

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



Minutes of a Meeting of Bulmer Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Monday 16th January 2023 at Bulmer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Hall, Harvey, Nichols, Ponty, Raymond,

In the Chair: Cllr Raymond Clerk: Claire Waters

Also Present: 8 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1.1 Councillor Vacancy: No applications had been received for the vacant Councillor seat This vacant seat does not now need to be filled until the normal Parish Council elections in May 2023.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 21st November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Raymond Seconded: Cllr Hall Agreed unanimously

3. POLICY REVIEW

3.1 The Civility and Respect Pledge adopted in November 2022 was signed by the Chairman3.2 RESOLVED: The Equality and Diversity Policy was adopted and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Harvey Seconded: Cllr Crawshay Agreed unanimously

3.3 RESOLVED: The Dignity at Work Policy was adopted and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Ponty Seconded: Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Raymond declared a pecuniary interest in item 11.5 Grazing & Garden rents review as a grazing tenant

- **5. PUBLIC FORUM -** please note this item was omitted from the agenda due to clerk error and was reinstated by approval of the Chairman. All subsequent agenda items were moved forward by one item number.
- A grazing tenant spoke to express concerns about the proposed rent increase item 11.5. It was pointed out that tenants fund all their own repairs and maintenance, the cost of which is also increasing. The grazing tenancy agreements prevent them from making an income e.g. by selling hay. Drainage issues, clover problems, some parts of the grazing land being unusable and the need to rotate ponies making it difficult to share tenancy with other horses were also raised.
- A second grazing tenant questioned whether rent increases just applied to the land, not stables built by the tenants themselves. The clerk confirmed rent applies to the land only.
- A resident of Bulmer Tye raised the Parish Council response to planning application 22/03249/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for Erection of 8no. 2 Bedroom dwellings and associated development Land Rear Of The Tye Ryes Lane. He was concerned that because the application had been submitted at a time when it could not be discussed at a public meeting, the Parish Council response may not be considered valid. The clerk explained that an extension to the comment deadline for the Parish Council until after the January 2023 meeting had been requested but refused by Braintree Planning. The Parish Council comment had been drafted by the clerk on the basis of Parish Council planning considerations and resident concerns. It had then been approved by all Councillors to be sent by the deadline at the end of December. It was also confirmed that as Proper Officer of the Parish Council the clerk is authorised to send all planning responses and they do not need to be signed by the Chairman.
- In response to further planning issues raised by residents, the Chairman reminded everyone that the Parish Council is a consultee only and urged everyone to write to or email Braintree Planning themselves in response to any planning application that concerns them.



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6. PROGRESS CHECK

Village maintenance issues and update on actions from last meeting

6.1 Church Meadow: Erosion of the soil at the entrance to Church Meadow by waste collection vehicles creating a ditch had caused problems when a car became stuck after a Christmas church service. Waste churchyard soil and highways planings were discussed as a way of possibly rectifying the problem. Cllr Harvey had reported to Essex Highways reference number 2814405

Action: Clerk to follow this up with PROW officer Jason Botelho to clarify if Essex Highways can repair it

7. HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Update on Highways issues and any new problems to report

- 7.1 Speeding, A131 Bulmer Tye: Possible options will be discussed with ECC Cllr Peter Schwier.
- 7.2 RESOLVED: 20s Plenty: To sign up to this campaign for 20mph as the default speed limit for any areas across Essex (and nationally) where pedestrians mix with traffic

Proposed: Cllr Raymond Seconded: Cllr Pontv Agreed unanimously 7.3 Kerb Damage, St Andrews Rise: This had been raised with ECC Cllr Peter Schwier who had corrected the Essex Highways report location, but Essex Highways have not agreed to carry out a repair since the problem will keep recurring due to large parked vehicle opposite. Councillors reported that the original damage was caused by broadband installation but were not sure which contractor. It would be the contractor's responsibility to repair any damage caused.

Action: Clerk to search through previous minutes to find the date of the original damage and who caused it 7.4 Coes Meadow: unauthorised long-term parking in the visitor car park was raised as a problem. Coes Meadow Committee members will keep an eve on this.

REPORTS

- Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch. Weekly police reports had been forwarded to Councillors. 8.1
- 8.2 Essex CC report. Cllr Schwier sent apologies due to a conflicting meeting
- Braintree DC report Cllr Scattergood sent apologies due to a conflicting meeting 8.3

REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

9.1 Allotments report: Mr Mike Crome, Allotments Officer, had sent a written allotment report which had been circulated to Councillors. The clerk reported that all annual rents due by 31st October 2022 are paid apart from one allotment tenant. This will be chased up again. Three allotment plots are vacant, and two further plots are paid for but left unworked causing problems with weed growth. A new standpipe near the A131 was suggested to make it easier to manage plots further away from the Park Lane water supply. This has been considered in the budget calculations and also added to the Open Spaces Action Plan in case S106 funding is available Action: Cllr Raymond will supply tarpaulin to use as a weed suppressant on the unworked plots.

