



# What's Going On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer - March 2016

(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Rd & Hedingham Road). View in colour at [www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)

## DOES BULMER NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING?



(An example of Affordable Houses)

Delivered with this newsletter is a survey to establish if there is a need. The survey is being carried out by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) on behalf of the Parish Council. It has NOTHING to do with the recent Braintree District Councils Local Plan for 2017 to 2033. If there is a need, land can be allocated outside the Local Plan.

You will see the survey is in two parts. It is **ESSENTIAL** that you **complete PART 1**; you are only required to complete PART 2 if you or a member of your family has a need for Affordable Housing. Full instructions on how to complete the questionnaire are provided. For the results of the survey to be meaningful, as many PART 1s that are completed will ensure the exercise is not wasted.

The forms are to be returned to RCCE in the FREE pre-paid envelope, and NOT the Parish Council; none of the completed forms will be seen by the Parish Council, only a report prepared by RCCE. It is expected this report will be available for the Parish Council to discuss by mid June 2016.

**St ANDREW'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
*VACANCY FOR PCC SECRETARY*

Do you have some spare time? You do not need to be a Church Member just some basic computer skills and the ability to take Minutes from the Meetings which are held every 2 months for a maximum of 2 hours. These Meetings are held at 7.30pm in private houses. Please give this some thought and contact Peter Fulcher on 01787 269935 for further information.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL** is proposing to re-use two sections of the old churchyard for burials when the new section of the Churchyard is full. The intention is to re-use an area in the South East corner 10m x 26m and an area in the North East corner 8m x 26m (both Church Road end of churchyard).

The areas proposed have no headstones and there are currently no records available but a search of the Essex Records Office will be undertaken. If you have any comments/information about these sections of the old churchyard or wish to see a plan of the proposals please contact the Churchwarden Peter Fulcher at St Andrew's Church, Church Meadow, Church Road, Bulmer, CO10 7EL or phone 01787 269935 by the 31<sup>st</sup> march or as soon as possible. Permission for this proposal will be required from the Church of England.

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**OPEN GARDENS**

Currently we do not have many offers. Should you wish to open your garden on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June for the benefit of St. Andrew's Church, please contact Liz Fulcher on 01787 269935

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**ANONYMOUS COMPLAINT**

Walking through Bulmer Street recently, I was forced

to step into the road to avoid stepping in the heap shown in the picture. Surely the horse rider should have the sense and decency to move the animal on to the road, to avoid this happening.

This is about the second lot I have had to avoid in about a week. Of course, strictly speaking the horse had no right to be on the footpath in the first place.



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**BULMER SKYLARKS**

We were amazed by our very stalwart members who attended our first meeting of the year on an extremely cold afternoon. Almost every one of them attended and they were not disappointed by our speaker, Gail Bushel, who demonstrated her wonderful work with glass. She brought along some exquisite items and many

bought small pieces of jewellery.

Our February meeting was again held on a cold afternoon but our members were there as before, eager as always to hopefully enjoy our speaker. They were not let down as we had a very entertaining afternoon with Jason Salisbury from Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses. We were able to sample 3 different cheeses and many of us purchased some to take home for supper. He also brought bottles of Guernsey milk with him so many went home looking forward to creamy coffee or delicious porridge for breakfast!

Our programme for the next few months will hopefully be as entertaining. On **26<sup>th</sup> April** we will welcome Rosemary Wheeler who will be speaking about her life as a woman butcher in Lavenham. Margaret Geater will be our speaker on **May 24<sup>th</sup>** who will be recounting her life running a bed and breakfast accommodation. As usual we will be holding our summer party on the 28<sup>th</sup> June.

We will again be holding a Fashion Show at Edinburgh Woollen Mills on **18<sup>th</sup> May**. This is our main fund raising event, needed to pay for speakers etc so please come along to support us. Watch out for notices around the Village.

We are always happy to welcome new members, the club is open to everyone with no age restrictions and we are a very lively bunch. If you would like to know more please ring Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758

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**VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

Spring cleaning? Have you found items that you no longer use or need? Why not sell them at our TABLE SALE to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 2pm. The cost of a table will be £5 but this must be pre booked before the event. Bargain hunters will be most welcome at a small entrance fee of 20p. If you wish to book a table please ring Ann on 373451 or Maggie on 374758.

We will also be holding a Collectors Exhibition in the Village Hall on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. This has always been a well supported event and is returning by popular request. If you would like more information please ring Alan Dixey on 312915.

The Village Hall's A.G.M. is being held on FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY. Please try and find time to come along to this meeting to not only show your support but to air your views. The Village Hall is a charity run on the strict guidelines set down by the Charity Commission. These include listening to our residents and where possible implement any suggestions put forward. Thank you for your support in the past and we hope we can rely on your support in the future.

Watch out for details of events on Parish notice boards and the Village website at [essexinfo.net/bulmervillage](http://essexinfo.net/bulmervillage)



## VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. It is a vital fundraiser for your village hall. Are you a member? The more members the more funds for the village Hall and bigger prizes!

Month	First	Second	Third
Jan.	Mrs D Allen	Mrs J Coombes	Mr & Mrs C Bennet
Feb.	Mr & Mrs P Owen	Mr M Crome	Mr R Buchanan
Mar.	?	?	?

Please support your village hall and contact Dawn at the Post Office (376676) if you would like to join the village lottery.

