

What's Going On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer – February 2023

(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Rd & Hedingham Road)

Read this publication online at:
e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc

Issue no 11

FEBRUARY 2023

Parish Rate Rise kept below 2%

Bulmer Parish Council has by cost savings managed to keep the Parish part of the rates demand for 2023/2024 to just a 1.98% increase or 0.78 pence on a band D property full details at the end of this news letter.

Bulmer Allotments News

These are located in Park Lane near the A131. Currently there are 2 plots of various sizes available to rent costing £12 to £13 per year plus water usage of around £8/£9. Rent is payable in arrears, each year in September, so nothing to pay until September 2023. There is a refundable deposit on termination and a deposit for the entrance key.



Should you wish to view the agreement and how to join, details can be found here at

<https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc/parish-council/allotments>.

Don't let the weeds grow, come and grow your fresh vegetables and enjoy the open air and save on those grocery bills.

Bulmer History Group has a new website



BULMER HISTORY GROUP HAS A NEW WEBSITE

Read about the history of Bulmer, see photographs from the past and learn how Bulmer has developed at..... <https://www.bulmerhistory.co.uk>

Discover details of those who gave their lives during the two World Wars, together with “mini biographies” of many former residents.

The definitive history of the village—*Bulmer Then and Now—and—Snapshots (Bulmer 1929 to 1945)*—are available in their entirety, along with details of other local books published by Bulmer residents.

Aerial photographs are also included—taken by Peter Rowe from a Tiger Moth back in 1982—when he photographed Bulmer from the air.

Did you enjoy Peter’s ‘Nature Diaries—which were originally published in *‘What’s Going On?’* Now you can read all his articles from 2005 onwards—which are available to view in colour.

If you would like to be notified when articles or news items are added, simply visit the website, click on “Register Email” and follow the instructions.

Future events are shown and should you wish to be notified of future events, then please send an email to info@bulmerhistory.co.uk with your details.

News from Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Councillor

Essex Highways is calling on landowners with ditches and low hanging trees near roads to make sure these are cleared and cut back ahead of the spring.

Carrying out this work ensures that roads and pathways are kept clear as vegetation grows during the warmer months making them easier to use for pedestrians and motorists.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining trees, hedges, shrubs and ditches on their land, even if they are close or next to a road or pavement. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent, or reduce as far as possible, the risk of injury or damage that could be caused to anyone else.

In addition, Essex Highways will resume grass cutting and weed spraying services to prevent overgrown vegetation from blocking the highway and causing flooding.

Completing this work before the spring also ensures nesting birds are not disturbed and helps prevent flooding in wet conditions, as well as improving visibility and usability of the network for local residents.

Examples of works that should be carried out by landowners include:

Cutting back overhanging branches, which reduce the width of or block the view of the road.
Cutting back overhanging branches that reduce the height or clearance of the road for tall vehicles such as double decker school buses.

Removing or trimming a damaged or diseased tree that is in danger of falling onto the road or pavement.

Trimming overgrown hedges obscuring road signs or streetlights.

Clearing of any ditches located on private land to avoid any flooding during periods of heavy rain.
Most trees and hedges by roads are on land owned by private landowners, including district councils, city council, parish councils, housing associations and homeowners.

Cllr Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport said: "The maintenance of the vegetation found on our road network plays a crucial role in ensuring they are safe for all road users.

"We will do our bit to ensure that the vegetation and ditches located on our land are maintained. However, we are unable to maintain anything located on private land. This is where we will need the help of landowners.

"Please look after the area outside your home by keeping any overhanging vegetation and ditches clear and encourage your neighbours to do the same."

Cllr Peter Schwier

Climate Czar

Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader

Village Hall News

All redecoration of the Hall has now been completed. Every room has had a refreshing new colour change and we hope you like the difference it has made. The main hall is certainly much lighter.

We do appreciate that the increase in heating costs has risen somewhat but it is in line with the charges incurred from our supplier. We hope we have a lovely summer so the heating will not be required. We have no intention of increasing rents in the near future which have stayed constant for many years.

