

Minutes of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council,
held at
South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay
on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor M. Dear

Councillor J. Dear

Councillor Cottle

Councillor Willingham

Also in attendance:-

Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council.

8 members of the public.

16/206. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chapman who had a prior engagement and was therefore unable to attend and County Councillor Twitchen who also had a long standing engagement to attend.

16/207. Declarations of Interests & Register of Members Interests.

Councillor M. Dear declared a non pecuniary interest in **Item 5 Basildon Borough Council – Draft Local Plan Statement of Consultation** as she was also a Billericay Town Councillor who would also be considering their response to the new and additional sites identified within the Draft Local Plan.

16/208. Minutes.

The Minutes of 2nd November 2016 were received and duly signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

16/209. Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters, which are of mutual interest. No decisions to be made.

Basildon Borough Council – Draft Local Plan Statement of Consultation.

A number of local residents expressed concerns about the 3 new sites that had now been put forward for possible inclusion in the Draft Local Plan. These included:-

Regular flooding experienced by residents in the vicinity of Maitland Lodge, Southend Road, following heavy rain;

Sites 2 & 3 the possible conflict caused by two junctions coming together and the obvious traffic issues that this may cause plus the problems/difficulties associated with the school at each end of the day when children were dropped off and collected.

The educational difficulties – existing schools in the area were at capacity.

Site 2 Garages also flood on a regular basis in Homefield Close. The problem was not only confined to gardens.

Threat to the wildlife corridor of residential development in Kennel Lane & Mill Meadows.

Existing Mineral Site is also close to Site 2.

16/210. Basildon Borough Council – Draft Local Plan Statement of Consultation.

The meeting received and, having taken notice of the views of the local residents present, agreed the Village Council’s formal response to the 3 additional sites the others now being put forward within the Draft Local Plan that may have an impact on the village.

16/211. Christmas Lights – Update.

The meeting noted that the Christmas light installation was completed on Monday 5th December. They were due to be taken down on the first available date following the New Year celebrations. It was noted that despite being only a couple of years old some of the new LED lights in the adjacent trees were not working. The Clerk would therefore ask Piggott’s to give this matter their urgent attention to ensure that the full visual impact of the lights was achieved during the festive period.

It was further noted that despite there would not be an organised switch on event this year, the Church would be holding singalong that coming Saturday at the South Green shops and the Council agreed to donate the sweets left over from last year for distribution to the children. Councillor Cottle also agreed to be Father Christmas if required.

16/212. Basildon Borough Council Recycling Changes – Response.

The meeting received and agreed the Village Council’s formal response to the proposed changes to the Borough Council’s recycling and household waste collection services.

16/213. Bell Hill, A129 Southend Road - Hedge Blocking Footpath since June 2016

It was noted that a programme of immediate remedial work was due to be carried out shortly to make this stretch of pavement at Bell Hill on the Southend Road safe once again for pedestrians. More extensive works were needed to ensure that the problems did not occur again and this it was noted had been included in a programme of work to be carried out as soon as better weather conditions were forecasted.

16/214.Planning Applications.

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| 16/01520/FULL | 19 St. Agnes Road, Billericay, CM12 9UR. | Proposal to use the property as a day & respite project for adults with learning disabilities with the provision of some “live-in” accommodation. Tracey & Robert Coombe will also be | No objections |
|---------------|--|---|---------------|

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| | | living at the property. | |
| 16/01393/FULL | Land adjacent to Scouts Association, Green Farm's Lane, Billericay. | Proposed installation of a 17.5m Elara pole supporting 3 no antenna & associated ground based equipment cabinet. | No Objections |
| 16/01608/PACU | Hygro Farm, Kennel Lane, Billericay, CM11 2SU | Notification for prior approval for the use of the existing commercial building to residential. | Object on the grounds that the application site is within the Green Belt. In addition the area is prone to serious flooding and is therefore inappropriate as building land. |
| 16/01658/FULL | 61 Trinity Road Billericay Essex CM11 2RY | Erect two storey front, side and rear extensions, including alterations to the existing semi-detached house to convert the existing house into 4 number self-contained flats. | Object on the grounds that the proposed development is over development of the site. |

In addition to the above mentioned application(s) the following applications had been considered under the arrangements previously approved for dealing with consultation requests received outside the Village Council's usual monthly meeting cycle. The following comments being emailed to the Planning Dept. at Basildon Borough Council during November 2016.

