



SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 12th June 2024 in the Parish Council Office, Silver End Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Bugg (Chair,) Cllr McDonald, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Sullivan, Cllr Allaker, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Ashford, Mrs Temple (Clerk,) Cllr Playle (ECC, left during 0624/FC2135,) Cllr Wright (BDC, left after 0624/FC2135,) Cllr Jane Taylor (White Colne PC, left before 0624/FC2132) and 1 Member of the Public (left during 0624/FC2135.)

0624/FC2131 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Abbott (BDC.)
Absent without apologies: Cllr Bailey.

Before the meeting began in full, a presentation was given by Cllr Jane Taylor regarding the Colne Valley Community Energy Project.

Cllr Taylor introduced herself as Chair of White Colne PC and representative of the CVCEP. Main points covered:

- Equivalent to solar farms on our roof tops. CVCEP pushing out throughout Essex. Backed by ECC working in partnership with Power Circle.
- 10 PCs involved so far as well as Halstead TC.
- Stage 1 - householders purchase outright – cheaper within project – gives people confidence in companies already screened by ECC. Excess energy is sold off to the National Grid. In the future they can sell off within the project. Approx. cost for the average 3 bed property, 10 panels giving 4/5kw - £8k. 75 people interested at this stage.
- Stage 2 – for those not wishing to fund project themselves they can opt for pay as you go. Launch planned for the Autumn. Excess energy sold initially to grid and then to project, in time. No income for home owner from excess.
- Stage 3 for those unable to install panels there is still an option to join project, maybe to install panels at ground level.
- Public meeting can be organised by them – could make it a community event.
- Batteries can be purchased through the project, for those that already have solar panels.
- White Colne are using their village hall as a showcase using levelling up money.
- Eastlight are interested in involvement which would have a huge difference in Silver End due to the amount of their properties.
- Properties in a Conservation Area are believed to be allowed installation in front gardens with max 3ft height.

All expressions of interest to be recorded via the website:

<https://www.colnevalleycep.org/>

The Chair thanked Cllr Taylor at this point, stating that the matter was to be discussed later in the meeting. She left at this point.

0624/FC2132 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda.
None were given.

0624/FC2133 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point.

The 1 member present wanted to speak about the poor state of public green areas around the village, including grass and hedging, also within the Memorial Gardens. All agreed that the village looks terrible currently, worse than ever before. The **Clerk** will contact BDC. She will also mention that BDC cut the football field recently and promised to remove the cuttings in time for a tournament. This did not happen, meaning that volunteers had to take several hours doing it themselves to allow the tournament to go ahead. The cuttings remain on the side of the field.

The Member of the Public was thanked for her attendance and her report.

0624/FC2134 **Minutes of May's Annual Parish Meeting** were agreed and signed as a true record.

Clerk's Report:

- Still awaiting confirmation from BDC that the **dog bin survey** is complete.
- Eastlight responded regarding the roof at The Manors Garages –work is almost complete. They had a scaffold platform under the roof with tarpaulin for protection. Work very delayed as most of the roof timbers had to be replaced. Still open to elements. **Clerk** to report that there is never anyone on site.

- BDC re Code of Conduct – suggested that although not mandatory that it desirable for all councils to work from the same document. Notify BDC if considering adoption so that they can extend training. **Clerk** to confirm that no agreement has been reached at this point but that SEPC will consider.
- 100th meeting – Clerk has sent a reminder about the next meeting on 23/7, 7.30pm.
- Broken light at the entrance to the Memorial Gardens has been reported and fixed.
- Cllr Playle has confirmed that PC's should not be repairing pot holes, under any circumstances.
- Crossing PC re **Community Speedwatch**. Their co-ordinator is liaising with the Speedwatch Team and will notify us when a date is to be booked. Crossing also have a gun which is useful, as calibration can take time, so we will never be without one.

