



SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr Bugg (Chair,) Cllr McDonald, Cllr Ashford, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Sullivan, Mrs Temple (Clerk,) Cllr Playle (ECC, left after 0124/FC2059) and Cllr Wright (BDC, left after 0124/FC2059.)

0124/FC2055 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Bailey and Cllr Abbott (BDC.)
Absent without apologies: None.

0124/FC2056 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda. None offered.

0124/FC2057 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point, however none were present.

0124/FC2058 **Minutes of the previous Full Parish Council Meeting** were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting. It should be noted that the Chair is currently signing with his opposite hand, following a recent accident. His signature is recognisable but there is a marked difference to previously.

Clerk's Report and any matters arising from the last minutes:

- BDC have been notified of Cllr Kelly's resignation. Notification of Casual Vacancy to follow with effect from Monday.
- Reminder of 100th anniversary meeting sent to all, 24/1 at 7.30pm.
- Kev Lay has been notified of broken light at entrance to Memorial Gardens.
- Although the Tori arch is not on the Open Space Plan it could fall under the public art category. The Plan is said to be updated in the Spring.
- Eastlight have been chased for confirmation that the land by Bristol Court can be used to plant **fruit trees**.

0124/FC2059 **Report from District/County Councillors**

Cllr Wright (BDC) reported:

- Cabinet meeting 18/12. Household waste policy set out; from 4/3 green waste collection starts, he is still aiming for concessions. Missing collections need to be notified by noon the following day. BDC will no longer collect side waste – will be flexible initially but will then start fining.
- Budget setting meeting 31/1. Open to the public.
- Reported persistent flooding in Rivenhall – still not fixed.
- Solar Farm appeal – next to Rivenhall Place – planning permission granted. Disruption expected whilst being built.
- Rivenhall PC and SEPC – made objection to Indaver's planning app to change working hours.
- Conservation Area Appraisal – pleased to be involved.
- Crossing PC – discussing many road closure issues over the next few months. Details to be finalised.
- Cllr Abbott is pushing for 30mph limit to be pushed out on Boars Tye Rd.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

KM – has money been spent re S106 monies allocated for the surgery and outdoor sports – dates expired in December 2023. BW - no notification as yet.

The Chair thanked Cllr Wright for his report.

Cllr Playle (ECC) reported:

- ECC – precept core element 2.99%, additional 2% for social care – 4.99% total. Just under the maximum increase allowed. Knows that this is not ideal during a cost of living crisis. Suspects that the 2% for social care will not be enough. To be agreed at FC in February.
- Passed on cycling email from the Clerk.
- Benches – **Clerk** to organise new quote for both benches to be sent to Cllr Playle. He will order them and they can be stored in the Manors garage.
- Work taking place on Broomfield this week to repair pot hole.
- Pot holes in Temple Lane – been delayed but still in the pipeline. Pathway opposite Grooms Lane is in a very poor state and will be looked at.
- Rivenhall flooding - 15/18-1 road closure to fill pot holes and look at flooding.
- Pot holes in Silver St breaking up – contractor to repair at no additional cost.
- The proposed gateway on Temple Lane has had initial agreement at LHP.

The Chair opened the floor to questions:

AB – the street light in the middle of the roundabout outside the hall has been out for a year. RP believes that roundabouts are BDC's responsibility but will check.

IA – would like to thank Cllr Playle for getting things moving with the new legal street signs on Boars Tye Road.

At this point the Chair thanked both gentlemen for their attendance and they left the meeting.

0124/FC2060 **Planning Applications – agreed via email communication since the last meeting. Only objections or formal comments noted.**

None.

Any large Planning Applications or Applications received after agenda was set

None.

Applications received after the agenda was set.

None.

0124/FC2061 **Correspondence – not already included in the Clerk’s report**

Local Highways Panel – next meeting on 18th January, 5pm at Causeway House.

Speedwatch – Have suggested a training date of either 13th or 15th February at 7pm. However new policy states that a minimum of 8 people are needed for a group. Currently 4 people have stepped forward, with Cllr Taylor stepping forward at the meeting to make 5 (IA, PH, SH and AF, CT.) All agreed that **Cllr Ashford** should put something on FB, which the **Clerk** will put on website and **Cllr Hughes** will include something in WoSE. New locations have been approved. The **Clerk** will put training on hold. Member of the Public – vehicles parking on Francis Way. Abandoned car on junction of Goslings/Francis Way – untaxed, no MOT. Police not assisting and directing to BDC. Driveway being obstructed at times. Looking for support. Cllr Ashford commented that there is little that we can do as there are a lot of people that live there parking. **Clerk** to notify BDC/DVLA of the abandoned vehicle and **respond** to the member of the public.