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## BULMER NATURE DIARIES



After what has been the mildest winter ever recorded, Spring certainly sprung early everywhere, with some daffodils flowering before we even got into the New Year. In the hedgerows and woods primroses were full out by the middle of January, whereas in a cold spring, they don't peep out much before early April. The Daffodils shown above are flowering in Deal Nursery (better known to many as the bluebell wood), half way between Upper Houses and the Brickyard. While I am normally very much against non native flowers being planted in the wild, these ones do have a special meaning. They were planted there in the mid 1950s by Arthur Day in memory of Connie, his first wife, who tragically died after a Calor Gas explosion in their home at Hill Top Farm, Upper Houses. Arthur, together with his father farmed the 100 or so acres of Hill Top Farm, which included Deal Nursery Mr Day bought the land in the early 1930s. All small fields by today's standards. Most of them came from the Goldingham Hall estate, but at least one, and Deal Nursery itself, had belonged to Jenkins Farm on Bulmer Tye. This created a new farm and an old cottage at Upper Houses became Hilltop Farmhouse. This was demolished around 1970 and is where "Leycroft" now stands. Today the land just one big field, is now part of Hill Farm Gestingthorpe and is known as "Days field".

The flowers weren't alone in emerging in advance of their normal seasons. Worryingly, any hibernating mammals, such as hedgehogs, dormice and bats are likely to wake and venture forth in search for food, which as likely as not just won't be there for them. On 18th Feb, a bright almost warm day we walked over to Belchamp Walter and I was amazed to see a bat flittering over the meadows, against the backdrop of the church. Hopefully it was finding some flying insects, but we didn't notice any. I spent a neck breaking five minutes trying to capture some video of it as it twisted and turned above us. Although I captured both the bat and the view I must confess to merging the two shots!



In the Dec. What's On I mentioned that we had had a few lesser redpolls in the garden. I was quite pleased with that, but I was almost shocked when about the middle of January, Hugh Owen got in touch to say that he had seen a flock of about 100 of them feeding on a patch of game feed halfway down Sandy Lane. Going down there a couple of days later we saw getting on for thirty of them, seemingly very restive, continually moving between the crop and the electric wires which cross the field. It won't be long now before they return to their breeding areas further north. Another bird that appears to have been more plentiful than in most years, is the goldcrest. On 8th January during a short walk from Henny Ryes along the old lane, we saw seven altogether, four in a little group which also included long tailed and blue tits and three more singly. Apart from these we have had one in the garden, and others at Lower Houses, Little Dean Spinney and in Parsons Wood. Those with good hearing can pick up their high pitched calls but to my ears they don't utter a sound ! Ashley Cooper reports that hardly a day passes when he, or someone else on the farm doesn't see a barn owl, another welcome piece of news. Throughout most of the winter we have often had a large mixed flock of Rooks and Jackdaws feeding on the field behind Bulmer Street. The picture shows the flock and a close-up of one of the rooks, it's huge beak looks almost out of proportion to the rest of the bird. The rooks usually well outnumber their smaller relatives, although the din jackdaws kick up can give the reverse impression. With their sharp "jack" calls, they certainly announce their presence. The flock is at their most impressive on wild, windy days. The whole flock seems to delight in stunt flying, especially the jackdaws. They throw themselves about in the

turbulent air, corkscrewing and spiralling, swooping and stalling as if competing in some avian aerobatic Olympics. Although the birds came right up to our hedge, they never ventured into the garden, until that is this afternoon. I had only just finished this passage when, to my amazement, I saw two of the rooks somehow clinging to our hanging bird feeders. They just about managed to keep their balance, with



much wing flapping and tail fanning, before one gave up, leaving it's mate to extract sunflower seeds very gently from the small opening, with the very tip of it's beak.

When the corvid flock was missing from the field, they were often replaced (surprise surprise!) by woodpigeons. Of course, woodpigeons don't excite much, but on 28th December a flock took off en masse and streamed over our heads. Well they might, I did a double take when I looked up, from amongst the pigeons burst a peregrine falcon! Only a fleeting glimpse, but quite unmistakable. This supreme predator is being seen more and more in the area. It is renowned for it's speed, capable of reaching 200mph when in a dive. At Lavenham a pair have been seen regularly on the 141feet tall church tower. A nesting platform has been placed on the top of the tower in the hope that they may stay and nest.

Cleaning out a bird box that I had neglected to do for a couple of years, I found as I expected two nests one on top of the other, but sandwiched between them was a cache of about a dozen hazel nuts. Obviously a wood mouse or a vole had laid up a winter store. But as only a couple of them were opened I guess the little animal didn't survive for long to enjoy the fruits of it's carefully planned housekeeping.

Now we're into March, it seems that winter is making up a little for having given us a miss earlier on, with several cold and cheerless days. But at least we can look forward to warmer and longer days, which can't be that far around the corner.

*Peter Rowe*

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#### **A PLEA FROM BULMER LITTER PICKERS**

There are some dog walkers in Bulmer who pick up their dog's poo and then throw the bag into a ditch or hedge, which the litter pickers then have to pick up.

Are you one of the perpetrators? It is NOT pleasant.  
**Please use the bins or take it home!!**

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#### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

[www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)



#### **APPLICATION FOR YELLOW LINES**

In order for the applications for lines around the corner of Church Rd near the entrance to the Auberies & Bulmer St. near St Andrews Rise to progress, BDC need the Council to show there is public support for them. If you do support the proposals, please write to the Parish Clerk by email to [bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com) or by post to 5 Crocklands, Greenstead Green, Halstead, CO9 1QY

#### **YOUR COUNCILLORS**

Peter Fulcher (Chairman)	01787 269935
Stephen Morgan (Vice Chairman)	07973 341048
Rose Raymond	07813 205743
Stella Buchanan	01787 312512
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

**Diane Jacob** - Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer – Tele: 07497 226274 or Email: [bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com)

#### **DATES OF FUTURE PARISH MEETINGS**

12th April 2016 (Annual Assembly Meeting)
16 <sup>th</sup> May (Including AGM)
18 <sup>th</sup> July
19 <sup>th</sup> September
21 <sup>st</sup> November

**All meetings are bi-monthly, normally held on the third Monday of the month** in the Village Hall at 7:45pm except the AGM starts 7:15pm All parishioners are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for statements/questions from the floor.