0624/FC2135 **Report from District/County Councillors**

Cllr Playle (ECC) reported:

- Silver Street pot hole repairs scheduled for next week.
- Confirmation that pot holes cannot be fixed by parish councils.
- Notify him of pot holes for member led scheme.
- LHP meeting next week. Press on dropped kerbs.
- £2.9m approved for special educational needs in Essex.

The Chair thanked Cllr Ross for his attendance and his report and opened the floor to questions:

CT – Silver Street/Broadway – car hit kerb and it is now very loose and no longer sitting proud – opposite 62 Silver Street. RP will arrange repair.

AB – core cutting of road in Silver Street. RP believes they may be looking at the lower surface.

IA – workmen have painted white lines over the pot holes at Temple Lane junction Western Rd. Pot hole is now extremely deep.

IA – Land West of Boars Tye Rd - a section has been removed from the hedge and the ditch blocked. Any movement on speed being moved back? RP has passed this on to LHP and will investigate the access and the ditch.

IA – 160 tonne load to come through village to incinerator – unacceptable. The bailey bridges were supposed to be finished and if the surrounding area can't take it on A120 how is the Silver End/Rivenhall Rd supposed to? Bound to cause issues with subsidence. RP totally agrees and will be discussing this at the site meeting tomorrow.

The Member of the Public left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Wright (BDC) reported:

- Chasing BDC for revised timetable re the conservation area guideline update.
- BDC have stated that they don't have a 5 year housing supply. Opening themselves up to speculative building.
- Bellway – details coming together for planning application on land west of Boars Tye Road. He will make BDC aware of what they are currently doing, as reported by Cllr Ashford.
- BDC – expect to publish review of sites – available in August.
- General election – most meetings cancelled or postponed . Pylons extended to 2026.
- Chasing BDC for solar panels on village hall roof. Need to hear from tenants. **Clerk** to write with request.
- Waste Site liaison meeting tomorrow – discuss heavy loads. Chimney has now been erected, concern that it isn't high enough.
- JA liaising with BDC regarding the hedges and trees removed/vandalised. Also asked for TPO on Oak tree.
- Redrow cut down hedge to frontage, asking enforcement what is to be done. Very wide footpath is being built.
- JA met with BDC to discuss Silver End – village is being disadvantaged due to BDC staffing problems.

Cllr Playle left the meeting at this point.

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

PH - is there no complaints procedure to state that there is a lack of service being provided by BDC? Specifically relating to the update of the conservation guidelines – has been ongoing for over 10 years. The lack of up to date guidelines affects a large amount of residents leaving them without a clear, up to date document to support them. Give due notice that SEPC are considering a formal complaint due to BDC's to failure to a statutory This is a planning document for which they are responsible. **Clerk** to write to BDC.

IA – can he speak to BDC about the lack of grass cutting – particularly, the village hall field? BW agreed.

AB – hedges on Silver Street are becoming overgrown, particularly nos. 12 (private,) 25 (Eastlight,) 33 (private) and the hedge at the Runnacles Street/Broadway junction. **Clerk** will also report.

Cllr Wright left the meeting at this point.

0624/FC2136 **Planning Applications – agreed via email communication since the last meeting. Only objections or formal comments noted.**

None.

Any large applications that may require further discussion.

None.

Planning Applications received after agenda was set.

Planning application: ESS/39/23/BTE/NMAS Land at Rivenhall Airfield

Non material Amendment regarding the wording of Condition 8 to allow delivery of 2 abnormal loads, turbine and generator, via Woodhouse Lane

Object on the following grounds:

- All previous correspondence has suggested that access for these loads would be made via the A120 across the bailey bridges. If they are deemed unsuitable for transportation along the major A120 route consideration cannot possibly be given to them travelling through a rural route on a small B road. This is a country road, narrow in places, with areas that could be subject to future subsidence with such heavy loads passing over them. The roads through the villages themselves are often single file as cars park along the road side.
- This issue must have been discussed in the past and therefore should have been addressed sooner, rather than simply believing it appropriate to travel this route.

This NMA must be refused and an alternative sought.

