

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, held at
 South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay
 on Wednesday 5th February, 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

- Councillor M. Dear - Chair
- Councillor J. Dear
- Councillor Cottle
- Councillor Henderson
- Councillor Hooker
- Councillor Willingham

Also in attendance:-

- Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council
- P.C. Sharpe
- 1 Local Resident

14/17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Knight due to a prior engagement and County Councillor Twitchen due to her Branch meeting.

14/18 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of Interest.

14/19 Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 8th January 2014 were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair. All in favour.

14/19 Public Participation.

Report from P.C. Sharpe	It was noted that the recent bad weather had kept him busy over the last few weeks pulling vehicles from flood water. Burglaries had shown a slight decrease, but were still an issue with a couple in Sth Green recently. Action had been put in place which was showing results. One success to report was in Passingham Avenue where a youth nuisance/anti – social behaviour had been reported. Working with the Borough Council a sign had been put up on the equipment to stop the young people from abusing the facility and this seems to have alleviated the problem for local residents. P.C. Sharpe suggested that when making a complaint or bringing issues to the police’s attention if a car number plate can be recorded this gives the police an address to work with and parents to speak to face to face about any issues.
Damage on the Green at South Green & Bollards at South Green shops.	The Clerk reported that information had been received from Basildon BC that this matter was

	in hand. The meeting heard that two of the shops at Sth Green had approached Cllr. J. Dear about the installation of collapsing bollards outside the frontage of their respective shops. It was noted that when the existing static bollards were installed jointly funded by the VC & ECC both of the shops concerned had indicated that they did not want them outside their curtilages. The general consensus was therefore that if a need for bollards had now been identified the cost of their installation should be borne by the respective businesses.
St. Mary Magdalene Church	It was noted the Reverend Michael Hall had been installed as the new vicar.
Individual Electoral Registration Workshop	It was noted that this event on the forthcoming changes to the arrangements for electoral registration would be held at the St. George's suite on 26 th February to which Councillors had been invited to attend.

14/20 Recycling Facility – Southwood Court Grange Road

It was noted that Borough Councillor Moore would be raising the issue of moving the Southwood Court recycling facility with his fellow cabinet members. It was anticipated that further information on this issue would be forthcoming in approx. 2 months' time.

14/21 Essex Association of Local Councils.

There were no matters to report.

14/22 Association of Basildon Local Councils – Information.

Councillor Hooker reported on his attendance at the recent meeting of the ALBC. It was noted that that for those parish and village councils that made a contribution to the costs of PCSOs then in future they would have to fund the whole cost. There would be no increase in ABLC membership fees for 2014/15.

14/23. A. Planning Applications

14/00005/FULL	240 Noak Hill Road Billericay Essex CM12 9UX 240 Noak Hill Road Billericay Essex CM12 9UX	Creation of an in and out driveway together with hard landscaping to the front garden to accommodate the parking of 2 cars	No objection
14/00066/FULL	3 Post Meadow, Billericay, CM11 2SE3 Post Meadow, Billericay, CM11 2SE	Proposed single storey rear extension.	No objection as long as the proposed development doesn't have a detrimental effect on the amenities of the immediate neighbours.
14/00086/FULL	5 Paddock Close, Billericay	Single storey side and rear extension and	Object on the grounds of overdevelopment

		garage conversion	and concerns re: - the proposed flat roof and adverse effect on the street scene.
14/0093/FULL	185 Noak Hill Road	Proposed loft conversion, side extension and general alterations	No objection.

14/23. B. Core Strategy

The meeting received feedback and information on the following matters that related to the Basildon BC Core Strategy and Local Strategic Plan as follows:-

Local Councils' Liaison Meeting on 9th January –

Councillors M.Dear & Hooker attended the above mentioned meeting that had as its theme the Basildon Core Strategy and Draft Local Plan. It was noted that a series of public consultation sessions had been arranged at locations throughout the Borough. The consultation timetable was also outlined with local councils having until 18th of March to formally comment on the contents of both documents.

Information subsequently received from the consultants working on behalf of CEG to the queries raised by the Village Council on 15th November, 2013 –

The meeting noted written receipt of the answers to the questions raised at the meeting with Consultants working on behalf of CEG.

Proposed Solar Panel Farm on land at Outwood Farm –

The meeting received information in relation to a proposed planning application for the installation of a solar panel farm at land at Outwood Farm. It was noted that the company concerned intended to hold a public consultation exercise before the submission of any formal application and had also requested the opportunity to meet with the Village Council in advance if possible of any date for the public event. Following a discussion of the proposed application the meeting decided to meet with the company concerned and the Clerk was requested to make contact with their representative to make the necessary arrangements for such a meeting to take place before any public meeting was held if at all possible.

In addition to the above mentioned matters, the meeting also discussed the Village Council's formal response to the Basildon BC's Draft Strategic Local Plan to comply with the consultation deadline of 18th of March 2014. Following a discussion the Clerk was instructed to send the following holding response with a proviso that a more detailed response would be sent if necessary once the Village Council had considered the matter further at the next meeting on 5th of March.

"Great Burstead and South Green Village Council objects to development on green belt land. The Village Council strongly believes the parish of Great Burstead and South Green should remain a distinct area. The Village Council believes that urban sprawl should be resisted. Furthermore, the Village Council believes that the infrastructure: roads, health, education, sewerage systems, and surface water drainage systems are not sufficient for further development. At present roads within the parish are gridlocked at certain times of the day and flooding is a concern affecting roads within the parish. Any further development will exacerbate the existing infrastructure issues".