#### **Bulmer Parish Council**

#### **Minutes of the Extraordinary Bulmer Parish Council Meeting**

**Held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the Village Hall, at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr. M.Crome, Cllr. C.Leigh, Cllr. C.Ponty, Cllr. S.Morgan, Cllr. P. Fulcher, Cllr. R. Raymond, Cllr. S. Buchanan . Mrs D.Jacob (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer), 36 members of the public.

#### **16/028 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman welcomed all those present. Apologies received and accepted from C.Cllr. D. Finch

#### **16/029 Declarations of interest**

Received from Cllr.S.Morgan regarding proposed site number 551

### **16/030 Public Participation session**

The Clerk advised the Chairman that if more than 5 members of the public wished to speak then Standing Orders would need to be suspended, the Chairman consulted the members of the public and 4 hands were raised to speak.

Members of the public raised issues regarding the Call for sites (Planning Development) – Church Road resident raised concerns regarding planning of houses directly in front of their property, obstructing light and privacy. A resident from Park Lane expressed concern regarding the pumping station constantly being blocked, surface water and drainage issues, Highway access to the proposed site would be onto a main road which is at present an accident black spot. A resident expressed concerns regarding green field rather than brown field sites being put forward.

One e-mail has been received from a member of the public expressing their views.

**16/031 District councillor Wendy Scattergood** - declined to address the meeting due to an interest, as she is a member of the planning committee

### **16/032 LOCAL PLAN 2033 - Sites discussed and Comments to submit to Braintree District Council**

#### **Comments from Bulmer Parish Council to the District Local Plan - Bulmer**

We would initially refer you to the **Bulmer Village Design Statement** (VDS) Approved in 2011 by Braintree District Council. Pages 11 to 15 are most relevant. This is followed by comments to each specific site.

Your attention is drawn to the VDS statements –

'Open spaces such as Church Meadow, Coe's Meadow, Plough Green, Lt. Dean Spinney, Allotments (Turnpike Piece) at Park Lane and the paddocks at Almshouse Field, Lower Houses and those behind the south side of Bulmer Street, should be protected and maintained.'

'Development outside the village envelopes should be resisted.'

'The two most popular comments, way above all others, were that "All views are important" and "Views including the Church". The latter was mostly general, but occasionally specific, such as "View of the church from the footpath behind Upper Houses".'

'Residents indicated in their responses to the questionnaire that the development of villages open space would be strongly resisted.'

'Existing trees are a significant and valued feature of the parish. They should be protected as far as good sense and safety allow.'

**'A small development of residential development may be supported in the parish, but should be limited to 10 in one place to avoid damaging the character of the Parish.'**

'In-fill sites for new builds are preferred, but should wherever possible retain views to the open countryside, and where possible retain views to the

open countryside, and where possible open up new vistas to the country side.'

#### **Proposed site allocations**

***(MAPS OF THESE PROPOSED SITES CAN BE VIEWED FOLLOWING THESE MINUTES)***

#### **BULM 155 – Land East of St. Andrews Rise**

Our previous response in 2012 was as follows and remains the same.

- BUL 1 – Do not support development of this site. This area has an important open space that provides views from many locations to the Grade I listed church of St Andrew's at the heart of Bulmer. Comments during the Parish Council consultation have included, "*it should be made an area of outstanding natural beauty*". Access to the site is poor. The site was proposed for affordable housing some time ago and was strongly opposed by local residents.
- There are no suitable sites for gypsies/travellers.
- There are no further amenity/play spaces to identify.

This although outside the village envelope & conservation area it has **POSITIVE VISTA VIEWS** from the Grade I listed church which is in the conservation area.

#### **BULM 156 – Land North of 20 Church Road**

This site is outside the village envelope and although it does not meet VDS recommendations, it is one of the preferred sites.

More street parking could add to current issue of parking.

#### **BULM 157 – Land North of Hillcrest**

This site is outside the village envelope and does not meet VDS recommendations in that the views from BULM156 would be blocked to the east. Highway Issues – This currently has issues with off road parking near the bend and Bulmer School..

Not a suitable site.

#### **BULM 158 - Land North of Church Road (opp.pond)**

Highway Issues – Around the blind corner with access to the Aubries Estate, street parking makes negotiation around corner dangerous. The corner has suffered from flooding in recent years.

Potential drainage issues/sewage and surface water.

Objection of houses as they would be overlooking bungalows – Lack of Light would be of concern and privacy and blocking view from outside village envelope to the bungalows.

It is noted an outline Planning Application has been submitted for this site.

Not a recommended site.

#### **BULM 159 – Land east of Church Road (opp. No.s 1-10)**

Outside the Village envelope and does not meet the VDS recommendations

Highway Issues – Around the blind corner with access to the Aubries Estate, street parking makes negotiation around corner dangerous. The corner has suffered from flooding in recent years.

Potential drainage issues/sewage and surface water. Not a suitable site.

**BULM 160 – Land rear east no.s 1- 4 Ryes Lane**

This site is outside the village envelope.

Highway Issues – Access would be a concern, A131 accident black spot.

Views of Sudbury and the surrounding area would be affected..

Not a suitable site.

**BULM 161 – Land west of Smeetham Hall Lane (adj. Bulmer Cottage)**

Outside the village envelope.

Prime agricultural land.

There are ancient oak trees near this site.

Although it does not meet the VDS guidelines, this would extend the extent of the Village – but would be a potential favourable site as the potential owners would not be used to an open view to the east if BULM 162 is adopted

**BULM 162 – Land east of Smeetham Hall Lane (adj. Ridgcroft)**

Outside the village envelope.

Prime agricultural land.

There are ancient oak trees near this site.

Although it does not meet the VDS guidelines, this would extend the extent of the Village – but would be a potential favourable site as the potential owners would not be used to an open view to the west if BULM 161 is adopted.

Site 161 and 162 would be of the least obtrusive, of all the proposed sites.

**Site 163 – Land east of Church Road/Sudbury Road (south of the Old Vicarage)**

Outside the village envelope and does not comply with the VDS recommendations.

