



SILVER END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 14th August 2024 in the Parish Council Office, Silver End Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Bugg (Chair,) Cllr McDonald, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Sullivan, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Allaker, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Ashford and Mrs Temple (Clerk.)

0824/FC2162 **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Abbott and Wright (BDC) and Cllr Playle (ECC.)
Absent without apologies: None.

0824/FC2163 **Declarations of Interest** by Members in respect of any items on the agenda.
Cllr Bailey – 0824/FC2175. Noted.

0824/FC2164 **Members of the public** are given an opportunity to speak at this point.

0824/FC2165 **Minutes of July's Full Council Meeting** were agreed and signed as a true record.

Clerk's Report:

- Both defibs have now been serviced. The one at Valentine House needs to have the battery replaced which will cost £223 excl. VAT. Awaiting agreement in 0824/FC2170.
- **Redrow** – Clerk has notified them of the issues that the Daniel Way residents are experiencing and asked for their suggestions to remedy the issues.
- The Luncheon Club picnic has been changed to 30th August.
- Cllr McDonald very kindly provided a response to the Norwich to Tilbury Pylons consultation on behalf of SEPC. The Clerk has logged this.
- There have been 2 responses expressing interest in the Energy Project. Details have been passed to Cllr Hughes, as co-ordinator, but he has asked the **Clerk** to send them again, due to his IT issues.
- A **zoom meeting** has been booked with Bellway to discuss the land north of Boars Tye Road – 29/8, 7pm.

0824/FC2166 **Report from District/County Councillors**

In his absence the Clerk read a report from Cllr Abbott:

- 'A new housing application has come in to BDC for land off of Western Lane.
- BDC Local Plan Review, we are aware of the huge number of sites submitted for around Silver End and other local villages. Cllr Abbott is on the Local Plan Committee that decides which sites go forward so will not at this stage comment further on specific sites. There are changes (as expected) to planning from the new Government and that has included an uplift to the BDC housing target - so all in all it will be a pressured time over the next few months. What comes out of this stage in the Local Plan process will be subject to further public consultation. The 2 LPC meetings scheduled to consider the parish sites are on 2nd and 16th September - if SEPC wants to send a rep. to speak you will need to book with BDC.
- There has been another contentious planning enforcement case - in Valentine Way. James has been speaking regularly with BDC officers about it but has now raised concerns, mirroring those of many residents who have been in touch, that the development has been completed despite BDC twice asking them to stop. BDC say they expect a retrospective application.
- We pressed ECC to deal with 2 dangerous pot holes in the village, which they did do so - got a response from ECC re one of them via twitter.
- Indaver have, as expected, been awarded by ECC the contract for all the black bin waste in Essex to be incinerated at the Rivenhall Airfield site. Without going through the history again, it could be summed up as Indaver have got what they want (a large secure source of waste) and ECC have got what they always wanted.
- We are once again pressing BDC re the CA Guide, including for a new timetable given that BDC failed to keep to the previous one. BDC so far in response has assured that the Local Plan Review will not pause the process.
- We have had a response from the Essex Road Safety team following an e-mail we sent about the speeding and crashes in Silver End (which Alan Waine also raised at the July meeting). We will respond to it and copy to the Clerk.
- We support the work SEPC is doing re the tennis courts/s106, a consultation on the MUGA idea and progressing repairs to the path that goes from near the thatched church to Daniel Way - over the years of

going round each authority to ask for that work needs to be done (and being turned down), it seems the only viable option on the table is for SEPC to do it.

- We have not heard anymore from BDC re the Planning Forum that will hear a presentation on the old factory site. The next one is due on 27th August so it's possible it could go to that one, but whenever it is, SEPC should get an invite from BDC.

After the report was read Cllr Wright arrived. He stayed to answer the following question and then left.
KM – S106 money – over 500k is available. BW will investigate what the money can/can't be spent on.

