

Bulmer Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Bulmer ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

Held on 30th April 2018 at the Village Hall, at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr. S. Buchanan, Cllr.R.Raymond, Cllr.C.Street, Cllr. C.Leigh, Cllr. C.Bennett, and Mrs D.Jacob (Parish Clerk) CCllr. D. Finch and 18 members of the public including Guest Speakers.

Apologies of absence received and accepted from District Cllr.W.Scattergood and Cllr. S. Morgan

Welcome

Good evening and welcome to our annual Parish Meeting. The aim of tonight's meeting is to provide you with information of the very good events that are run throughout the year by a dedicated band of people and to give you the opportunity to make suggestions on any projects or shortfalls that might be considered by the Parish Councillors. No decisions will be made on these at this stage but will be considered by the council thorough out the year at the normal council meetings.

18/0001 Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting held on 24th April 2017.

Confirmed and approved/signed/published on 15th May 2017.

18/0002 Chairman's Report 2017/2018

Like previous years this has again been a challenging one for the council with sadly the resignation of Peter Fulcher as chairman, Peter has been a great asset to both the council and the village but more about Peter later.

I took over as chairman in November and did not realise until taking on this task what a very taxing and unenviable task it is and I couldn't have got even this far without the support of our excellent clerk Diane.

Once again with the resignation of Peter we found ourselves in the position of having to call an election to fill the vacancy, this is a costly business for the parish. The successful candidate being Christine Street who was welcomed to her first meeting in March.

The bypass has again been back in the press over the past few months which of course raised concerns thorough out the village, the current position I understand is that a business plan will be prepared at the end of this year running into 2019. No doubt more news will be available at that time.

The majority of the allotments are running well thanks to a dedicated group of local growers, we currently have two vacant plots should anyone be interested. Tenants who have rented plots but are not currently working on them will politely be reminded of the terms of their contracts. The tenants will in future be allowed to erect greenhouses with toughened safety glass following agreement with the council. Once again, we are looking at providing an extra water point but this is subject to money being made available.

The Whats Going On quarterly magazine is still being produced and I believe there is still a need for this in paper form as not all villagers have the benefit of the Internet. New contributors to this are always welcome as it is nice to be able to refresh the topics, however I would like to thank current contributors for the great effort they make with their contributions - thank you.

Once again, I would like to thank Barbara Rawlins and her team of dedicated litter pickers for keeping the village streets as litter free as possible and her team of What's Going On distributors.

I would like to remind all villagers that a Councillor is a voluntary position and they are trying to serve the whole parish. They accept that there will be disagreements with what they are doing at times but any criticism should be constructive please. Decisions are made by the whole council and therefore all Councillors are responsible.

We are very lucky to have a fully trained clerk in Diane but please note we only employ her to work for our council for 7 hours a week so there will be times when she is not available doing our councils work, therefore emails if possible are most helpful but if you do need to telephone please leave a clear message including your telephone number and she will get back to you in due course.

18/0003 Freedom of the Village.

Awarded to Mr Peter Fulcher.

Thank you for coming along tonight and I would just like to recount just a few of the things that you have been involved with in the village and still are ongoing.

I believe you served on the Parish Council for around 12 years, 4 as vice chairman before becoming chairman. We were very sorry to lose you from the council last year (me especially)

You have always been in the forefront of things when volunteers were required:

To name just a few -

Environmental issues dealing with trees hedges Coe's meadow

fetes, village events, open gardens

Church warden

As an ex fireman your knowledge and experience was invaluable when it came to preparing the Parish's Emergency Plan.

You were in the forefront of making the church Meadow Parking usable during winter months

Completed the instalment of the allotment fencing

Working tirelessly on ensuring the allotment's grass was kept down, and have currently kindly volunteering to continue with this.

We as a village owe a great debt to yourself and therefore it gives me great pleasure to award you the Freedom of the Village - thank you so much.

18/0004 County Councilor David Finch addressed the members and public

CCllr David Finch Reported - Essex County Council, is currently in a strong position.

Taking care of children within the county and the elderly. The environment in which we live, to protect green spaces for future generations.

Work within the County Council is focused on growing the economy of Essex.

Essex County Council are improving the highways by resurfacing 400 miles of roads.

Providing excellent education for all our children whose achievement rates are above England average and 95% our schools are rated as good or outstanding. Three new secondary schools are currently being built in Colchester and two in Chelmsford.

Find new ways of working and new ideas to provide service to help communities.

A Lottery to support local charities and voluntary groups.

Community Initiative Fund to support parishes with local expenses.

Community Initiative Funds for Voluntary charity activities in all areas of the community.

17/0004 Guest Speakers as follows:

Bulmer Village Hall Management Committee

Guest speaker explained this is run by The Village Hall Management Committee, which is a charity, the Parish Council are custodial trustees. The Village Hall provide competitive priced facilities for events, they have a few clubs which use the hall as a regular venue. The small room has recently been redecorated, curtains have been replaced with blinds. They organise and run the Village Lottery and various fund-raising events. The hall is essential to the local community, the Treasurer is standing down and so there is a vacancy if anyone is interested.

Skylarks

Guest speaker reported that this was a club for anyone, female/male, young or old. It is a good opportunity to meet other people in the village. They meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month, they have outing days, and hold fund raising events.

St Andrew's School

Head Teacher (Jinnie Nichols) and Deputy Head (Carol Everard) operate between Bulmer primary School and Great Maplestead (2 schools across 2 sites). Currently there are 49 children at Bulmer. The school children go on various trips. Recently passed an Ofstead Inspection as a Good School. The School is involved with the church and would like to continue to work within the community. The school has been invited to take part in the Coe's Meadow Fun day.

Bulmer St Andrew's Parochial Church Council

15 Parishes under two ministers. Services on the first 3 Sundays of each month. There is a special children's corner. Special services are held through the year. All final reports can be viewed in the church. Due to lack of funds could only cut half the grass in the churchyard, volunteers cut the remaining. Grateful to everyone who helped, a new contractor has been appointed this year. It is a Village Church that needs the village support.

Signed.....

21st May 2018

Coe's Meadow Management Committee

Coe's Meadow relies entirely on funding. Thanks, expressed to Stour Valley volunteers. The Fun Day is planned to go ahead on Farther Day 17th June, with a bucking bronco theme, volunteers required. New play equipment soon to be ordered, balance scales as suggested by the local primary school children. The basket ball area due to be resurfaced. Committee currently considering suggestions to hold an event in the winter, based on a Christmas Day theme.

Neighbourhood Watch

Due to the lack of Police presence, Neighbourhood Watch is a vital scheme in Bulmer, based on neighbour's looking after each other, and to provider reassurance. Bulmer Neighborhood watch scheme covers all parts of the village with various coordinators thought the village. See <https://www.essexinfo.net/bulmervillage/neighbourhood-watch/> for further information.

18/0006 Public Participation/Question & Answer Session

Members of the public asked questions throughout the meeting, to guest speakers.

18/0007 Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

The Chairman thanked all those present for coming and for showing their support and interest in village matters.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

