

Bulmer Parish Council

Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Meeting

Held on 8th August 2018 in the Village Hall, at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. P Benns, Cllr. S Morgan, Cllr. R Raymond

District Cllr: Mrs W Scattergood

22 members of the public
EALC CEO Mrs J Darby
Locum Clerk Pat Roberts

Cllr S Morgan was requested to open the meeting and take the chair until Agenda Item 18/122,
Proposed Cllr. R Raymond Seconded Cllr. P Benns

18/121 To Elect the Chairman

It was proposed Cllr R Raymond be elected as Chairman
Proposed Cllr. P Benns Seconded Cllr. S Morgan

18/122 Chairman to sign declaration of acceptance of office

The declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by Cllr. R Raymond.
Cllr. R Raymond then chaired the meeting.

18/123 To Elect the Vice-Chairman

Cllr Morgan agreed to act as Vice Chairman
Proposed Cllr. R Raymond Seconded Cllr. P Benns.

18/124 Vice Chairman to sign Standing Orders

Locum Clerk to check if this is required

Cllr Raymond proposed that Agenda Item 18/135 be moved to the next Agenda item - All Councillors agreed.

18/135 Locum Clerk

Pat Roberts, on the recommendation of Essex Association for Local Councils was asked to act as Locum Clerk for the short term until a permanent clerk is appointed.

Proposed Cllr. R Raymond Seconded Cllr. S Morgan - All Councillors agreed..
Pat Roberts proceeded to act as locum clerk for the remainder of the meeting.

Mrs Darby, CEO of Essex Association of Local Council was also invited by the Council to join the Councillors for the duration of the meeting.

18/125 Declaration of Interests.

Cllr. R Raymond declared a Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 18.134

18/126 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

Various matters were discussed during the Public Forum

- Draft minutes of the last meeting inaccurate – this was rectified see Agenda Item 18/127
- A written request querying Parish Council costs was submitted– Clerk to investigate and report back.

Signed..........Chairman

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- Explanation required regarding the reason for calling Extra Ordinary Meeting – The main reasons were to elect a new Chairman and also authorise a change to the Parish Council's bank mandate with Barclays PLC which when processed would allow for payments to be made by the present council. Cllr Morgan stated that Cllr Raymond and Cllr Benns had proposed the meeting on the advice of the EALC but he had not agreed to the proposal.
- The resignation of six Councillors and one Parish Clerk over the last 3 years is a very negative result for the council. For many years Parish Councillors have worked diligently for the benefit of Bulmer Parish Council and the good of the village, but it is now generally perceived that a dysfunctional element within the village has ruined this. Parishioners stressed that what is required is a Parish Council that works together for the good of the village.
- Co-option of Councillors - Providing the Monitoring Officer at Braintree District Council does not receive a request for an election to be held (which would incur considerable cost to the Parish Council) Bulmer Parish Council will be permitted to co-opt new Councillors and the required notices will be posted on the village notice boards.
- If Parish Councillors are not co-opted Braintree District Council then has the right to elect Parish Councillors of their choice.
- Overgrown hedges in Cornfields are causing concern and require cutting back.
- Who should be contacted regarding farm vehicles parked overnight in a residential area, District Councillor W Scattergood advised that concerned parishioners contact ECC Highways on this matter and overgrown hedges.
- Road diversions in the local area was causing damage to verges and there have been some minor accidents.

18/127 Minutes.

To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 16th July

The last two paragraphs on Agenda Item 18/103 to be struck through.

Proposed Cllr. P Benns Seconded Cllr S Morgan seconded the proposal. All Councillors agreed.

Mrs J Darby EALC explained that Minutes of a meeting are a record of decisions made by the Council and are not a verbatim record of the meeting.

18/128 Bank Accounts

The following items regarding the bank account were approved:

- Item 1 To remove Cllr. Buchanan and Cllr. Leigh as signatories from all bank accounts
- Item 2 To appoint Cllr. Raymond and Cllr. Benns as signatories to all bank accounts
- Item 3 New bank mandate to be completed as required by Barclays PLC

Proposed Cllr. Benn Seconded Cllr. Morgan – All Councillors agreed.

It was proposed that when new Councillors are co-opted two more signatories should be added.

Proposed Cllr. P Benn Seconded Cllr. S Morgan – All Councillors agreed.

18/129 Mail/Postal Redirection

It was proposed to investigate the costs of obtaining a PO Box for council mail as the previous Clerks address could no longer be used.

Proposed Cllr. P Benn Seconded Cllr. S Morgan – All Councillors agreed.

18/130 Financial Matters.

- 1) Financial Statement (Items to be approved for payment and signed as per payment schedule).

	CHEQUE NO.	TOTAL
MRS D JACOB (FINAL SALARY PAYMENT)	101454	116.70
HMRC	101455	29.00
Essex Pension Fund (Final payment)	101456	45.80
Simpson Accountancy Ltd (Inv. 2503 for June)	101457	9.60
D. Jacob Expenses for July/August	010448	34.20

Amendment to last item on payment list was adjusted from £34.20 to £17.10

Signed.....Chairman

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All above payments unanimously approved by the Council.

EALC agreed to pay the above and future approved payments until new signatories are approved by Barclays PLC
Proposed Cllr. R Raymond Seconded Cllr. S Morgan – All Councillors agreed.

18/131 Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

A FOI and complaint against the Council had been received, the clerk was initially asked to look into the matter but Cllr. P Benns requested the investigate the issue and report back to the council.
Proposed Cllr. R Raymond Seconded Cllr. S Morgan – All Councillors agreed.

18/132 Freedom of Information Request

A FOI had been received requesting copies of all emails between Councillors concerning the position of Chairman and/or the future of the Council between 10th July and 17th July 2018.
Councillors to send copies of any emails concerned to the Clerk.
Proposed Cllr. R Raymond Seconded Cllr. S Morgan – All Councillors agreed

18/133 Planning Matters

18/01363/ARG Small Holding Church Road, Bulmer

As Cllr R Raymond had declared an interest (Agenda Item 18/125) the item was not discussed as the council would not be quorate.

18/134 Press & Public

No matters were discussed that required the press and public being excluded from the meeting.

18/135 Locum Clerk

Discussed and approved after Agenda Item 18/124

18/136 Date of Next Meeting

18th September 2018 at 7.45pm.

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed..........Chairman
18 September 2018