In his absence the Clerk read a report from Cllr Playle:

Highways – Priority One

Essex County Council has announced a multi-million funding boost to radically improve the road network. The funding has been called Priority One. This reflects the importance of highways to our residents and businesses. £25 million will go towards resurfacing key roads and repainting white lines. It will also see more drain cleaning, cutting back vegetation and repairing signs. Priority One will focus on larger road resurfacing rather than individual potholes. These will continue to be repaired using existing funding.

Old Crittall Factory Site

I am continuing to work closely with both councils and the landowner to ensure a planning application is brought forward to regenerate this site. Local councils requested further surveying work which has meant the submission of an application won't be in September as previously hoped. However, this work is now complete and I am confident we will still see that huge positive step forward before the end of the year.

Recently, contractual works were undertaken at my request by the landowner to tidy up the site and to improve security for neighbouring residents by updating some of the fence panels.

Rivenhall Incinerator

It was disappointing, but not at all surprising, to see that the outcome of the tender process for the future of Essex's medium-term residual waste treatment provisionally award all contracts to Indaver for the Rivenhall Incinerator site. I have attached the full details and press release of this decision to this email for the awareness of Parish Councillors. I have asked to meet with the relevant Cabinet Member to raise questions. Should the PC have questions about the decision, then please do let me know and I will ask these on your behalf.

New bus shelter contract

I am delighted, after much persistence from myself, Essex County Council has signed a contract with Clear Channel UK for the maintenance, installation and upkeep of bus shelters in Essex. This will see a comprehensive programme to upgrade and expand bus infrastructure across Essex with many of our existing bus shelters being replaced. The contract covers the bus stops in Silver End but no date has been given yet within the contract span for when those in the village will be replaced.

The new shelters will include features such as seating, motion sensor lighting, space for prams and wheelchairs timetables and digital real-time information screens with advertising panels. Clear Channel will maintain all shelters as well as install and sell advertising. The revenue generated will be invested in the bus infrastructure network.

Community Initiatives Fund (CIF)

Voluntary organisations, community groups, residents' associations and Town and Parish Councils can now apply for grants from the Essex Community Initiatives Fund. The £350,000 fund offers grants of up to £10,000. The money can be used to help strengthen local communities. The aim is to make Essex an even better place to live, work and visit.

More details and how to apply, visit: <https://ealc.gov.uk/community-initiative-fund-cif/>

Cllr Ashford suggested that the **Clerk** apply for funding for the Luncheon Club. Cllr Bugg pointed out that there are currently only 11 members but it was agreed that the Clerk should do so to improve meals, have them more regularly and invest in some marketing.

Essex County Council boundary changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has completed its review of Essex County Council divisions ahead of the May 2025 elections. Under these proposals, Silver End parish will move into the Braintree Eastern division along with Rivenhall and Bradwell with Pattiswick. Full details can be found at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/essex.

Closure of Long Green Road

Cllr Ashford and residents have raised complaints with me about the prolonged closure of Long Green Road by the developers in Cressing. Myself and the neighbouring County Councillor for Cressing have both raised this matter with the Cabinet Member of Highways, and I will pass on the response as soon as I have one.

0824/FC2167 **Planning Applications – agreed via email communication since will be 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.

None.

Local Plan – consideration to be given to sites submitted in Silver End – agreement to be made on a response on behalf of SEPC

Cllr McDonald has prepared an initial response to BDC on behalf of SEPC. This is in the form of a strong objection. This has been sent to the Clerk and to all for consideration. Iir Hughes proposed that the **Clerk** send the response to BDC but with the alteration that SEPC do not object to all building, but strongly object to the huge scale of the submitted sites. Cllr Ashford acted as second, with all other Members in agreement.

It was agreed that if the Silver End sites come up at the meeting on 2/9 that **Cllr McDonald** will speak on behalf of SEPC – **Clerk** to book him a slot. If the sites come up on 16/9, when Cllr McDonald is unavailable, then it will be agreed at the **next meeting** who will attend.

0824/FC2168 Correspondence – not already included in the Clerk’s report

ECC – launch of Public Consultation on their new Transport Strategy for Essex. Responses by 22/9. Details sent to Cllr McDonald in his capacity as Transport Representative.

