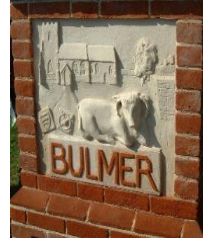




# Bulmer Parish Council

Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)  
25 Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3DG  
07845 056597 [bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com)



## Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Annual Council meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.15pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

**Present:** Cllrs Crawshay, Crome, Kershaw, Nichols, Raymond, Street  
**In the Chair:** Cllr Raymond  
**Clerk:** Claire Waters  
**Also Present:** Cllr David Finch ECC, Cllr Wendy Scattergood BDC  
4 parishioners

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED:** Cllr R Raymond was elected as Chairman for 2021-2022

**Proposed:** Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously

#### 1.1 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

**RESOLVED:** Cllr L Nichols was elected as Vice-Chairman for 2021-2022

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

Arrangements will be made for signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the clerk

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were no apologies for absence

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 15th March 2021 were approved as a correct record

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

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Crome declared an interest in item 10 as an allotment holder. Cllr Raymond declared an interest in item 11 planning application 21/01075/TPO decision to be ratified, and had not commented.

### 5. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROCEDURES, COMMITTEES, REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS

5.1 The following memberships of committees, representatives and working groups were agreed:

**Allotments Officer** – Cllr Crome

**Coes Meadow Management Committee** – Cllr Kershaw (Chair) Cllr Crawshay, Cllr Nichols, Cllr Street.

**Transport Representative** - None at present

**Personnel Committee** – Cllr Street (Chair) Cllr Raymond, Cllr Crome, Cllr Crawshay

**Tree Warden** (not Coes Meadow) – Cllr Crome with the tree surgeon Graham Nicholl

**Village Hall representative** – Cllr Street

5.2 To review Bulmer Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for re-adoption

**RESOLVED:** To re-adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in their current form, pending a possible addition to the Standing Orders in relation to email correspondence.

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

**Action:** Clerk to find good practice regarding emails for possible addition to the Standing Orders

5.3 To confirm the Parish Council's eligibility and resolve to use the General Power of Competence

**RESOLVED:** With a majority of elected Councillors and a qualified clerk, the Parish Council is eligible and resolves to use the General Power of Competence until the next meeting after ordinary elections.

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

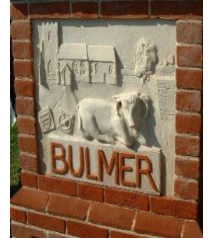
### 6. PUBLIC FORUM

**Batt Hall traffic speed:** A resident attended to express concerns about the 60mph speed limit being too fast in this residential area. A planned Essex Highways speed survey has not yet taken place, and residents consider 40mph unsafe.



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Cllr Finch said there may be a move in Essex to reduce speed limits to 20 or 30mph based on public opinion rather than following current government guidance. This already happens in Suffolk and may become policy in Essex but not before 2022.

**Action:** Cllr Finch will chase up the speed survey which should have happened by now

**Action:** Cllr Finch also suggested residents put together a petition to Essex County Council, with signatures and addresses, asking for a reduction from 60mph to 30mph for the sake of public safety including children.

**Action:** Community Speedwatch activity where possible is proven to have an effect in slowing traffic, although this is restricted to 30mph and 40mph limited areas.

**Church Road drains** A resident reported these had been inspected on 1<sup>st</sup> April and ditches have been cleared but drains have not been touched and are solid to the top. A further drain near the Church is also blocked

**Ryes Lane drains** Ditches need to be cleared by landowners and there may also problems caused by residents dumping garden waste in drainage ditches. Cllr Finch will ask for a letter to be written to landowners. Cllr Raymond will provide farmers' addresses.

**Batt Hall drains** are blocked at the top of the hill, causing debris to be washed down the road and flooding the ditch at the bottom. Residents have paid for it to be dug out to the brook but need Essex Highways assistance

**Batt Hall footpath to Sudbury** has barriers and signs asking for it not to be used. This is dangerous for pedestrians including children walking to school

Cllr Finch offered to follow all these issues up with Essex Highways before his final working day on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

## 7. PROGRESS CHECK

**Bus shelters:** The clerk reported that after checking the asset register and insurance, bus shelter licence applications had been submitted to Essex Highways

**Coes Meadow, land adjacent:** The clerk had been unable to contact landowners to discuss a possible purchase for the community. Cllr Raymond will try to find an alternative contact number.