Sent to Planning Policy @ Basildon BC on 6th February 2014 by email.

14/24 Finance

Approved payments:

Payee / Cheque number	Details	Amount
Martin Ainscough	January salary	£ 478.78(*)
H.M.R.C. 000729	Income tax - January	£119.60
Martin Ainscough 000730	January expenses – postage, stamps,	£11.89

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

14/25 Village Council Summer Event – August 2014

The meeting received an update on the arrangements that had so far been put in place for the summer event due to be held on Sunday 31st of August 2014 and the expenditure committed to date. First aid cover from the St. John's Ambulance Brigade had been provisional booked for the day subject to approval of the hire of the Green being forthcoming from Basildon B.C. Other attractions that had been provisional booked include:-

A Bouncy Castle, Punch & Judy Show, Face Painters/Novelty Balloon Makers, and Ice Cream & Donut kiosks.

Most of these attractions had confirmed that they would be attending on the day with no cost to the Village Council being charged. A Hog Roast had been acquired thanks to a contact know to Cllr Henderson while the Billericay Town Crier had also confirmed his attendance on the day as had the Billericay Community Choir. It was also hoped that the local Morris Men might be available to put in an appearance at some point during the event.

It was agreed that the Council would need to see copies of all participants' public liability insurance prior to the event. The meeting also agreed to the purchase of high visibility jackets for use by Village Council stewards on the day at a cost of no more than £200.00.

However in the absence of Councillor Knight any further discussion on this item was deferred until the March meeting of the Village Council. It was also noted that the Summer Event Working Party were due to meet again on 10th of March after which a full report would be made to the April meeting as to the progress made and the arrangements that were in place.

14/26 Outdoor Gym Equipment

Following the February meeting letters had been sent to the two residential properties immediately affected by the Council's preferred location for the proposed outside gym facility. The Clerk informed the meeting that a letter of objection to this proposal had subsequently been received from a resident of Grange Road. It was noted that she had expressed concerns about the location which would have been immediately adjacent to her back garden fence.

As a result of this objection it was agreed to move the location for this facility to the other side of the Green where there were no residential properties in the immediate vicinity. It was noted the resident could not attend the meeting. Therefore in order to allay her fears and concerns about this proposal the Clerk was requested to write to her informing her of the decision to move the location of this facility while at the same time pointing out that some of the points that she had raised in her objection were factually incorrect, in particular with regard to the construction of structures permissible on the Green.

The appropriate Officer at Basildon B.C. would now be contacted with regard to advice and information in respect of the questions that should be included in any public consultation carried out in respect of the purchase and installation of this facility.

14/27 New Village Sign – Great Burstead

It was noted that there was again no progress to report on this initiative.

However, Essex County Council Highways had confirmed that the Village Council's request had been lodged as to whether the preferred site was suitable or not. It was therefore a case of waiting for a response to this question before moving on to the next stage of the process.

14/28 Village Council Twinning Proposal.

In the absence of Councillor Knight, who had asked for this matter to be included on the agenda, the item was deferred until the March meeting of the Village Council.

14/29 Children's Centre Advisory Board Meeting Report.

The meeting received a report from Councillor Willingham following her attendance at the meeting of the above mentioned external organisation. It was noted that:-

Barnardos Terms of Reference were signed.

The consultation document in respect of the Essex Sure Start Children's Centre Shaping Future Services prepared by Essex County Council in relation to reduction of finance etc. went to Cabinet, but the outcome has been delayed due to the document being recalled. Once the report has been issued then the Barnardos consultation will kick in. The result can be looked up on the web site, but cannot be actioned. In respect of the Children's Advisory Board Centres etc. the proposed hours had been accepted, but obviously now they have to wait for the official report.

The Centre still awaits their Ofsted visit.

They still need a rise in registrations to attain the correct percentages and are looking at ways of increasing these. Graham Herbing who represents Billericay Library advised the meeting that the Essex Credit Union will be at the Library every Tuesday.

Michelle Dorrington, the Team Leader, at Sunnyside announced that she would be leaving in March, but was hopeful of a straight forward hand over to her successor.

The next meeting will take place on the 25th April 2014.

14/30 Langham Hall – Update.

The meeting was pleased to note that the running of the Langham Hall facility had been taken over by the Billericay & Wickford District Scouts Association. They would be responsible for the hall and details of who to contact in connection with either hiring the facility or the activities being held there could be found on their website.

14/31 The Village Clerk's Annual Salary Increase & Terms of Service.

It was noted that as Councillor Knight had not been able to attend the meeting due to the reason given above it had not been possible to carry out the Clerk's Annual Performance Appraisal prior to this meeting of the Village Council. Therefore this item was deferred until the March meeting.

14/32 Installation of Flag Pole – South Green Memorial Hall.

The Clerk informed the meeting that notification had been received from the Trustees of the South Green Memorial Hall indicating that they were in favour of this proposal in principle subject to the clarification of certain matters. These included:-

Would planning permission be required and where on the site would the flag pole be sited;

Who would fund the purchase and installation costs of the flagpole?

Who would be responsible for raising the flag on given dates? , and

The views of adjacent properties which had proved to be a problem in the past for the Trustees.

This item would be discussed in more detail at the March meeting.

14/33 Future Meeting Dates.

5th March, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July

14/34 Close of Meeting – The Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.