

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet
Residents Association
www.bowersgifford.org.uk
COMMITTEE TO FIGHT THE PLANS TO
BUILD ON BOWERS GIFFORD & NORTH BENFLEET GREEN BELT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE
at the BENBOW CLUB on 13th May 2015

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.34pm.

Attendees

Rose Griffin (RG) Chair; Jon Horwood (JH); George Smith (GS); Derek Twidell (DT);

Apologies received from Tracy Calver (TC); Gary Lee (GL); Tina Whitham (TW); Carole Turkson(CT); Elaine Horwood (EH); Helen Sargent (HS).

DT acted as minutes secretary.

Approximately 15 members of the public attended the meeting.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2014 were agreed.

3. Treasurer's Report

As the Treasurer was absent, there was no report for this meeting.

4. Local Crime Issues

a) What was thought to be an under-age driver had been reported travelling at high speed along Pound Lane at night.

b) There have been 3 attempts to break into a property in William Road.

c) There has been evidence of a possible use of drugs locally.

5. Flood Issues

RG summarised our involvement with Flood Risk Action Group (FRAG) and introduced Peter Plummer, Chair of the FRAG, who was present at the meeting. Mr. Plummer re-iterated the local flooding problems and risks.

6. Local Building and Draft Core Strategy

A revised Draft Core Strategy has not yet been produced by Basildon Council. RG commented on the South East Essex Action Group, which we have now joined. Without an agreed strategy any part of the green belt was still at risk.

7. Page Woods

RG thanked all those who had completed and returned their consultation forms and explained the reasons for wanting to purchase the woods. The RA would put in an

application to the Veolia Trust for a grant. DT explained about the landfill tax trusts, and how the issue of grants is procured. Discussion ensued as to the various requirements needed (insurance, notices, dog bins etc).

RG and TW had walked around the woods with Steve Prewer, Basildon Countryside Manager, who had offered very helpful and informative advice.

A member of the public asked if the parish council could provide a grant towards the purchase of the woods. The parish clerk who was present advised the committee to send a letter making a request.

Obvious differences had arisen with the parish council and a member of the public suggested that the two groups met to discuss Page Woods and any differences.

8. Fundraising

The Residents Association would be looking at a number of potential fundraising events. St. Margaret's School teachers had offered to help raise funds to buy the woods. Visits to the woods by older children could be helpful with regard to their nature projects.

9. Litter

A litter pick had taken place in April. 18 volunteers had turned up and over 20 bags of litter had been collected. These were taken away by Basildon Council. This included 6 bags from Page Woods. The chair thanked all those people who had helped.

10. Any Other Business

During the litter pick a member of Basildon Council had walked around the wood with RG. Basildon Heritage had also joined one of the walks. As we gather historical facts and other information it had been decided to carry out some guided tours to promote interest and perhaps funding.

Date of Next Meeting – to be decided.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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