## 8. HIGHWAYS

Most Highways issues were discussed in the public forum, item 6

**SID sign** Cllr Crome reported that the SID (Speed indicator device) sign at Bulmer Street appears not to be working. Other Councillors had noticed it working, so it may be that the battery needs replacing.

**Action:** Councillors will check and forward information to the clerk, who will look into a new battery.

## 9. REPORTS

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

**9.2** Essex CC report: Cllr Finch gave his report after item 6 and before item 7 as he had to leave for another meeting. Essex remains one of the top 10 performing Councils in the country.

**ECC Finance:** a small surplus of £4million is reported at the end of the financial year, despite people being unable to pay rates due to Covid-19 income losses. A drop of £28m in Council Tax receipts was offset by redesign and re-engineering of systems that was already underway before lockdown. At the February meeting, £2million was committed to economic recovery including manufacturing and climate sensitive industries

**Local Highways Panels:** Funding is increased by £200,000 over the coming 2 years.

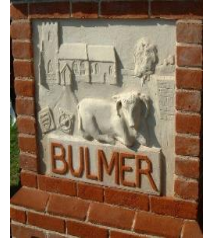
**Covid-19 response:** An engagement board met fortnightly including the Director of Public Health in Essex. Infection rates did not spread uniformly across the County so tailored messages were vital, with a high degree of collaboration between County and District Councils and the NHS

**Climate Commission Report:** Plans are ambitious, aiming for the County to be carbon neutral by 2030. Cycleways, solar panels on school buildings and any extensions, use of carbon neutral materials are all planned. ECC's own house building company are using heat pumps to reduce energy use. Solar panels are increasingly being used through the Green Grant Scheme, and solar tiles are being investigated for use in older properties and conservation areas. 4 Councils are being sought for £125,000 grant each to carry out climate reduction exercises. Electric car infrastructure is also being expanded.



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In answer to a question from Cllr Crome, Cllr Finch confirmed that improvement of the Freeport roundabout at the A120 is dependent on land purchase and legal discussions are in progress.

## 9.3 Braintree DC report - Cllr W Scattergood reported:

After a difficult year, thanks are due to all volunteers who supported their communities during lockdown. Braintree District Council staff have been excellent including many transferred to the finance department to help with distribution of government funding.

**BDC Planning Meeting 11th May** will see a return to face-to-face meetings. Cllr Scattergood chairs the Planning Committee and has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Local Plan committee

**National Grid proposals:** Cllr Scattergood has been responding to the frightening proposals on behalf of not only Braintree District Council but also the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Partnership, and the detailed response has taken many hours. The substation proposals affect Bulmer and huge pylons are planned across the area. Cllr Scattergood encourages everyone to respond to the consultation.

**Return to physical meetings:** In answer to a question from Cllr Crome, Cllr Scattergood confirmed that BDC is not challenging the government decision to end remote meetings. She has had to go to Causeway House to take part in remote meetings as her signal at home is so poor, and she feels some planning applicants have felt excluded from remote meetings.

## 10. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

**10.1 Allotments report.** Cllr Crome reported that a water tap had seized and has been replaced. He also had an additional 3 allotment access keys cut. A plot holder wishes to cut the overgrown internal hedge by their plots but will need help removing the spoil, estimated to be around 8 bulk bags full.

**Action:** Clerk will ask BDC Refuse if they can assist. Cllr Crome will investigate other sources of help.

**Action:** Clerk to ask contractor to complete the cutting of the exterior hedge which was left due to parked cars

**RESOLVED:** To uphold the terms of the tenancy agreement and refuse permission for a glass greenhouse with a protective film, instead of toughened or laminated glass. Allotment holders are reminded that written permission is needed for the erection of allotment buildings and only glass substitutes are permitted.