16/01516/FULL - Proposal to convert garage, erect 1st floor above garage & loft conversion including dormer. - 38 Froden Brook Billericay Essex CM11 2TW

Comments; - no objections.

16/01521/FULL - Conversion of redundant detached snooker hall to detached dwelling - 185A Noak Hill Road Billericay Essex CM12 9UL

Comments: - The plans are very rudimentary and it is difficult to assess the impact of the building. However, this seems like back land development of a proposed house being erected in a back garden. This will add extra vehicular access problems to Noak Hill Road and the access road off Noak Hill road for the 3 bungalows which are already using that road. The site will now have as a whole, including all the residences that would access it from the Noak Hill Road, ten vehicles or more using a shared driveway.

Therefore the Village Council would object on the grounds of the pressure on the access road as more traffic will be joining the already very busy Noak Hill Road. Also the plans do not state how much back garden would be left for 185a and should there not be enough as laid out in the regulations that would be another reason for objection.

16/215. New Sign for Gt. Burstead.

The meeting noted that no further information had been received from either the Borough Council or Essex County Council with regard to the permission to erect the new village sign for Gt. Burstead. The Clerk was therefore requested to write to the Borough Council to ascertain what the current situation was and to copy County Councillor Twitchen into that communication for her information and attention.

16/216. Village Council – Fun Day Event 2017.

The meeting noted the confirmed arrangements for the 2017 event. Councillor Willingham confirmed that she had now booked a Punch & Judy person for the day. He was though only 16 but had come highly recommended having made his debut in Convent Garden. His testimonials were also impressive with various high profile bookings. The question of whether to book the Eden Falconry Company for a flying display on the day in addition to the static display already agreed was discussed. It was agreed that subject to the company being able to ensure proper health & safety precautions were put in place that this too should be booked. A personalised card stall will also be in attendance.

16/217. Village Councillor Vacancies.

The meeting considered publishing a further notice to advertise the vacancies. This was agreed and a notice would be prepared for the website and Notice board. It was also agreed that the Notice should run until March of 2017 in view of the Christmas and New Year holiday period to allow as much time as possible for individuals to come forward. The situation would also be reviewed at the January meeting with any interest shown being considered at that meeting. Ideas of how to attract new councillors to fill the existing vacancies would also be discussed at the January meeting.

16/218. Finance.

approved payments:

| Payee / Cheque number | Details | Amount |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Martin Ainscough | November - salary | £ 525.31(*) |
| H.M.R.C. 022092 | Income Tax - November | £131.20 |
| Martin Ainscough 022093 | November expenses – postage etc.,plus brdband/telephone, and office expenses for Oct’, Nov’ & December 2016 | £17.32 £180.00 £197.32 |
| Billericay Nurseries 022094 | October/November watering and removal & winter storage of the | £972.00 |

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| | hanging baskets. | |
| Basildon B.C. 022095 | Costs incurred re:- the uncontested election – May 2016 | £70.00 |
| Eden Falconry Ltd 022096 | Bird of Prey display – fun day 27/08/17 – deposit | £100.00 |
| Heelis & Lodge 022097 | Internal audit fee - 31/03/16 | £170.00 |
| Crystal Print 022098 | Winter 2016 edition – Village Voice. | £245.00 |
| Gt. Burstead PPC 022099 | Fee for the distribution of the Village Voice – Summer & winter 2016 editions | £200.00 |

(*) salary paid directly by bank transfer on 26th of each month.

16/219. Draft Estimates – 2017/18

The meeting received and noted the draft estimates for 2017/18. Based on estimated expenditure for the current financial year adjustments were agreed and made to the figures as follows:-

The calculations received from the Borough Council indicate that the Band D rate for 2017/18 would remain the same at £11.43. This in turn would generate a Precept amount of £27,871.25 with an estimated Council Tax base of 2,438.43. Information had also been received from the Borough Council that Cabinet had agreed to release the grant from the LCTS Scheme for 2017/18 and this was noted. On the basis of this information the Village Council felt able to set the Precept for 2017 at twenty seven thousand, eight hundred & seventy one pounds & 25 p (£27,871.25) and the Clerk was instructed to sign the Precept demand form and return it to the Borough Council.