0124/FC2062 **Reports from Silver End Councillors – Meetings/activities**

Cllr Ashford – meeting on Boars Tye Road with Cllrs Playle, McDonald and Highways to discuss speeding traffic. As a result the new signage has been installed this week. He has kept the originals in case needed in the future. Very good service, very impressed with the response.

Cllr Hughes sent a revised version of the questionnaire for WoSE via email, as agreed 1223/FC2052. Will keep it simple for a blanket 20mph throughout the village. Also write asking for more volunteers for Speedwatch.

Cllr McDonald reported:

- BALC – meeting being held next week – executives of BDC there to answer questions. Pass any questions on to Cllr McDonald by the end of the week.
- Colne Valley Community Energy Project – Cllr J Taylor mentioned solar panels etc helpful to conservation areas.
- Conservation Area Appraisal meeting held on 19/12. Notes of meeting sent to all via email. Useful meeting – comments sent to BDC.
- Indaver Meeting - many things are moving forward. Welcomed questions on the incinerator. Concrete coming from Chelmsford.
- WoSE – deadline for articles 1st Feb. Asked for suggestions on any other SEPC reports. Cllr Ashford – suggested putting article in for more people to come forward as a councillor. **Cllr Bugg** – suggested an advert for the Luncheon Club looking for new members as numbers have very much declined. He will speak to Helen Thomson.
- 100th anniversary meeting – **Cllr McDonald** will send an agenda and minutes for the **Clerk** to circulate.

The Clerk reported on a meeting attended by her and the Chair on 10th December with Rick Sargeant, BDC, regarding the Memorial Gardens. Main points noted that are not included as agenda items:

1. BDC have no additional funds to increase SEPC’s payment to allow for additional works to be covered in the Gardens.
2. BDC are happy for SEPC to plant additional beech hedging to fill any gaps. SEPC to maintain until established. **Clerk** to notify the contractor.
3. Roses require pruning and the herbaceous borders require completion.
4. BDC will cut to the ground the dead tree by the entrance of the Gardens, sometime this month.
5. Slats removed from the pergola to be re-instated.
6. Next meeting on 14th May at 10am.

ECC/BDC Reports

Street light out no. 13 on Boars Tye Rd. **Clerk** to report.

0124/FC2063 **Finance**

Bank reconciliations and balances as at 31.12.23

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 0124i, as sent to Members with the agenda. All payments to be made, detailed on this appendix, were agreed and the balances as at 31.12.23 were noted.

Precept/Budget 2024/25

The Clerk presented the draft budget for precept using the new Rialtas System, meaning that it will be more detailed than previously.

Each budget heading was discussed and considered in detail, particularly the large budget allowed for future village projects (outside gym equipment to be considered.)

Cllr Ashford proposed a precept of £91,457 – resulting in a decrease of 1.45%. Feels that during a cost of living crisis this is the right thing to do, particularly when there will be increases from both ECC and BDC.

Cllr Hughes acted as second and with no further proposals a vote was taken with all in favour.

The **Chair and Clerk**, RFO, will sign BDC’s form to claim Precept 24/25.

0124/FC2064 **Consideration to be given to the purchase and location of a new SID (as allowed in Budget 2023/24)**

Cllr Ashford has gained quotes for additional SID devices for the village approaches. Money already allocated for 23/24 in

Village Projects. All come with data collection via blue tooth. Variety of pricing, difference appears to depend on length of warranty. Details of all quotes circulated during the meeting. Cllr Ashford proposed that as there is sufficient money in the budget that 2 devices could be purchase so that all 3 entrances can be monitored, suggesting that the original SID be moved to the Temple Lane entrance and the new devices be placed on the approaches on Boars Tye Road and Western Road. With poles he sees the maximum cost being £6500 if 2 Elancity devices are purchased.

Cllr Hughes thanked Cllr Ashford for his efforts and then proposed that SEPC purchase 2 Elancity customisable devices, for Boars Tye Rd and Western Rd. Cllr McDonald acted as second. With no further proposals a vote was taken with all in favour. **Cllr Ashford** will organise the order, using the SEPC debit card. The **Clerk** will contact the bank to ensure that this amount will be covered.

0124/FC2065 New benches – replace the 2 ECC benches at the triangle to Temple Lane/Broadway/Valentine Way or to place them on Eastlight land where benches previously stood

Cllr Hughes suggested that we place the benches on Eastlight land as they are in full agreement for existing hard standing to be used. Sites are outside the bungalows on Broadway and outside the bungalows on Boars Tye Road.