**Proposed:** Cllr Raymond

**Seconded:** Cllr Street

Agreed unanimously

**10.2 Coes Meadow Management Committee report.** Arrangements were noted for the new Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust bank account, which is linked to the Bulmer Parish Council account as required in the Trust Deed. A Coes Meadow Management Committee meeting planned for May 6<sup>th</sup> had been postponed due to the rescheduling of Parish Council Annual meetings. This may now take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>, to be confirmed.

## 11. PLANNING

*Applications received:*

**21/00093/LBC & 21/00092/HH** Replacement windows at the rear of existing cottage

Mulberry Tree Cottage Bulmer Street CO10 7EP

*Decision ratified: No objections*

**21/00847/COUPA** Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operational development - Change of use to 1 no. residential dwellings

Smeetham Hall Barn, Smeetham Hall Lane

*Decision ratified: No objections*

**21/01075/TPO** Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 12/82 - Reduce lower branches on 1 Oak (A) tree by 10-12ft, remove deadwood, lift sub lateral weeping branches to the height of lower branch level (lifting crown) and Remove/shorten to broaden large limb on Oak (B) (Low)

Polrudden, Finch Hill

*Decision ratified: No objections*

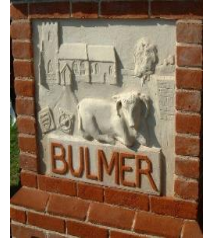
*Applications received:*

**21/00809/FUL** Construction of 2 No. detached 4 bedroom dwellings with off road parking and divided detached garage space with home office facilities



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Land Adjacent Back House Croft, Bulmer Street

*Objection by majority vote  
Outside village development boundary. Dangerous access at blind bend.*

*Applications determined:*

**20/01962/HH** Conversion of garage to include new roof to create new hobby room and storage area above with a round window on the front gable end  
Polrudden Finch Hill CO10 7EX *Application PERMITTED*

**21/00161/HH** Retrospective application for a proposed carport  
Meadowside Bulmer Tye CO10 7ED *Application PERMITTED*

**20/02229/LBC** To repair damaged Lynx statue which sits on right pillar of the gated entrance of Auberries. Also to repair corner of pillar cap.  
Auberries Church Road CO10 7DY *Application PERMITTED*

**21/00667/LBC** Removal and replacement of brick plinth in living room on a like-for-like basis, due to structural damage.  
2 Upper Houses, CO10 7ET *Application PERMITTED*

## 12. FINANCE

12.1 The monthly payments were approved for authorisation by two Councillors. The monthly bank reconciliations were checked by Cllr Street.

**Action:** As requested by Cllr Crome, the clerk will provide a budget report at every Parish Council meeting.

### BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

May-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
Item 12.5	Came & Company	Hiscox Insurance, 3 year term agreement	£1,079.90

May-21	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		

### LAURENCE COE RECREATIONAL TRUST ACCOUNT

May-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
05-May	Graham Nicholl	Tree surgery, Limes Laurel and Willows	£875.00

### Accounts balances at 5th May 2021

#### Bulmer Parish Council

Unity Trust Current account	£11,089.28	
Barclays Deposit account	£37,141.03	at 30th Sept 2020
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	£30,704.67	at 31st March 2021
	<b>£78,934.98</b>	

#### Laurence Coe Recreational Trust

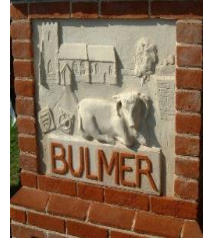
Unity Trust Current account	<b>£4,057.16</b>
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It was noted that due to delays in changing the bank mandate with the Barclays Deposit account, no statements have been received since September 2020. This matter is being addressed with Barclays Bank.