Fronts onto the conservation area which describes this stretch along Church Rd as “**POSITIVE VIEWS WEST**”. Views of natural beauty to Sudbury and beyond.

Potential highway Issues due to the crossroads with Sudbury Road, also many ancient trees.

Not a recommended site.

**BULM 164 – Land at junction of Church Road and A131**

Our previous response in 2012 was as follows and remains the same.

The Parish Council stated that the 'Village Design Statement (VDS) gives strong guidelines and views on how the village should be developed and the landscape of open fields and the trees retained. Parishioners' most frequent response was that they wished to stick to the VDS, and therefore objected to all four areas being developed.

- Do not support development of this site. Concern about access issues. The site is

thought to contain an earth work of ancient origins. The woodlands are also visually important.

- There are no suitable sites for gypsies/travellers.

Highway Issues, accident black spot dangerous corner.

Not a recommended site.

**BULM 504 – Griggs Farm, Bulmer Street**

The proposed site, half is inside the village envelope and the entire site is inside the conservation area. The site includes a “**Buildings Townscape Merit**” property,

Highway Issues, access would be on a blind corner.

This site meets the criteria of the VDS by being an “infill” however access would be a potential danger.

Not a suitable site.

**Site 551 Bulmer Tye – North of A131**

The only Brown field site although outside the village envelope put forward and is noted it has recently put on the market for let.

Bulmer would welcome further industrial Business opportunities in Bulmer, rather than residential development.

Does not meet the criteria of the VDS.

Not a suitable site.

Due the short notice to meet BDC deadlines for its response, the council has full council meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, and is holding its Annual Assembly Public meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> April and may have other comments to add to those above.

*A Bulmer resident made the following points at the councils meeting regarding the proposed building sites that have been put forward:*

*"The majority are positioned outside the village envelope which should be protected from development.*

*They are mainly on Green Field sites.*

*Many are on prime agricultural land.*

*When compared to other local villages of similar character such as The Maplesteads, the Belchamps, Wickham St. Paul and Gestingthorpe, there are a disproportionately high number of proposed sites at Bulmer*

*The character of Bulmer would be altered irrevocably if these proposed sites were passed. the proportions of the village would be changed to such an extent that it would no longer be small, rural village.*

*The road system and infrastructure in the area is already struggling to cope, without the increased population getting in their cars to travel out of the area to where the work is".*

**Clerk to send comments to Braintree District Council as requested.**

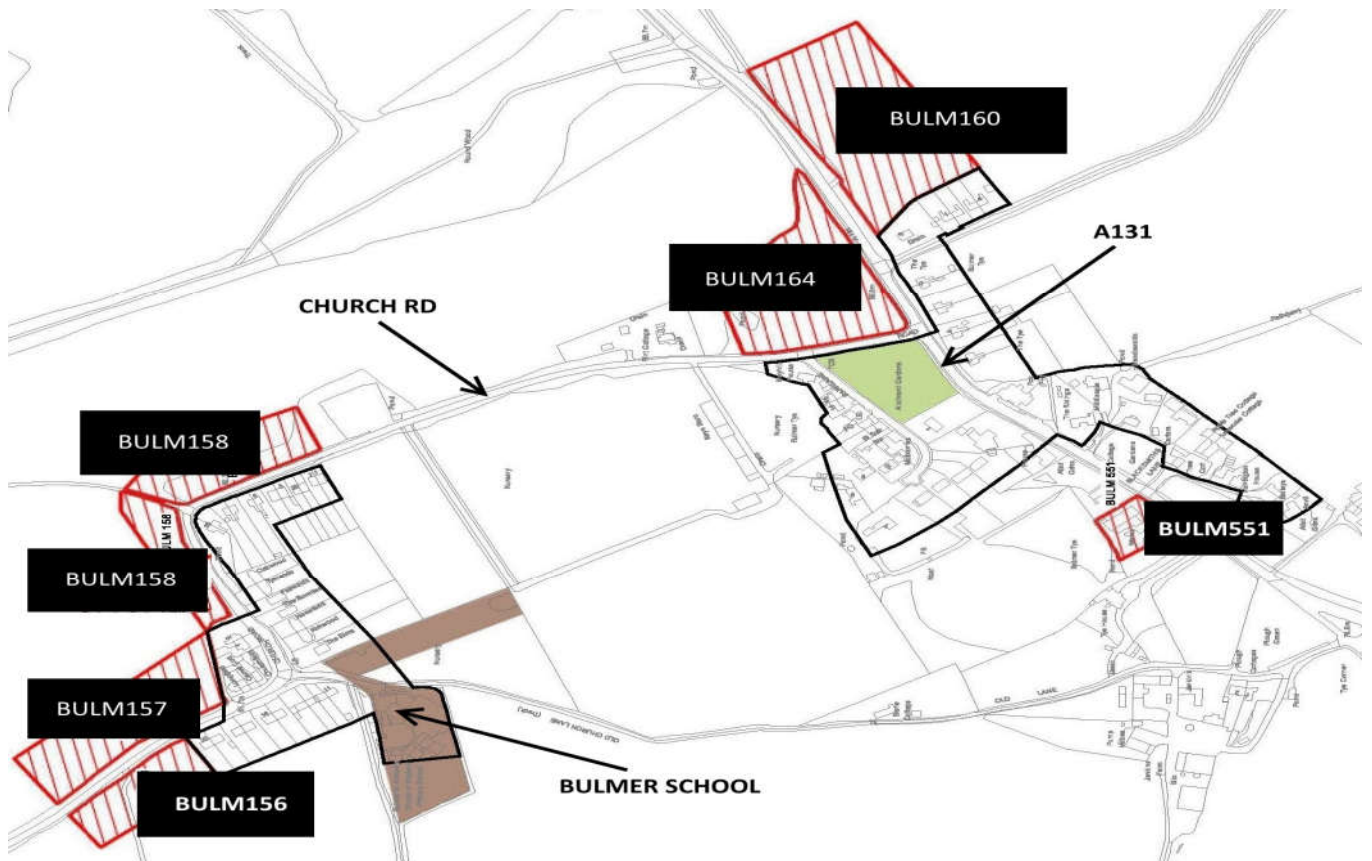
**16/033 Date of next meeting**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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# Bulmer Parish Council

## **DRAFT** Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Meeting

Held 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at the Village Hall, at 7.45pm

**(These minutes are unapproved until the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016)**

Present: Cllr. P. Fulcher, Cllr. S.Morgan, Cllr. S. Buchanan, Cllr. R. Raymond, Mrs D.Jacob (Parish Clerk)

CCllr. Finch and DCllr. Scattergood and 19 members of the public.