Cllr McDonald thinks that Cllr Playle should be given time to find out more from ECC about installing the benches as originally discussed. He read out the fixing suggestions from Olive Cowell but all were relating to fixing into hard standing and not tarmac as they have specified.

Cllr Hughes proposed that Cllr Playle continues ordering 2 benches, using his grant money, to eventually replace the ECC ones on the triangle. Then **SEPC** order 2 additional benches, using 23/24 Open Spaces budget and place a Lest We Forget bench outside the bungalows and a plain bench on Boars Tye Rd. Proposed £2000 +VAT and installation – **Clerk** to liaise with John Bailey for a quote. Cllr Ashford acted as second. With no further proposals a vote was taken and all were in agreement.

0124/FC2066 Table tennis table. Licence to be agreed shortly by BDC. Cost of installation to be agreed/finalised

Mike Shorten, BDC has been in touch regarding the licence. They are happy to issue with the following conditions:

- That a hard surface is installed for the table to be placed on (the Clerk has asked Cllr Bailey if his original quote still stands for £800 but has had no response at this point.)
- That SEPC take full responsibility for repairs, maintenance and renewal of the table.
- That SEPC will indemnify BDC against all claims arising from the use of the table.
- The licence will be ongoing, terminable by either party, upon one month's notice.
- That SEPC pay a licence fee of £1.

Cllr Hughes proposed agreeing to the above with Cllr Ashford acting as second. With no further proposals a vote was taken and all voted in favour.

Clerk to notify BDC.

0124/FC2067 Councillors to consider 2 proposals made by BDC relating to the Memorial Gardens

The Clerk reported that at the Memorial Gardens meeting with Rick Sargeant, BDC, SEPC were asked to consider 2 issues:

1. Would SEPC be happy for \$106 monies (expansion, modification or improvements of facilities) to be used for supporting BDC funding to lift and relay the Yorkstone paving within the Memorial Gardens?

All agreed assuming that the work is carried out to a high and acceptable standard. **Clerk** to notify BDC.

2. Would SEPC be happy for \$106 monies (improvements to/installation of replacement of children's equipment) to be used to install a re-bound goal to be sited where the existing goal is located?

All agreed assuming BDC are able to offer assurance that the re-bound goal should not result in noise complaints. **Clerk** to notify BDC.

0124/FC2068 Consideration to be given to BDC's proposal for SEPC to hold a key to a Redrow maintenance gate

Neil Burder, BDC Planning, have asked if SEPC would be able to hold a key, along with Redrow's Estate Management Company to a maintenance gate between their development and properties on Daniel Way and Joseph Gardens. They are keen to ensure that no anti-social behaviour occurs on the area and that residents are able to access the land and ditch behind the property. The Estate Management company will also be responsible for maintaining this land. The thought is that if the key is not available when required that SEPC can be a backup option.

Cllr McDonald proposed that without a constant presence in the village it will be too much responsibility for the parish council to hold a key and be able to ensure its return. Cllr Bugg acted as second. With no further proposals a vote was taken to which all were in favour. **Clerk** to feed back to BDC.

0124/FC2069 Bleed Control kit

Cllr McDonald has suggested that Silver End could make use of one and that Cllr Bailey previously mentioned that Witham Rotary Club have plans to buy one for Silver End.

Cllr Ashford suggested that we could have 2, one next to each defib.

The Chair proposed that his unused Chairman's Grant could be used for 23/24 and that 2 could be bought within budget, assuming that the Rotary Club are unable to assist. If not, only 1 would be needed. Each unit costs approx. £425 and the Grant is a total of £1000. Cllr Taylor acted as second and with no further proposals a vote was taken and all were in agreement.

0124/FC2070 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr McDonald reported that the last Plan is now very outdated (2011.) He believes it to be a very useful document that helps to get things done that are community led. Undoubtedly it is a long process but that RCCE are there for support.

Cllr Ashford added that he was involved in the last Parish Plan and that it was a worthwhile process, however it is worrying that it

dates so quickly. Really valuable survey to get opinions of villagers about what happens in the village. Cllr Hughes stated that it shouldn't be as much work second time around as we have already had a plan. Doesn't believe however that BDC have ever taken any notice of the Parish Plan, nor has the Planning Inspectorate. Suggested that the **Clerk** invite a representative from RCCE to come to talk about the workings of a Parish Plan, ideally at a separate meeting.

0124/FC2071 **Agenda items for the next meeting**

Next Full Council Meeting – 14th February.

Format of Parish Assembly

Project Plan

Dog waste bins – from councillor grants

Local Listing – KM

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 22.41pm.