ECC – Minutes of Transport meeting circulated to all. Cllr McDonald was in attendance.

BDC – Community Gardens, Orchards and Open Spaces Funding is now open until 13/9. Open to Community Groups, Parish and Town Councils and constituted organisations to create new gardens or orchards or to make improvements to existing sites. No matched funding required. Up to £4k - £3k capital, £1k revenue. It was agreed that the **Clerk** should apply for funding for an apple orchard on the land at Bristol Court. **Cllr Bailey** will arrange a quote in time for an application.

BDC – support offered to anyone wishing to set up a community fridge.

EALC – AGM on 26/9 at 2pm, Colchester Stadium.

0824/FC2169 Reports from Silver End Councillors – Meetings/activities

Cllrs Hughes and Bugg had a working session in the Memorial Gardens, pulling out brambles etc. Suggested chopping Willow to convert stump into something more interesting. All agreed to leave to see if it sprouts again over the next year. **Clerk** to diarise for a years’ time to re-consider. PH ad AB will investigate the bamboo regrowth.

Cllr McDonald attend the Transport Meeting and has sent notes to all.

S106 meeting with BDC, SEPC attendees – Cllrs Bugg and McDonald and the Clerk. Still awaiting minutes, noted points:

- BDC will consider access into/out of the village hall field, particularly in relation to motorbikes.
- Awaiting details of power supply into the pavilion from Cllr Ashford. He reported that there is no detail on a map but you can see the trench on the ground.
- Details of trees to be replaced to go into the Open Spaces Plan at the end of the year.
- **Next meeting 24th October, 2pm.**

Indaver meeting – attended by Cllrs McDonald and **Allaker** – notes sent to all. Next meeting on 5/9. SA will be the sole representative from now on.

ECC/BDC/Eastlight New Reports

AB – the tree outside 1 Bristol Court has fallen branches and debris.

IA – trimmed 2 trees in Silver Street that were causing an obstruction.

Hedge issues:

- 52 Silver Street
- Valentine Way – on the corner, opposite the school
- 12 Silver Street is still a problem.

Clerk to report all of the above.

0824/FC2170 Finance

Payments made/to be made to be agreed and signed. Bank balances to be agreed and noted

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 0824i, 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 0824i, following their agreement:

Bucket – toilet sundries	max £20.00
J Bailey – repairing Daniel Way path	£2800.00 + VAT
Table tennis bats and balls (JB Cllr. grant)	£250.00
‘In Reflection’ bench	max £500.00

Consideration to be given to a third bank account being opened for Reserves

The Clerk suggested holding a 3rd bank account for Silver End, to be used for earmarked reserves. Will make it easier for councillors to see what has been set aside for projects.

Cllr Bailey proposed that the Clerk open an account with Cllr Hughes acting as second. All agreed at a vote.

0824/FC2171 Public Consultation to be held regarding the multi-sports court to ascertain public opinion of how best to utilise the space (item in WoSE) using S106 monies

The Clerk has spoken to the contact at BDC, her suggestions included:

- Keep it simple.
- Survey in WoSE and on website.
- Explain that there is over £500k to be spent via S106 monies – how would they like to see it spent?
- Add that the tennis courts are being re-vamped so that this is separate.
- Follow up in next edition.

JB – need to give them a list of what we can spend the money on.

KM suggests that at the next meeting people come armed with suggested projects.

IA – Football Club – will propose going towards a 4g pitch.

0824/FC2172 Traffic calming measures on Boars Tye Road/Western Road, following recent accidents

Cllrs Ashford and Bailey both think it is not an effective use of public money. It is thought that the recent accidents have been caused by careless driving at speed with the influence of drink/drugs. None of these would have been prevented by traffic calming measures.

Cllr Ashford pointed out that at the time of the applications for the Redrow and Croudace sites that he stated that a roundabout would be needed to slow traffic into the village. He was ignored by Planning.