### **16/034 To elect a Chairman**

Cllr. P. Fulcher elected as Chairman, proposed by Cllr.S. Buchanan, seconded by Cllr. S.Morgan, all in favour resolution passed.

### **16/035 Chairman's Declaration of acceptance of office**

Signed by Cllr.P.Fulcher

### **16/036 To elect a Vice-Chairman**

Cllr. S. Morgan elected as Vice-Chairman, proposed by Cllr.S.Buchanan, seconded by Cllr. P.Fulcher, all in favour resolution passed.

### **16/037 Vice-Chairman's Declaration of acceptance of office**

Signed by Cllr.S.Morgan

### **16/038 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Cllr Fulcher welcomed everyone, item 16/043 Local Plan, this subject has challenged both the Parish Council and Parishioner's, a lot of concern resulted with the Chairman and two councillors resigning. This was also caused by misunderstanding and unofficial information and rumors being circulated, but we now need to try and move forward. On behalf of the Parish Council special thanks to Mike Crome for all his work for the village over many years and the last 5 or more as Chairman, Chris Leigh for all her work as a Councillor over many years with particular reference to her work as Chair of Coe's Meadow Committee and organiser and instigator of the Fun Day and to Cathy Ponty for her work as a councillor over the last 5 years. They will all be greatly missed.

To also draw your attention to the fact that a comment regarding the Extraordinary meeting was made by someone who did not attend that meeting, but suggested that procedures were not followed correctly regarding Suspension of Standing orders, this was in fact offered, as shown in the minutes only 4 members of the public wished to speak so it was not necessary to suspend Standing Orders. It is hoped that if the person involved who made this comment, to the public will ensure that it is corrected accordingly.

No apologies for absence.

### **16/039 Declaration of Interests**

Received from Cllr.Raymond and Cllr.Morgan regarding item 16/049 on the agenda.

### **16/040 Public Participation session**

Four members of the public wished to speak.

*Question 1. Is it the intention of the Parish Council to give details of the Local Plan 2033 sites, and its response to Braintree District Council to all residents before the Parrish Council Annual Assembly Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April? Whilst I acknowledge that some development is probably inevitable, the Parish Council appear to have already conceded that three sites outside of the village envelope could be developed. Will it explain to residents the reasons for*

*this decision so early in the consultation process? To date, the Parish Council has failed to ensure that all residents who could be affected by these proposals and their significance for the village have been aware of them. I do not think it unreasonable that residents should be given sufficient details before the Annual Assembly, so that the Parish Council can get an accurate view of their opinions. It is important that residents, many of whom do not have access to the internet, understand the process, the timescales, and how they can take part in any subsequent consultation. As the proposals for Bulmer will be considered by the Braintree Local Plan Group on 13<sup>th</sup> April, how will it make Braintree councillors aware of the opinions of residents, given the short timescale between the two meetings?*

*Chairman advised that this would be covered under item 16/043 and that DCllr Scattergood would respond to this later in the meeting.*

*Question 2. As an Election is scheduled to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> May and as there are only 4 councillors would the Parish Council defer from making any large financial decisions. Telephone box in Park Lane, still owned and maintained by BT will give Clerk details.*

*Question 3. Allotment holder's representative/spokesperson, Allotment holders are in support with the Parish Council regarding fencing due to theft, dog fouling etc and that fencing would be a great improvement hopefully it could be installed before the growing season.*

*Question 4. Yellow lines re Church Road – Clerk confirmed yellow lines have been applied for, but public support is required.*

### **16/041 County Councillor David Finch addressed the members and public**

#### **DCllr.Scattergood arrived later in the meeting.**

CCllr David Finch expressed his sincere thanks for his invaluable support to Mike Crome Reported on the Devolution deal with district councils. Energy switch campaign survey was a great success. Broadband continues to be ongoing. Government budget cuts will create financial problems.

### **16/042 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. S.Buchanan, seconded by Cllr. S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

### **Approval of the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 29th February 2016**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. S.Buchanan, seconded by Cllr. R.Raymond, all in favour

resolution passed.

### **16/043 BDC New Local Plan 2033**

The Parish Council comments have been sent to BDC, Cllr Scattergood to confirm on the process to comment.

### **16/044 Parish Council Policies**

To consider adoption of the LGPS Local Pension Discretionary Statement. This item deferred until next meeting.

### **16/045 Parish Council Meetings**

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council should consider holding monthly meetings (except August) as suppliers are chasing payment of invoices, also the agendas would become shorter as more items could be voted on and dealt with sooner. This item deferred until next meeting.



## 16/046 Village Hall Report

Report received and noted, Clerk confirmed that a fire proof cabinet had been installed in the Village Hall for use by the Parish Council, and has been added to the Parish Council Asset register and is insured.

## 16/47 Allotments Issues

**Item 1.** The Parish Council to consider the following quotations received for fencing, the allotments.

| Allotment Fencing Quotes<br>Summary March 2016 |              |          |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Company Name                                   | Price Quoted |          |
| Sudbury Common Lands Charity                   | £1,525.00    | Inc VAT  |
| Harper Fencing                                 | £1,991.00    | Plus VAT |
| NBS Garden Landscapes                          | £2,360.75    | Inc VAT  |

After receiving legal advice that the Parish Council can go ahead with this project, and after the Allotment Officer consulting the Allotment Holders, the majority of who were in favour of fencing the allotments, due to theft, dog fouling etc it was agreed to go ahead with this project

It was discussed and considered to award the contract to Sudbury Common Lands Charity Proposed by Cllr. S. Buchanan, seconded by Cllr. R. Raymond, 3 in favour, one abstained, resolution passed.