16/220. Plaque – Old Cemetery – Gt. Burstead.

There was no progress to note on this initiative since the November meeting. Councillor M. Dear agreed to write to the Rev. Hall again on this matter.

16/221. Dates of Next Meetings.

4th January 2017 and then the first Wednesday of the month thereafter unless advised otherwise. NB:- the April meeting has now been put back a week and will take place on Wednesday 12th.

16/222. Close of Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

ADDENDUM

Great Burstead and South Green Village Council Response to Local Plan - New and Alternative Sites 8th December 20161

SITE COMMENTS

New Site 1 – Land South of Outwood Common Road
(Brooklands Farm), Billericay

This site abuts the most narrow and winding part of Outwood Common Road. Currently Outwood Common Road is heavily congested at peak hours. The junction of Outwood Common Road and Southend Road (A129) is gridlocked at peak times. Currently the junction of Greens Farm Lane and Outwood Common Road is gridlocked at peak times. Currently Outwood Common Road cannot

accommodate the volume of traffic using it. More traffic would exacerbate an existing problem.

The road infrastructure would need to be improved to accommodate more traffic. The winding lanes and roads of the village are part of

its ancient amenity. Widening these lanes and roads will detrimentally damage the character of

the area. Road infrastructure changes would be expensive and must be borne by developers. If new roads/road improvements are needed they must be in place before any development commences to ensure current residents are not inconvenienced or their enjoyment of their property damaged if traffic flow increases without new roads/road improvements taking place.

The proposed development at Policy H27- Land East of Southend Road - Great Burstead and South Green, is mutually exclusive to this new site as two large developments of this nature could not be absorbed by the current infrastructure of the village.

This site would narrow the buffer gap between the ancient settlements of Billericay and Great Burstead & South Green. These settlements would no longer be separated and their historical context would be lost. Village and towns should be separated and recognised as separate settlements.

Major road improvements would be needed at an unacceptable cost to the natural environment.

The site is on green belt and should be protected.

Currently all the schools in Billericay are over subscribed.

There is only one small GP surgery in the village.

The infrastructure of the village could not cope with this development.

New Site 2 – Land East of Southend Road (Foot Farm),
Billericay

This development would require traffic to join the Southend Road (A129) at a point where it is narrow and where traffic currently becomes gridlocked at the start/end of St Peters School school day. Traffic is held up at the junction of Mill Road/Southend Road and at the junction of Coxes Farm Road/Southend Road at school times. Currently road users have to wait for up to fifteen minutes to navigate the traffic entering/leaving St Peters School and the zebra crossing for the school controlled by a lollipop man.

Southend Road cannot accommodate more traffic and traffic joining would make the road between Wickford and Billericay even more congested.

The site would create an urban sprawl and narrow the buffer zone between the beautiful countryside beyond Guildprime Business Centre and the residential part of the village.

The site is on green belt and should be protected.

Currently all the schools in Billericay are over subscribed.

- There is only one small GP surgery in the village.
- Major road improvements would be needed at an unacceptable cost to the natural environment.
- Currently this site is not farmed whereas the land at Policy H25 (Land West of Kennel Lane, Great Burstead and South Green – Option 2) is farmed. Foot Farm would be a better alternative than Policy H25 Land West of Kennel Lane as Kennel Lane is a known high risk flood area where residents experience flooding into their homes necessitating the attendance of fire appliances. Although the Village Council objects to this new site in principle it is a better option than the development in land west of Kennel Lane.

