

Bulmer Parish Council

Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Meeting

Held on 21st March 2016 at the Village Hall, at 7.45pm

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 councilors 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 Cathey 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 12th 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 13th 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 5th 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.

Signed.....

16th May 2016

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 18th 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 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 13th 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

Signed.....

16th May 2016

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 the 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

Signed.....

16th May 2016

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.

Signed.....

16th May 2016

Signed.....
16th May 2016

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

Meeting closed at 9:42pm

Signed.....
16th May 2016