**Item 2.** S106 Funding to be obtained, for this project.

## 16/048 Planning matters

**Item 1.** To elect a planning Officer – Deferred until next meeting.

However Cllr.P.Fulcher and/or Cllr.S. Morgan will represent the Parish Council at BDC on 13<sup>th</sup> April sub-committee proposed sites consultation.

## Item 2. Planning Applications

**Ref: 16/00307** – Land adjacent 2 Haven Ground Church Road, Bulmer, Essex

Outline planning application for up to 15 no.village dwellings with associated garages.

Objection – Highways Issues – Access Issues – Location Issues

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, Cllr.S. Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed

**Ref: 16/00609** - Griggs Farm Bulmer Street Bulmer Essex CO10 7EW

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Shape 1 Oak and carry out safety works to remove dead and overgrown branches also half broken limbs to trim and make good, Shape and remove dead branches overhanging limbs to be trimmed from 1 Oak tree, slight wind damage to large limbs to be trimmed, limbs overhanging Ostlers Barn property to be trimmed to remove small overhanging branches causing excessive shading and damage to roofs of buildings from falling branches.

Support this application

Proposed by Cllr.S.Morgan, seconded by Cllr.S. Buchanan, all in favour resolution passed.

Clerk to send comments to BDC Planning Department.

**District Councillor Wendy Scattergood attended the meeting and made the following statement.**

I fully understand that there has been much confusion over the process of responding to the submitted sites in Bulmer for the new Local Plan.

I would like to explain why the urgency to produce a NEW Plan - the process - the time table - and how all residents in addition to the Parish Council can get involved.

The 2005 Plan is now out of date. Braintree District Councillors of which I am one commenced work on the next plan following introduction of the 2005 plan this work was completed in 2014 the plan was approved by Council to submit it to the inspectorate when the Government advised all local authorities that the housing numbers had to be increased. We then had to start again and in 2015 had to call for additional sites. Over 300 sites were submitted we have to consider the suitability of each and every one of them which has taken several months

What is the urgency why was such short notice given to the Parish Council. The reason is it is essential that BDC produces a new plan as soon as possible because without a up to date plan any land owner or developer can apply for planning permission on any sites submitted right now.

The National Planning Framework states that we must give regard to presumption in favour of development. Our hands are tied we cannot refuse the applications. If the Council fails to determine an application the applicant can appeal to the Secretary of State on grounds of non- determination whilst there is no new Local Plan in place. You will probably recall that we had to grant permission for over 100 homes at Oak Road Halstead.

We have to build 845 homes per year for the plan period 2016- 2033. That total is 14,365 but one crumb of comfort is that we have had sites submitted sufficient for 55,000 homes which is way in excess of the requirement.

The second crumb of comfort is that at the Local Plan sub Committee on 14th March We agreed and voted that overall Braintree and Witham are sustainable locations for new growth. Halstead and the A12 corridor could accommodate some new growth We concluded that the spatial hierarchy of the District should be

**Towns.** Braintree Witham Halstead

**Service Villages.** Sible Hedingham Hatfield Peverel Coggeshall Earls Colne Kelvedon with Feering

**Villages.** All other settlements in the District enclosed by a development boundary.

**Countryside.** All areas of the District outside a development boundary

What this means is that we will concentrate development in Braintree Witham and the A12 corridor.

The District North of Halstead is rural with small settlements of which Bulmer is one. Due to the more limited public transport connections, services and facilities and rural setting we do not consider it an appropriate place for major new development although more minor development might be acceptable in larger or well-connected villages.

**Whilst I appreciate there will be a difference of opinion between residents of Bulmer as to whether or not some new homes would be acceptable. Minor development is the more likely outcome.**

## **The Time Table**

Potential Development Sites considered by the Local Plan Committee February –May

Draft Plan of the preferred sites will be considered by the Full Council 13th June

A 6 week Public Consultation will take place June – July

Feedback on the Consultation and any changes agreed September –November

Full Council will consider Submission Draft November

Public Consultation of the Submission Draft November – December

Submission of the Plan to the Inspector February 2017

### **How you can have your say.**

The sites that have been submitted for Bulmer will be discussed and voted on at the Meeting on the 13th April. The agenda will be published on 5th April Prior to that meeting officers will have considered the Parish Councils comments and they will make recommendations to the committee to either approve or refuse each site. I know that you have your annual public meeting on the 12th I have discussed this with Emma Goodings the planning policy officer she assures me that if the results of the meeting are sent to her as early as possible on the 13th she will let the committee members have sight of the comments prior to the start of the meeting

**A Parish Council Representative can attend the meeting and speak. Members of the public can also attend if any member of the public wishes to speak they must register in advance at BDC The number of speakers allowed on each item is at the discretion of the Chairman.**

When the draft plan is published in June for consultation any individual can submit either their objections or support for a site, objections would need to be on planning grounds for example flooding, drainage, parking road safety.

Many residents have raised concerns over the lack of affordable housing for local people. Allowing development in the village is not the only way forward to achieve low cost homes in fact small developments do not produce many such homes. There is a way affordable housing can be achieved it is by building on exception sites. These sites are sites that join the village envelope and are built by housing associations this scheme can only be achieved if land owners are willing to put sites forward. An excellent example of this is in Gestingthorpe in Sudbury Road. The advantage of such a scheme is that the homes are only for people that have a connection with the village.

Finally I would like to apologise that the whole process has appeared rushed by BDC but as I explained earlier we are on a tight schedule with urgency to prevent development on unplanned sites. I hope that I can work with the Parish Council to assist in getting the important dates advertised. If any member of the public wants additional advice please contact me.