0624/FC2137 Correspondence – not already included in the Clerk's report

EALC – an updated model of Financial Regulations is now available. The **Clerk** will review and add to a future agenda for adoption, if required.

Alistair Bowman, Youth Development, Silver End FC – would like to see the Factory Site used as a new football venue, using S106 monies towards the cost. He includes a drawing of his proposal and is liaising with Cllrs Abbott and Wright. No objections but the S106 monies will not be sufficient to cover much of the cost. **Clerk** to liaise with Cllr Abbott and explain to Mr Bowman that SEPC have no involvement until the first application is made.

EALC – Salt Bag Partnership 2024. 1 tonne of salt will be delivered in September/October. **Clerk** to order.

Cemex – next Bradwell Quarry Liaison Meeting is on 16th July, 2pm on Teams. **Clerk** to send agenda to Cllr Allaker.

Gridserve – offer free tours/test drives and educational visits for schools and local groups.

Bellway Homes – acquired ownership of land west of Boars Tye Road. Would like to meet to introduce themselves and to hear councillors' views. **Clerk** to invite them to a meeting.

Indaver – Rivenhall Liaison Group meeting on 13th June, 11am. **Cllr McDonald** to attend on site and **Cllr Allaker** to attend via Teams.

Cllr McDonald – continues to distribute information regarding the pylons.

Valentine House – employee has asked for more details on the Luncheon Club with a view to some members attending. General information has been provided and the **Clerk** who will chase if no response.

Member of the Public – concern over inconsiderate parking on Temple Lane. Truck is parking close to a driveway making visibility pulling onto the road very difficult, particularly near a bend.

Member of staff – notification that a fence panel has partially fallen back into Grannies Alley – **Clerk** to liaise with Cllr Abbott for his contact.

0624/FC2138 Reports from Silver End Councillors – Meetings/activities

AB and PH – BDC Memorial Gardens – positive meeting. Andy Snell and 1 other. They suggested that volunteers can do work if they so wish. Trees are to be dealt with that are low hanging. Discussed run up to the 100th. Fence has been removed around the ping pong table.

AB – reported that the noticeboard outside the Co-op was vandalised and reported to the Police. They were due to contact the Clerk, but nothing received yet. He very kindly made repairs.

AB – reported that he and other councillors cleaned signs around the village last week.

ECC/BDC/Eastlight Reports

Clerk reported on the following with BDC:

- Knee rail by the Memorial Gardens has been repaired and they are looking into the cost of re-aligning the main gate.
- Floor tiles have been repaired in the Memorial Gardens toilet.

With Eastlight:

- Have been asked to cut back the over grown approach to the village hall field from Silver Street.

With ECC:

- Bench licence application has been made.

Cllr Bugg asked the **Clerk** to report broken bollards on the Co-op site - 2 by village hall and 2 by the chip shop, allowing access to the rear. Water still coming out of ground – **Cllr Bugg** will send the Clerk photos.

Cllr Ashford reported motorbikes getting onto the village hall field – via entrances at Temple Lane, the hall car park, by the library and by Silver Street. **Clerk** to report to BDC to see if anything can be done.

Cllr Sullivan asked the **Clerk** to speak to Crossing PC about the overgrowth affecting sight lines at The Ashes.

0624/FC2139 **Finance**

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 0624i, as sent to Members with the agenda. All payments to be made, detailed in this appendix, were agreed and the balances were noted.

Additional payments to be added to the appendix 0624i:

Silver End Youth Club (re internal audit)		60.00 (see below)
Strimmer cable	max	10.00
Packing tape	max	10.00

Audit 2023/2024

The internal audit was held with Mrs Greta Tew on 5th June with no issues of concern or matters to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.

The internal audit section of the return has been completed and signed and has been sent to the External Auditor, along with the form in its entirety and all requested paperwork. The Notice of Public Rights has been added to the website as required by law for a period from 3rd June to 12th July. All agreed that a sum of £15 will be requested for anyone wishing a copy of the accounts.

