

Bulmer Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Held on 18 September 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr R Raymond **Chairman**
 Cllr S Morgan **Vice Chairman**
 Cllr P Benns

Locum Clerk: **Pat Roberts**

12 Member of the public

18/137 Apologies of Absence.

Not applicable see Agenda Item 18/140

18/138 Declaration of Interests.

To receive any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Non -pecuniary Interests relating to items on the agenda. Members of the Council are subject to the Local Authorities Code of Conduct as adopted in May 2016.

Interests declared: -

Cllr R Raymond	Agenda Item 18/147	
	Agenda Item 18/153-1	
	Agenda Item 18/153-2	
	Agenda Item 18/154	18/01487/FUL

Cllr S Martin	Agenda Item 18/153-1	
	Agenda Item 18/153-2	

18/139 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

Councillors are not permitted to make representations in the Public Forum if they have Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and/or any other Pecuniary Interests on any items on the Agenda as stated in the adopted Code of Conduct.

Items raised by members of the public:

- Noticeboards – General disbelief among the public present that notification of village matters other than Parish Council information is not being allowed to be shown when space is available, this is preventing a vital means of communication within the village. This has been an ongoing issue between certain Parish Councillors and the parishioners of Bulmer and a decision must be made on the issue sooner rather than later – See Agenda item 18/150.
- Planning application 18/01487/FUL – Strong feeling among the community that the comments regarding the refusal of the original applications still apply. Additional comments were that the building is not in keeping with the area and concerns that equipment stored will more in keeping with other use that agricultural needs.

- Cllr S Morgan pointed out that the appeal concerned access to the building.
- Cllr R Raymond took not part in the debate.

18/140 County Councillor & District Councillor Reports.

Reports from the County and District Councillors if present.
 No invitation to the meeting was extended to the County and District Councillors as no invitation issued due to an error by the Locum Clerk.

18/141 Minutes.

After unanimous agreement by all Councillors the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 8th August 2018 were agreed as a record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

18/142 Allotments.

The clerk is waiting for either a bank statement or bill from the water authority to allow for any increase in water charges to be included in invoices raised for the Allotments.
 Cllr S Morgan felt there was a need to identify why although the majority of plots are very well maintained some are not. Also, there was a need to be more pro-active in getting more people interested in having an allotment. Strimmer has been repaired and is ready for use.

18/143 Bank Accounts.

An update regarding changes required to the bank accounts mandate.
 Barclays PLC requested an alteration to the forms submitted, this has been done but still waiting for the formal approval to the changes required.

18/144 Councillor Co-options.

Update regarding the co-option of Parish Councillors to fill the current vacancies.
 A notice regarding Councillor co-option has been put on the notice board and will be circulated to the village via What's On. It is hoped that applications for Councillor co-options will be received for approval at the next Parish Council meeting.

18/145 Finance

- **18/145-1** invoices to be approved for payment by the EALC until Barclays PLC changes have been approved.

	CHEQUE No.	TOTAL
JPB Landscapes – Invoice 598 Grass Cutting		451.20
	TOTAL	451.20

- **18/145-2** Balance in Hand – to be submitted if Bank Statement received.
 Due to bank mandate changes no bank statement have been received.
- **18/145-3** To approve EALC Invoices received (to be paid at a later date) regarding cheques issued on behalf of Bulmer Parish Council
 EALC Invoice 10298 £218.20 for payments approved at 8 August 2018 meeting

 Approved unanimously by all Councillors with thanks to the EALC for offering this facility until Barclays PLC approve mandate changes.
- **18/145-4** Monies Received
 £5.16 received from Mr. M T Williamson & Mrs E A Williamson re Allotments. Note

18/146 Freedom of Information Requests

- **18/146-1** Cllr. P Benns to report on the Freedom of Information item he was dealing with. (Agenda Item **18/146-2** 8 August 2018)
Cllr P Benns reported that the complaint had been withdrawn as most of the Councillors involved are no longer on the serving as Councillors.
It was noted that A Complaints Policy for the Parish Council needs to be put in place.
- **18/146-2** The Clerk to report on the Freedom of Information request regarding emails, (Agenda Item 18/132 8 August 2018)
Two of the present Councillors have no record of email received nor sent during the time concerned. Clerk to collate any other emails available and pass these on as requested.

18/147 Garden Allotments.

To consider offering tenants a five-year tenancy agreement.

Cllr S Morgan proposed cancelling Standing Orders to allow the members of the public to be included in the debate.