### **16/049 Bulmer Grazing Land**

Deferred until next meeting.

### **16/050 The Village Sign**

Specialist Brickworks required, repairing and maintenance to the Village Sign

Quotation received and accepted for a total cost of £490.00

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

### **16/051 Red Telephone Box at Turnpike Piece, Park Lane**

To consider if the Parish Council would like to purchase a paint kit and ask the member of the Parish who renovated the phone box in The Street if they would be prepared to carry out this work (confirmation before purchase of paint).

Further information required – Deferred until next meeting.

### **16/052 Mobile Mast**

No plans for a mobile mast, no funding available. Clerk to contact service providers.

### **16/053 Clerks Reports**

Received and noted.

### **16/054 Items for Annual Parish Assembly**

- Local Plan 2033 proposed sites
- Allotments
- Grass cutting – areas to be cut and how often
- Grant funding policy
- S106 funding
- Affordable Housing
- Drainage and sewage issues (to keep a record of comments)

### **16/055 Coe's Meadow**

Signs have arrived, security screws and post-crete (up to a maximum amount of £30.00) will need to be purchased for these to now be installed

Proposed by Cllr.S.Morgan, seconded by Cllr.S. Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

Amendment of the Open Spaces Plan to include new items of play equipment.

Proposed by Cllr. S. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. S. Buchanan, all in favour resolution passed

The Stour Valley volunteers have cut the wildflower meadow and tidied up the pond etc, Clerk to write letter of thanks.

No Fun Day to take place this year.

Meeting Closed, Cllr Fulcher (Chairman) Left the room, meeting re-opened.

### **16/056 Bus Shelter**

Repairs are required to the Bus shelter in Church Road, near the junction with The Street.

Clerk to obtain 3 quotes, item deferred until next agenda

### **16/057 Casual Vacancies**

To confirm that a notice has been published and issued for the required period, now awaiting confirmation from BDC as to if it will call an election, requests deadline is now the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 (Three Vacancies).

### **16/058 HM Queen Elizabeth II 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commerative Medal For Schools**

The Parish Council to purchase commerative medals for the primary school.

55 medals to be purchased at a total cost of £140.34 Inc. VAT.

Proposed by Cllr. S.Morgan, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchan, all in favour, resolution passed

### **16/059 Financial Matters**

**i) Balance in hand:** The following report was circulated and read out by the Clerk. Clerk explained

difference to Pension Contributions (Employer contributions have been increased by Essex County Council, March is therefore different to April). Cheques were signed.

Proposed by Cllr.S.Buchanan, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

| <b>Balance in hand</b>     |  |                 | <b>21.3.2016</b>  |  |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Current A/c                |  | (as at 21.3.16) | £10,466.18        |  |
| Business savings A/c       |  | (as at 21.3.16) | £41,369.44        |  |
| HSBC                       |  | (as at 21.3.16) | £30,145.56        |  |
| <b>Balance in hand (£)</b> |  |                 | <b>£81,981.18</b> |  |

| <b>Debtors</b>              |  |                 |              |  |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|--|
| VAT Reimbursement           |  | (as at 21.3.16) | £3,565.37    |  |
| Receipts since last meeting |  |                 |              |  |
| Water charge to the church  |  | Inv. No. 16/002 | £1.28        |  |
| Interest 7/3/16             |  |                 | £5.16        |  |
| Water charge to the church  |  |                 | £2.56        |  |
| <b>TOTAL (£)</b>            |  |                 | <b>£9.00</b> |  |

| <b>Payments since last meeting</b> |                                      |              |                |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| Mr M Crome                         | (reimbursement for ECC dropped curb) | Chq. No. 302 | £150.00        |  |
| <b>Total (£)</b>                   |                                      |              | <b>£150.00</b> |  |

| <b>Payments to be signed at this meeting</b> |                                            |     |                  |          |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----|------------------|----------|
| Essex CC Legal services                      | Legal advice re: Allotments                | 298 | £537.00          | Inc. Vat |
| Village Hall                                 | Hall Hire (April-March 2015/16)            | 299 | £60.00           |          |
| Running Total                                | Payroll 2015-16 inc Y/E Returns            | 300 | £20.00           |          |
| Mr P Fulcher                                 | 25 Hawthorn Whips for Coe's meadow         | 301 | £13.00           |          |
| Mr M Crome                                   | Mileage to Dunmow etc.                     | 303 | £39.60           |          |
| CPRE                                         | Rural England membership                   | 304 | £36.00           |          |
| Timperplay Ltd                               | Play equipment inspection                  | 305 | £609.24          | Inc. Vat |
| Anglian Water (Nov. 2015 – Feb 2016)         | Coe's Meadow                               | 306 | £17.93           |          |
| Anglian Water (Nov. 2015 – Feb 2016)         | Allotments                                 | 307 | £32.02           |          |
| CommuniCorp                                  | Clerks & Councils                          | 308 | £12.00           |          |
| Mrs D Jacob                                  | Clerks Salary & Exps Jan, Feb.             | 309 | £695.34          |          |
| Mrs D Jacob                                  | Clerks Salary & Exps Mar.                  | 310 | £304.20          |          |
| Essex Pension Fund                           | Clerks pension for March                   | 311 | £69.52           |          |
| Signs Of the Times Ltd                       | Inv. 24174                                 | 314 | £920.40          | Inc. Vat |
| Signs Of the Times Ltd                       | Inv. 24120                                 | 315 | £67.20           | Inc. Vat |
| Essex pension fund                           | Clerks pension for April (Next Years A/cs) | 312 | £73.84           |          |
| Mortimers                                    | Grass Cutting(Nxt Yrs A/c)                 | 313 | £274.80          | Inc. Vat |
| <b>TOTAL (£)</b>                             |                                            |     | <b>£3,782.09</b> |          |

**ii) Receipts and payments, as above.**

**16/60 To Exclude the Press and Public**

Motion to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item 16/61.