Thank you to everyone who re-joined the lottery in January. This all helps to maintain the Hall and helps a little towards our rising utility bills. Enough said, as we are all facing the same problems in our everyday lives.

We experienced a very worrying event in the Hall recently. The smoke alarms in the Hall are tested on a very regular basis. It was reported that they were not working following a test. The electrician was called who discovered that the fuse and back up battery had been removed and the casing had been cracked. This was a very upsetting situation as lives could have been put at risk to any hirers. We ask that if anyone using the Hall and has problems with the alarms, please report it and under no circumstances interfere with them. They are well maintained and tested monthly. Please help us to keep everyone safe and we are very thankful that a serious incident did not happen.

We are working with St Andrews Church to arrange a celebration in the Village to celebrate the Coronation. We will inform you as soon as arrangements are finalised.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE TO HELP RUN THE CHARITY. WE KNOW WE HAVE MANY NEW RESIDENTS IN THE VILLAGE SO PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US AND FEEL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY. IT DOESN'T TAKE UP A LOT OF TIME, 4 OR 5 MEETINGS A YEAR. OUR CHAIRMAN WISHES TO RETIRE VERY SOON AND WE HAVE LOST 2 MEMBERS THROUGH ILL HEALTH. WITHOUT NEW MEMBERS THE HALL WILL CLOSE BEFORE THE AUTUMN. WE CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN BUT WE CANNOT KEEP IT OPEN WITHOUT TRUSTEES TO MANAGE IT. PLEASE, PLEASE HELP US. CONTACT MAGGIE ON 374758 FOR MORE INFO.

Novembers Lottery Winners

1st prize. Mrs J. Johnson
2nd prize. Mr B. Elsey.
3rd. Prize. Mrs J. Steed

January Lottery Winners

1st prize, Mr and Mrs Crawshay
2nd prize, Mr and Mrs P. Banks
3rd prize, Mr W. Dixey

BULMER SKYLARKS

We have had some interesting meetings over the past 6 months. Covid has interfered slightly with a couple of our speakers cancelling at the last minute due to testing positive. However we managed to struggle through with the help of some lovely people who stood in at the last minute.

Our Christmas meeting was held on a very snowy cold afternoon but our members all arrived in their Christmas jumpers and hats. They never cease to surprise us, nothing deters them from getting out and enjoying themselves. It is so rewarding to be in the company of such stoical people.

Our January meeting saw us welcoming a representative from Tools With A Mission. The Charity collects old tools, sewing machines etc, then repairs, sharpens and oils them ready to be sent out, mainly to Africa. Our members arrived with armful's of tools etc for them much to the delight of the speaker. Thank you all of you .

Our future meetings will see us welcoming Jenny Compson on 28th February. Jenny will be bringing Aloe Vera products with her and explaining the benefits of each one. Peter Minter will be with us on 28th March telling us about Bulmer Brick and Tile Co. On 25th April Karl Lumbers will be visiting us from Trinity House and on 23rd May Kim Smith will be speaking on Flatford Mill. As always we will be enjoying our summer party on 27th June which will probably have a garden party as a theme.

If you wish to know more please either join us or give Barbara a ring on 370845 or Maggie on 374758. You will be made very welcome

ST ANDREWS CHURCH BULMER

Bulmer PCC has now found a new contractor to cut the churchyard for this year.

They are also looking forward to seeing the progress of the wild flower/nature area on the north side of the church in the churchyard. The new churchyard is now full so future burials will be in the South East Corner of the old churchyard.

The re-ordering (removing the pews and installing new heating) is still going through its legal process. It has been agreed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and Historic England have approved it. It is now awaiting further comment from the Victorian Society before going to the Chancellor who will make the final decision.

Camino de Santiago

In May Peter and Liz Fulcher are walking part of the Camino de Santiago from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela – 111kms over 10 days. They would welcome sponsorship from villagers to raise funds for St. Andrew's Church.