All agreed that any form of traffic calming measure on this stretch of road would not be beneficial.

0824/FC2173 Halloween 2024 – proposed activity in the Memorial Gardens

Cllr Hughes has prepared images for the event but can't reduce them down for children to write on. He will send them to Cllr Taylor who will try to help.

Agreed that the event will take part on 27/10, 10am-2pm. The Clerk will notify staff. Cllr Hughes will prepare an advert to go on the boards/website/social media.

0824/FC2174 ECC require agreement from Silver End PC to adopt a new gateway on Temple Lane

Confirmation that the LHP have agreed to fund a scheme to design and implement the village gateways in Temple Lane. However SEPC will need to apply for a licence to adopt the ongoing maintenance of the asset once installed by Highways.

Cllr Ashford proposed that the Clerk should apply and that SEPC adopt the gateways. Cllr Bugg acted as second. All agreed.

0824/FC2175 Daniel Way pathway – consideration to be given to a quote for works to re-surface

J Bailey Contractors have quoted £2800 + VAT for the work to strip down the existing pathway and lay new tarmac down.

Cllr Ashford proposed that the work be carried out in line with the quote, with Cllr Bugg acting as second. At a vote all were in agreement.

Cllr Bailey took no part in discussion or the vote.

Agenda item for next month to discuss the quote for tarmac for the benches.

0824/FC2176 Request from Cllr Bailey to purchase table tennis bats and balls

Cllr Bailey has £250 councillor grant available and would like to spend it by buying table tennis bats and balls. Cllr Ashford agreed to distribute around the village. An item for WoSE was suggested, with a photo of councillors – Cllr McDonald. It was agreed that the Clerk will make the purchase – spending £200 on bats and £50 on balls.

0824/FC2177 BDC - S106 monies to be used for full refurbishment of tennis courts but they request agreement from Silver End PC to take on their long term maintenance

At the S106 meeting with BDC it was provisionally asked that once BDC complete the refurbishments and they are operational, whether SEPC will agree to the long term maintenance (by way of a written agreement with BDC) and and booking. The courts will still belong to BDC and it is assumed that they will still be responsible for any major works required.

It was agreed that the maintenance of the grass courts will be too much for SEPC.

All agreed that BDC should be approached to make all the courts hard standing and if remain as grass then SEPC can't take them on.

All agreed that they should be left open during the day and included in the locking and unlocking of the Memorial Gardens.

Agenda item for November after further discussion at the next S106 meeting.

0824/FC2178 Consideration to be given to planting a 'Remembrance Tree' in the village with a bench

A Member of the Public has requested that there be a memorial tree in the village where people can tie a ribbon in memory of their loved one if wanted. Ideally with a bench for them to sit on nearby. It is baby loss awareness week 9-15th October and they have asked that a tree is lit in blue and pink lights.

Cllr Hughes suggested the Joan Lyon bench but that may be too far out of the village centre.

Cllr Bailey does not want to see ribbons attached to trees due to the potential for damage but suggested that a bench could be placed near the pergola in the shaded, far end of the Memorial Gardens. Ribbons could be placed on the wooden structure. The **Clerk** will speak to BDC about a close location for a bench.

Cllr Bugg proposed a bench in this location (max £500.00) with a plaque 'In Reflection' supplied by SEPC. Cllr Taylor acted as second and all agreed at a vote.

Regarding the pink and blue lights, the **Clerk** was asked to speak to the MotP suggesting that they are very welcome to place lights on the pergola during this period but SEPC are concerned that there is no power there and that it might be too dark for solar lights.

0824/FC2179 Agenda items for the next meeting

Next Full Council Meeting – 11th September.

- Acceptance of the resignation of Cllr Bailey due to his move away from the village.
- Nomination of a new Vice Chair and the need to complete a new bank mandate.
- KM – councillor grant towards the SEHS information boards.

The Chair offered his thanks to Cllr Bailey for all of his hard work over last few years and for 'getting things done!' He will be missed.

There being no further matters to discuss the Chair called the meeting to a close at 21.16pm.