Proposed by Cllr.S.Buchanan, seconded by Cllr. S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

**16/061 Contract of Employment**

It was proposed to award the Clerk the Annual Salary Increment in accordance with contract of employment, (contract was signed).

Proposed by Cllr.P.Fulcher, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

**16/062 Date of next meeting**

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 7.30PM  
ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (AGM) 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY (Early Start time 7.15pm as two meetings in one evening) Followed by PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting closed at 9:42pm

**NOTICE OF ELECTION**

**Braintree District Council  
Election of Parish Councillors for  
BULMER**

1. An Election is to be held of **Three** Parish Councillors for Bulmer.
2. Forms of nomination for the Parish Election may be obtained from Clerk to Parish Council or Returning Officer, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB, or downloaded from [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk). The Returning Officer will, at the request of an elector for any electoral area prepare a nomination paper for signature.
3. Nomination papers must be **delivered to the Returning Officer, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB (electronic delivery is not permitted)** on any day after the date of this notice **but no later than 4 pm on Thursday, 7th April 2016**.
4. If any election is contested the **poll will take place on Thursday, 5th May 2016**.
5. Applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB by 5 pm on Tuesday, 19th April 2016.
6. Applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB by 5 pm on Tuesday, 26th April 2016.
7. Applications to vote by proxy at this election applied for on grounds of physical incapacity, where that physical incapacity occurred after 5 pm on Tuesday, 26th April 2016, must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB by 5 pm on Thursday, 5th May 2016.

**Dated 22 March 2016 Nicola Beach  
Returning Officer**

Printed and published by the Returning Officer, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB



**DON'T FORGET ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING – 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL, VILLAGE HALL 7:30pm to 9:30pm finish.**

This is a **PUBLIC** meeting, your chance to put your questions/queries/ideas etc. to the Parish Council, Items to be discussed may include depending on time:

- Braintree Local Plan to 2033 proposed sites
- Bulmer Clubs & Societies
- Allotments
- Grass cutting – areas to be cut and how often
- Grant funding Policy
- S106 funding
- Affordable Housing
- Drainage and sewage issues (to keep a record of comments)

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**FRAUD AND SCAMS THE RISKS**

A scam is a fraud and who is at risk we all are, you are more likely to become a victim of fraud than any other crime. The villains involved are ruthless care little about their victims and do not discriminate. People of all age groups, and the vulnerable are all liable to fall victim of this crime, the biggest risk is thinking that it could not happen to me. Programmes like "Hustle" glamorize fraud but to a victim there is nothing glamorous about being a victim, it can and does destroy people's lives.

Fraud comes from many directions and in many forms constantly evolving and by no means limited to the few examples below:

Postal delivery: Lottery and holiday wins (should be suspicious when you have not even entered it!); sales pitches involving a continued commitment, someone stranded abroad in need of cash, inheritance, and as below in "telephone, computers and the internet" these may come via the post too.

ATM and shops: Distraction at the ATM i.e. dropped cash and "shoulder surfing" for your PIN number, devices attached to the ATM to hold your card and/or read your PIN, "shoulder surfing" at the till in a store followed by a distraction in the car park while you are getting into the car in order to steal your card from within your bag in the car.

Telephone, Computers and the internet: You are told either by telephone or via an E-mail that you have virus in your computer and that you need to give them remote access to your computer, your telephone bill has not been paid and your telephone will be cut off, those in "postal delivery" above may also come via Email, there has been unusual activity on your bank account they obtain your account details from you and send a courier round for your card(s), You have shares in such and such company and we doing a hostile takeover and would like to buy yours – of course there will be a fee, shopping frauds, carbon credit scams.

The list would go on and on and I do not have the space to cover them all. Reporting fraud and further advice is available from Action Fraud

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or ring 0300 123 2040, other sources of advice are:

[http://www.essex.police.uk/PDF/fraud\\_not\\_just\\_a\\_scam\\_but\\_a\\_crime\\_leaflet.pdf](http://www.essex.police.uk/PDF/fraud_not_just_a_scam_but_a_crime_leaflet.pdf) (also available from Essex Police stations).

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

**Lastly remember if it looks too good to be true invariably it is, and you get nowt for nowt.**

*Essex Police - Stephen Armson-Smith*

**BULMER STITCH & SEW CLUB**

We meet on the first Monday of the month unless it is a Bank Holiday, then it is the second Monday.

We are happy crowd that includes one gentleman and the rest are ladies.

The cost is £1 per meeting to help with the hire of the Village hall and refreshments. Further details, please ring Margaret Dixey on 312915.

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**POLLUTION WATCH – ANGLIAN WATER**

A new campaign Anglian Water are looking to launch is called "Pollution Watch". It is all about ensuring



we **Spot, Report** and **Stop** sewage pollution incidents as quickly as possible and minimise the impact to the environment.

For further information on Pollution Watch, please do not hesitate to get in touch at **Pollution Hotline** number **03457 145 145**

*Victoria Wilkinson Pollution Prevention Manager*

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**What's On? Future Editions**

This has now been produced by Mike Crome for the past 12 years, and he has now decided it is time for a new editor. The Parish Council wishes to thank Mike for keeping us informed of news & events etc. during his period as editor.

This edition will therefore be the **last edition produced by Mike** and unless a new editor steps forward there will not be any further editions. So, if you are interested in keeping it alive, there is no cost involved to the editor (printing costs paid by the Parish Council) only your time, please contact Mike (378155 or [mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk)) if you are interested and he will provide any advice or help you need in getting started.

**Don't forget, you can always keep up to date with Parish Council business on**

[www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)

**and for village events at**

[www.essexinfo.net/bulmervillage](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmervillage)

**For those who do not have internet access, there are notice boards in Bulmer Street & on the corner of Park Lane allotments, where notices of meetings will always appear.**

**If you need guidance with accessing the above sites please call Mike on 378155.**