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## Payments ratified since March meeting

Apr-21		Payments in month	
	DD	ICO Annual Fee	£35.00
13-Apr-21	B/P	Mortimers Contracts Ltd Rocker Repair	£1,440.00
13-Apr-21	B/P	EALC/NALC Affiliation fees	£215.28
13-Apr-21	B/P	DM Payroll Services 2021-2022	£120.00
13-Apr-21	B/P	JPB Landscapes Grass Cutting	£273.60
15-Apr-21	B/P	Mortimers Contracts Ltd Seesaw/Tractor repairs	£510.00
26-Apr-21	B/P	Mr M Crome Noticeboard Keys cut	£27.00
		<b>TOTAL in month</b>	<b>£2,620.88</b>

<b>26-Apr-21</b>	<b>Bank Transfer</b>	<b>To: Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust New Unity Trust Current linked account</b>	<b>£4,075.16</b>
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NB: This bank transfer includes the £2000 grant for 2021-2022 from Bulmer Parish Council

Apr-21		Receipts in month	
09-Apr-21		Arbuthnot Allotment key deposit	£10.00
29-Apr-21		BDC Precept 1st instalment	£5,208.00
29-Apr-21		BDC Collection Surplus	£143.00
		<b>TOTAL in month</b>	<b>£5,361.00</b>

12.2 The Annual Governance Statement was reviewed and approved

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

12.3 The Annual Accounts and Accounting Statements were reviewed and approved:

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

12.4 The Certificate of Exemption from external audit – AGAR 2021/21 Part 2 was approved

**Proposed:** Cllr Nichols                      **Seconded:** Cllr Kershaw                      Agreed unanimously

Remote arrangements were made for the documents to be signed.

12.5 To review asset register and decide on insurance arrangements for 2021-2022

**RESOLVED:** The asset register was approved, and the insurance quotation from Hiscox through Came & Company was agreed for the 2021-2022 at a cost of £1079.90 for a 3 year term agreement

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

12.6 Completion of Street Cleaning Agreement with BDC for 2021-2022 and claim of grant

**Action:** Clerk to contact the leader of the street litter picking volunteers for assistance with the report

**RESOLVED:** At 9.10 pm it was resolved to extend the meeting by an additional 30 minutes in order to complete the items on the agenda

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

## 13. NATIONAL GRID BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD TEE NETWORK REINFORCEMENT

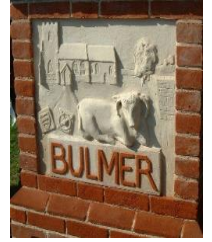
A response was agreed to the non-statutory pre-consultation about planned works following a meeting of Councillors with National Grid in March. Councillors were disappointed that the presentation was not tailored to the geographical location with the substation planned in Bulmer and no details of exact size or design. All the work including supersized pylons was described as "critical" which suggested National Grid plans were already decided and the consultation is more of a public relations exercise. The clerk will respond by May 6<sup>th</sup>.

<https://bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com/consultation/have-your-say/>



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## 14. COMMUNITY AWARENESS EVENT for Bulmer

Arrangements are underway in liaison with the Village Hall secretary for this drop-in event during the day time where people can come and talk to members of Braintree District Council and the Police about any concerns they may have about coming out of lockdown or any other local issues. It is planned to include other agencies that might be able to offer local support or signposting and arrangements are being made for it to be held outside at the Village Hall. Details to be publicised when a confirmed date is available

## 15. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

One application had been received for the vacant Councillor seat, from previous Councillor Catherine Ponty

**15.1 RESOLVED:** To waive the normal co-option procedure in light of there being an experienced applicant

**15.2 RESOLVED:** To co-opt Catherine Ponty to the Parish Council

**Proposed:** Cllr Crome

**Seconded:** Cllr Raymond

Agreed unanimously

## 16. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

**16.1** EALC Web Accessibility training. Cllr Crome and the clerk attended: *Agenda item July*

**16.2** EALC Dementia Awareness training. Cllrs Crome and Crawshay will attend on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**16.3** EALC Youth Engagement Conference: Clerk attended: *Agenda item July*

## 17. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Agenda items to be notified to the clerk at the latest by 9am on Friday 9th July please

## 18. MEETING DATES 2021 – Remote meetings are no longer permitted after 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

<b>19th July 2021</b>	Ordinary Parish Council	Bulmer Village Hall
<b>20th September 2021</b>	Ordinary Parish Council	Bulmer Village Hall
<b>15th November 2021</b>	Ordinary Parish Council	Bulmer Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed.....

**Cllr Rosemary Raymond**