Historically a figure of £60.00 has been paid to the internal auditor for their time an inconvenience. As in previous years the fee has been waived personally, with a request to make a donation to a local organisation. This year Mrs Tew has asked that it be made to Silver End Youth Club. This was proposed by Cllr Hughes with Cllr Ashford acting as second with no further proposals a vote was taken and all were in agreement.

0624/FC2140 **Consideration to be given to the presentation given at the beginning of the meeting regarding the Colne Valley Community Energy Project**

Cllr Hughes stated that he believes this is a project to support and that it would require a co-ordinator which he was happy to put himself forward. All agreed. If there is space in the current magazine edition Cllr McDonald will include an article asking for interested parties to get in touch. All agreed that a meeting is needed first and maybe a leaflet drop in advance. The **Clerk** will forward **Cllr Hughes'** details to Cllr Taylor so that they can communicate directly.

0624/FC2141 **Consideration to be given to the installation of a bench on Western Road, following a consultation with neighbouring properties**

Cllr McDonald reported that he posted 14 letters to nearby residents and the Clerk has received 6 responses - 4 in favour, 2 against. As only 2 out of 14 are against Cllr Hughes proposed that the **Clerk** apply for a licence with ECC for a bench to be positioned by the pathway next to the bus stop. Cllr Bugg acted as second and with no further proposals everyone was in agreement. The **Clerk** will liaise with BDC about their bench supplier.

0624/FC2142 **Tree Survey in Silver End – to identify those trees that have not been replaced by ECC/BDC**

Initial complaint from Members about trees that have been removed and not replaced. Within conservation appraisal it states the benefits of trees in the area.

Cllr Sullivan offered to start an appraisal to establish what has been removed and then suggest suitable replacements. He will notify the **Clerk** when an agenda item is required. The **Clerk** will diarise.

0624/FC2143 **Members to discuss the possibility of SEPC taking ownership, maintenance and administration of the proposed allotments on the Boars Tye Road development – as proposed by BDC**

Cllr Hughes proposed that this would not be a viable option for SEPC with Cllr McDonald acting as second. With no further proposals all were in agreement. The **Clerk** will notify BDC at the next S106 meeting.

0624/FC2144 **S106 Meeting Report – ahead of the next S106 meeting**

Items for SEPC to complete:

- **Clerk** – speaking to Tracey Parry on Tuesday regarding a consultation with residents re the MUGA.
- Clerk has contacted Lauren Wiffen, BDC – to promote the ping pong table.
- SEPC – decision about allotments made 0624/FC2143.

Awaiting BDC's suggestion for next meeting date.

0624/FC2145 **Project Plan – quarterly review**

The **Clerk** distributed an updated project plan for consideration. The items are to be added:

- Pram crossings - RP to chase with LHP.
- Bench for Western Rd – add to current benches item.
- Solar Panel Projects.
- Tree survey.

The **Clerk** will ensure an updated copy is added to the website. All agreed to review the project plan semi-annually – **next review** in December.

0624/FC2146 **Neighbourhood Plan – initial discussions led by Cllr McDonald**

Clerk will move the item to the next meeting.

0624/FC2147 **Indian Bean Trees – to the front of the village hall. Consider their future due to being a short lived species – Cllr Hughes**

Following Memorial Gardens meeting with BDC, these trees were discussed. It was suggested that seeds be collected this autumn so that replacements are ready when required, Cllr Hughes stated that Cllr Abbott has greenhouse space and a plot of land to grow them on in time. A 10-15 year timescale was suggested.

Cllr Ashford proposed that seedlings are taken this autumn, to attempt to grow on. Cost to SEPC approx. £200. Cllr McDonald acted as second and with no further proposals all were in agreement. **Clerk** to diarise for September's meeting.

0624/FC2148 **Agenda items for the next meeting**

Next Full Council Meeting – 10th July

Neighbourhood Plan

Code of Conduct

Cllrs Taylor and Ashford were asked to check their Registers of Interest at the end of the meeting, signing and dating to confirm that everything remains the same (they were both absent from the last meeting.)

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 21.37m.