Seconded Cllr R Raymond

Unanimously agreed

Deferred from previous meeting.

The matter was discussed along with the views of the members of the public present and it was felt that a five years lease would give more security to the allotment holder, but regarding the Garden Allotments Lease there should be a clause stating that if the property of the holder of the lease was sold it would not automatically go to the new owners of the property.

The views of the present holders should be obtained and also a check that the legal requirement of such a lease would be met.

Cllr S Morgan agreed to look into the issues raised.

Cllr S Morgan proposed Standing Orders to be reinstated.

Seconded Cllr R Raymond

Unanimously agreed

18/148 Highways

To discuss any Highway matters concerning Bulmer Parish

Cllr R Raymond was concerned that the number of road work in the surrounding areas being carried out by Essex Highways had resulted in large numbers of lorries and other vehicles turning and using minor roads causing damage to verges and curbs. Cllr Finch at Essex County Council has been informed and, in some areas soil has been replaced and the areas regrassed.

18/149 Mail/Postal Redirection

The Clerk had been in contact with Mrs D Jacobs who very kindly agreed to forward on any mail of importance. This was noted by the Councillors who fully appreciated Mrs D Jacobs help.

The Clerk thanked Mrs D Jacobs and supplied her with stamps and envelopes to redirect the mail. This was noted by the Councillors who fully appreciated Mrs D Jacobs help.

18/150 Noticeboards.

- **18/150-1** Update re locks – quotes considered – but no decision made.

Cllr S Morgan proposed that this matter be deferred until more Councillors have been co-opted.

Seconded Cllr R Raymond

Unanimously agreed

- **18/150-2** To consider the Parish Council notice boards to be used strictly for Parish Council business and not for advertising local events. Deferred from a previous meeting.
As this matter was discussed during the public forum Cllr R Raymond proposed that any information etc not concerning the Parish Council was to be placed on the reverse side of the noticeboard if space was available.
Seconded Cllr S Morgan
Unanimously agreed

18/151 Parish Clerk Vacancy

Councillors to approve wording of notice regarding Parish Clerk vacancy.

Wording was unanimously approved by the Councillors who also agreed that the details to be circulated in What's On and by the EALC.

18/152 Parish Council Land

To discuss the following issues concerning Parish Council land:

- Possible infection of Honey Fungus on Parish Council land alongside Limes Avenue.
A site visit by Peter Roe concerning this issue had been arranged for the 19 September involving a member of the Coe's Meadow Committee to discuss what measures can be put in place. These may possibly include ensuring a cut space alongside fencing and householder property and how to prevent or control the problem of vermin infestation.
- Undergrowth is damaging fencing and preventing access to the land for maintenance purposes, a cut space by the fence would allow easier access for land maintenance.
- Discussing matters concerning Coe's Meadow
It is the responsibility of The Coe's Meadow Committee to identify any issues and problems concerning Coe's Meadow including possible remedies and costs, and then they can liaise with the Parish Council to enable positive solutions.
Cllr S Morgan agreed to contact Coe's Meadow Committee.

18/153 Deferred Items from Previous Meetings

- **18/153-1** Drainage Issues at Bulmer Grazing.
Further information required.
- **18/153-2** Access to rear of "Carters" Blacksmiths Lane. To discuss access.
This was not discussed as Cllr R Raymond had declared an interest so the Council would not be quorate. The agreements i.e. Grazing Agreement and Tenancy Agreement differ on what the Parish Council rights and responsibilities are, so there is a need for clarification on the agreements and then NALC can be contacted for the legal view on them.
- **18/153-3** Funding.
To consider nominations from Councillors
It was unanimously agreed not to consider nominations at the present time.

18/154 Planning Matters.

- **18/01487/FUL** – Erection of agricultural storage building and new vehicular access on land south of Hedingham Road, Bulmer, Essex. Council response required by 2 October 2018. Previous objections had already been given to BDC concerning this application.
Objections to now include:
 - 1 Request for conditions to be put in place regarding the land is solely used for agricultural purposes as stated in the application.
 - 2 Property and land kept as a single entity
 - 3 Building is too large for the area and will be very visible for many areas.

- **Appeals** – 17/01638/FUL Erection of 3 no. detached dwelling houses with detached garages comprising of 2 no. 3 dwellings and 1 no. 4 bedroom dwelling. Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z1510/W/18/3199016. Appeal start date 3 September 2018. Noted

18/155 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19 November 2018.

Meeting closed at 21.25 p.m.