Please contact them if you wish to contribute – 01787 269935 or 1gozna2@gmail.com.

BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Bulmer Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Monday 16th January 2023 at Bulmer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Hall, Harvey, Nichols, Ponty, Raymond,
In the Chair: Cllr Raymond
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: 8 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1.1 Councillor Vacancy: No applications had been received for the vacant Councillor seat
This vacant seat does not now need to be filled until the normal Parish Council elections in May 2023.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 21st November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Raymond **Seconded:** Cllr Hall Agreed unanimously

3. POLICY REVIEW

3.1 The Civility and Respect Pledge adopted in November 2022 was signed by the Chairman

3.2 RESOLVED: The Equality and Diversity Policy was adopted and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Harvey **Seconded:** Cllr Crawshay Agreed unanimously

3.3 RESOLVED: The Dignity at Work Policy was adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Ponty **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Raymond declared a pecuniary interest in item 11.5 Grazing & Garden rents review as a grazing tenant

5. PUBLIC FORUM - *please note this item was omitted from the agenda due to clerk error and was reinstated by approval of the Chairman. All subsequent agenda items were moved forward by one item number.*

- A grazing tenant spoke to express concerns about the proposed rent increase item 11.5. It was pointed out that tenants fund all their own repairs and maintenance, the cost of which is also increasing. The grazing tenancy agreements prevent them from making an income e.g. by selling hay. Drainage issues, clover problems, some parts of the grazing land being unusable and the need to rotate ponies making it difficult to share tenancy with other horses were also raised.
- A second grazing tenant questioned whether rent increases just applied to the land, not stables built by the tenants themselves. The clerk confirmed rent applies to the land only.
- A resident of Bulmer Tye raised the Parish Council response to planning application 22/03249/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for - Erection of 8no. 2 Bedroom dwellings and associated development Land Rear Of The Tye Ryes Lane. He was concerned that because the application had been submitted at a time when it could not be discussed at a public meeting, the Parish Council response may not be considered valid. The clerk explained that an extension to the comment deadline for the Parish Council until after the January 2023 meeting had been requested but refused by Braintree Planning. The Parish Council comment had been drafted by the clerk on the basis of Parish Council planning considerations and resident concerns. It had then been approved by all Councillors to be sent by the deadline at the end of December. It was also confirmed that as Proper Officer of the Parish Council the clerk is authorised to send all planning responses and they do not need to be signed by the Chairman.
- In response to further planning issues raised by residents, the Chairman reminded everyone that the Parish Council is a consultee only and urged everyone to write to or email Braintree Planning themselves in response to any planning application that concerns them.

6. PROGRESS CHECK

Village maintenance issues and update on actions from last meeting

6.1 Church Meadow: Erosion of the soil at the entrance to Church Meadow by waste collection vehicles creating a ditch had caused problems when a car became stuck after a Christmas church service. Waste churchyard soil and highways planings were discussed as a way of possibly rectifying the problem. Cllr Harvey had reported to Essex Highways reference number 2814405

Action: Clerk to follow this up with PROW officer Jason Botelho to clarify if Essex Highways can repair it

7. HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Update on Highways issues and any new problems to report

7.1 Speeding, A131 Bulmer Tye: Possible options will be discussed with ECC Cllr Peter Schwier.

7.2 RESOLVED: 20s Plenty: To sign up to this campaign for 20mph as the default speed limit for any areas across Essex (and nationally) where pedestrians mix with traffic

Proposed: Cllr Raymond

Seconded: Cllr Ponty

Agreed unanimously

7.3 Kerb Damage, St Andrews Rise: This had been raised with ECC Cllr Peter Schwier who had corrected the Essex Highways report location, but Essex Highways have not agreed to carry out a repair since the problem will keep recurring due to large parked vehicle opposite. Councillors reported that the original damage was caused by broadband installation but were not sure which contractor. It would be the contractor's responsibility to repair any damage caused.

