed reduction on approach and a speed device. The Clerk has replied explaining that a new SID will be placed at that end and that speed reduction has already been requested but not taken into consideration when the 2 new developments were built. She has mentioned Community Speed Watch training.

Member of the Public – concern over footpath from Herons factory to Grooms Lane and it's poor condition. Dangerous for wheelchair users. Also queried whether the trees in Valentine Way are going to be replaced. The Clerk has replied that the pathway has been reported and that Cllr Playle is aware of the issue. All missing trees are to be notified to BDC as part of the Conservation Area Appraisal.

ECC – Local Highways Planning meeting on 20/3 has been postponed and is anticipated to now take place in April.

Member of the Public – concern over a replanted tree outside his house in Western Road. Feels it is too large and too close to his property. He has contacted BDC. **Cllr Abbott** has stated that he will investigate.

EALC – Protecting Public Right of Way course, delivered online by the Open Spaces Society. To be held on 13/11/24, 9.30-1pm, £80 + VAT per candidate.

### 0324/FC2095 **Reports from Silver End Councillors – Meetings/activities**

The Clerk reported that she and Cllrs Bugg and Ashford met Grace Alman, BDC, to discuss projects that fall under S106 headings. Initial discussions were held in the Memorial Gardens concerning a rebound goal, with SEPC's main concern being that it does not create an excessive amount of noise. The York stone path will be taken up and re-laid with additional stone being used wherever needed. Also at the Football Club pavilion it was explained that they plan to extend the parking area with type 1, removing the grasscrete. The **Clerk** was asked to contact the Football Club to ensure that they are aware.

Indaver meeting – Cllr McDonald – presentation made by District Councillor, Nick Unsworth, regarding air quality monitoring. £3-4k for each monitor. Funding could be a problem. Hope that it is set up a year before the incinerator starts, in order to compare. The meeting voted yes in principle. 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to Bury to be organised. On 27/5 they are holding the Crank Up Festival. Indaver are interested in using WoSE for including information – they will contact the Clerk.

WoSE – distributed this week. 20mph and Community Speedwatch items included. Next edition - please let him know if anything to be included – due around June. Map of dog waste bins to be added.

Cllr McDonald - in conservation area appraisal they recommend that SEPC carry out a tree appraisal. **Agenda item for April.**

Cllr McDonald - Colne Valley Community Energy Project – **Clerk** to invite to a meeting to give a talk.

#### **ECC/BDC Reports**

The Clerk reported that the bench by the pond has been re-fixed and the tree by the entrance gate has been removed.

0324/FC2096 **Finance**

**Bank reconciliations and balances as at 29.2.24**

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 0324i, as sent to Members with the agenda. All payments to be made, detailed on this appendix, were agreed and the balances as at 29.2.24 were noted.

Additional payments agreed, to be added to the appendix:

2 x benches (following approval from ECC.) Grant to be paid on production of receipts max. £3000.00

BDC – 3 x dog waste bins – max. £1000.00.

2 x padlocks – £128.17.

All were agreed.

0324/FC2097 **Members to consider the presentation made at the start of the meeting regarding Neighbourhood Plans. Should SEPC consider renewing the plan made in 2011?**

Cllr Sullivan – sounds like a great idea but it all depends on the success.

Cllr McDonald – all for it but concerned about getting enough people willing to get involved. Need to protect the village.

Suggested that the **Clerk** add to AGM a group to organise the Neighbourhood Plan. All in agreement.

Need to wait until it is decided at government level that more funding is agreed.

0324/FC2098 **Consideration to be given to the installation of a bench on Western Road**

Cllr McDonald has not seen the residents that he planned to gain ideas from. The **Clerk** will add to the agenda for April.

0324/FC2099 **SEPC website – discussion about potential amendments/improvements**

Cllr Sullivan believes that the website is an under used resource and that there are many areas to look at. Cllr McDonald has been in touch with Leila Hobart asking her to make certain amendments.

It was suggested that the **Clerk** add a role at AGM for a website co-ordinator, for which Cllr Sullivan volunteered.

He also stated that there are 29 replies on there already responding to the speed survey on WoSE.

0324/FC2100 **Agenda items for the next meeting**

Tree Appraisal.

Colne Valley Community Energy Project – assuming agreement has been made to give a presentation.

Next Full Council Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> April.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 21.03pm.