New Site 3 – Land West of Southend Road (Maitland Lodge), Billericay2

- This development would require traffic to join the Southend Road (A129) at a point where it is narrow and where traffic currently becomes gridlocked at the start/end of St Peters School school day. Traffic is held up at the junction of Mill Road/Southend Road and at the junction of Coxes Farm Road/Southend Road at school times. Currently road users have to wait for up to fifteen minutes to navigate the traffic entering/leaving St Peters School and the zebra crossing for the school controlled by a lollipop man. Southend Road cannot accommodate more traffic and traffic joining at this time would make the road between Wickford and Billericay even more congested.
- It would require a narrow access road onto the busy Southend Road creating a further road hazard.
- It would narrow the buffer zone between the countryside and residential properties detrimentally affecting the character of the village.
- The site is on green belt and should be protected.
- Currently all the schools in Billericay are over subscribed.
- There is only one small GP surgery in the village.
- The infrastructure of the village could not cope with this development.
- Residents report regular flooding in and around their properties.
- Major road improvements would be needed at an unacceptable cost to the natural environment.
- It is noted the developer recognises allotments are needed in the village.

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Great Burstead and South Green Village Council Response to Local Plan -
New and Alternative Sites - 8th December 2016

Alternative Site 9 - Land East of Frithwood Lane, Billericay

- This site would close the buffer zone between the ancient settlements of Billericay and Great Burstead and South Green. It is important settlements are kept separate to preserve their historical context.
- This site would create a very high volume of traffic which would flow down the busy Noak Hill Road (A176) which already accommodates a continuous stream of traffic. Major road improvements would be needed at an unacceptable cost to the natural environment.
- The site is on green belt and should be protected.

Alternative Site 10 - Land South of Windmill Heights, Billericay

- This development would further exacerbate the flooding in Kennel Lane as water would flow from this site down Kennel Lane. Kennel lane falls away at this point into a dipping, winding, narrow country lane. Traffic onto and off this site would create hazards.
- The site is on green belt and should be protected.
- Major road improvements would be needed at an unacceptable cost to the natural environment. It is noted the developer recognises allotments are needed in the village.

Great Burstead and South Green Village Council Response to Waste Changes Consultation - 8th December 2016

Proposed - Black sack waste collected every two weeks in a wheelie bin

Refuse collectors will not be able to gather waste from households into piles before loading into the refuse vehicle. The refuse vehicle will have to visit each home to empty a wheelie bin. This will cause:

- More noise, road congestion and hazards as wheelie bins are emptied into the refuse vehicles.
- Navigating parked vehicles will be an issue as roads in the village are heavily parked.
- Wheelie bins with two weeks waste are heavy to manoeuvre.
- Wheelie bins are unsightly. Many householders do not have the room to store more wheelie bins to the rear of their property or the ability/passageway to take wheelie bins to the front. This will result in wheelie bins being stored to the front of properties which will damage the visual amenity of the village.
- Those with jobs cannot remove wheelie bins from the kerb until they return home creating a hazard for pedestrians.

Waste Food Collection Proposed - Weekly from a caddy. It makes sense to separate food waste and garden waste but some issues are:

- Food waste attracts vermin, a caddy may not be robust enough to ensure it is safe from vermin.
- The last grey caddy for food waste, for use in the home, was insubstantial and not big enough to take a week's food waste.
- A caddy would have to be carried to the kerbside where it may tip up and spill food waste.
- If a caddy is supplied it needs to be very robust.
- This will be another container which householders may choose to leave at the front of their property for the reasons stated previously.

Proposed – Garden Waste in a wheelie bin

It is practical to collect garden waste separately however issues are:

- Ceasing garden waste collection at the end of October will create -
- more fly tipping
- more littering
- more bonfires
- It would better for the collection to carry on through November and start again at the beginning of

March. November creates the most garden waste due to falling leaves etc.

- Another collection and another receptacle - a caddy for food waste plus wheelie.
- Garden waste is the most anonymous form of flying tipping.

Charge for Collecting Garden Waste - Issues

Charging for garden waste collection will create more flying tipping, littering and bonfires as above. Householders are already paying a charge - community tax. It seems unfair to charge more for those with gardens since there are many services that community tax payers may not use themselves but they are happy to fund for others.

Collect Dry Materials for Recycling Every Two Weeks in a wheelie bin - Issues

- Another unsightly wheelie bin with the associated issues mentioned above.
- Another wheelie bin which have to be emptied from each individual home at kerb side.

Residents have reported the online consultation survey is not fit for purpose.