Action: Clerk to search through previous minutes to find the date of the original damage and who caused it

7.4 Coes Meadow: unauthorised long-term parking in the visitor car park was raised as a problem. Coes Meadow Committee members will keep an eye on this.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch. Weekly police reports had been forwarded to Councillors.

8.2 Essex CC report. Cllr Schwier sent apologies due to a conflicting meeting

8.3 Braintree DC report Cllr Scattergood sent apologies due to a conflicting meeting.

9. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

9.1 Allotments report: Mr Mike Crome, Allotments Officer, had sent a written allotment report which had been circulated to Councillors. The clerk reported that all annual rents due by 31st October 2022 are paid apart from one allotment tenant. This will be chased up again. Three allotment plots are vacant, and two further plots are paid for but left unworked causing problems with weed growth. A new standpipe near the A131 was suggested to make it easier to manage plots further away from the Park Lane water supply. This has been considered in the budget calculations and also added to the Open Spaces Action Plan in case S106 funding is available

Action: Cllr Raymond will supply tarpaulin to use as a weed suppressant on the unworked plots.

10. PLANNING

Applications received: Decisions ratified "en bloc" as Councillors had seen and approved the written responses

Proposed: Cllr Raymond

Seconded: Cllr Nichols

Agreed unanimously

The Chairman reminded all residents that the Parish Council is only a consultee in any planning applications and urged residents to write as individuals with their own comments to Braintree Planning if they wished.

22/03249/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for - Erection of 8no. 2 Bedroom dwellings and associated development
Land Rear Of The Tye Ryes Lane *Objection: Outside development boundary*

22/03149/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the construction of 5 No. dwellings
Tye Corner Farm Hedingham Road CO10 7EE *Objection: Outside development boundary*

22/03195/HH Erection of part single part two storey rear extension and new window to south west elevation
1 Chapel Cottages Bulmer Street CO10 7EW *No objections*

22/03302/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Ash Maple Leaf (A)
- Fell Acacia (B) – Fell The Old Vicarage Sudbury Road CO10 7TA *No objections*

Applications determined:

22/02884/HH Change in roof pitch to main dwelling and existing rear extension, erection of balcony, 3No. rear dormers and proposed cart lodge with first floor office
Greensted Upper Houses CO10 7ET *Application PERMITTED*

17. LAURENCE COE RECREATIONAL TRUST – SOLE TRUSTEE MEETING

Report from Coes Meadow Management Committee to Bulmer Parish Council as sole trustee:

- 3 recycled picnic benches including one wheelchair accessible have been ordered, delivery has been delayed but is expected within 2-3 weeks. These will be bought from S106 funds by the Parish Council.
- Stour Valley & Dedham Vale grant funding is available, details have been sent to committee members in case a suitable project can be identified

Action: A Coes Meadow Management Committee meeting to be arranged, probably during February

The Sole Trustee meeting closed at 9.35pm

18. MEETING DATES 2023

19. The Calendar of Meetings for 2023 was distributed to Councillors, including the Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday April 26th at the Village Hall.

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Monday 20 th March 2023 | Ordinary Parish Council | 7.15pm Bulmer Village Hall |
| Wednesday 26th April 2023 | Annual Parish Assembly | 7.30pm Bulmer Village Hall |
| Monday 22 nd May 2023 | Annual Parish Council | 7.15pm Bulmer Village Hall |

The meeting closed at 9.36 pm

Finance Appendix 1: The full financial report is be available on the website <https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc/parish-council/>

Accounts balances at 16th January 2023

Bulmer Parish Council

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| BPC Unity Trust Current account | £13,791.77 |
| BPC Unity Trust Allotment Deposits | £60.15 |

BPC Capital Reserves

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| BPC Unity Trust Deposit account | £35,336.52 |
| CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund | £30,915.37 |
| | <u>£66,251.89</u> |

Coes Meadow

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| LCRT Unity Trust Current account | £2,183.57 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|