10. PLANNING

Applications received: Decisions ratified "en bloc" as Councillors had seen and approved the written responses **Proposed**: Cllr Raymond Seconded: Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously The Chairman reminded all residents that the Parish Council is only a consultee in any planning applications and urged residents to write as individuals with their own comments to Braintree Planning if they wished.

22/03249/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for - Erection of 8no. 2 Bedroom dwellings and associated development Objection: Outside development boundary

Land Rear Of The Tye Ryes Lane

22/03149/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the construction of 5 No. dwellings Tye Corner Farm Hedingham Road CO10 7EE Objection: Outside development boundary



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22/03195/HH Erection of part single part two storey rear extension and new window to south west elevation 1 Chapel Cottages Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

No objections

22/03302/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Ash Maple Leaf (A) - Fell Acacia (B) – Fell

The Old Vicarage Sudbury Road CO10 7TA

No objections

Applications determined:

22/02884/HH Change in roof pitch to main dwelling and existing rear extension, erection of balcony, 3No. rear dormers and proposed cart lodge with first floor office

Greensted Upper Houses CO10 7ET

Application PERMITTED

22/02548/LBC Re-roofing and associated repairs

Auberies Church Road CO10 7DY

Application PERMITTED

22/02324/LBC Conversion of farm building into a 1 No.dwelling, single storey extension, alterations to access and associated landscaping - (Amendments to 19/01231/FUL)

Griggs Farm Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

22/02707/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 2no. residential dwelling

The Piggeries Hedingham Road

Planning permission REQUIRED

22/02736/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: - Conifer hedge - Remove to increase width of garden

St Jude Bulmer Street CO10 7EP

Application PERMITTED

11. FINANCE

11.1 The monthly payments were be approved for payment. The monthly bank reconciliations were checked and signed by Cllr Harvey. *See Appendix 1 Finance*

Proposed: Cllr Nichols

Seconded: Cllr Crawshay

Agreed unanimously

11.2 RESOLVED: Budget: With the agreement to reduce the annual grant to Coes Meadow from £2000 to £1500 and investigation of areas where grass cutting costs across the parish can be reduced, the budget for the financial year 2023-2024 was approved

Proposed: Cllr Raymond Seconded: Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously

11.3 RESOLVED: Precept: A precept claim of £11,114 for financial year 2023 – 2024 was agreed. This represents a Band D rate of £40.08 per year for the Parish Council portion of the Council Tax which is an increase of 1.98% or 78 pence per year.

Proposed: Cllr Nichols

Seconded: Cllr Crawshay

Agreed unanimously

11.4 Parish Council Reserves: No decision on allocation of earmarked reserves and level of general reserve.

11.5 <u>Grazing & Garden rents review</u>: To consider any fee increases needed from September 2023. Due to some unanswered questions about the historical background, as well as the Chairman's declaration of pecuniary interest as a grazing tenant, this item was deferred until a future meeting.

Action: Clerk to confirm with BDC Monitoring Officer the exact procedure that should be followed in the event of the Chairman of the meeting having a declared pecuniary interest in an item on the agenda.

Action: Clerk to research historical paperwork for answers to queries raised, which may require a visit to the Village Hall to access the Parish Council filing cabinet.



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12. COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

12.1 **RESOLVED**: The new Communications and Social Media policy was adopted

Seconded: Cllr Harvey Agreed unanimously **Proposed**: Cllr Ponty

RESOLVED: A Bulmer Parish Council Facebook page will be created in line with the new Social Media 12.2 policy. This will be used to post official Parish Council notices on the existing Bulmer Facebook pages and will operate in conjunction with the Parish Council website and noticeboards for communicating with residents Agreed unanimously Proposed: Cllr Crawshay Seconded: Cllr Ponty

13. BDC OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED: The annual updates to the Open Spaces Action Plan for Bulmer parish were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond Seconded: Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously

14. PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

Updates to the Bulmer Parish Emergency Plan for 2023 were approved for submission to BDC

15. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

None

16. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

King Charles Coronation May 2023 – decision on any support requested from the Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting closed at 9.32pm

17. LAURENCE COE RECREATIONAL TRUST - SOLE TRUSTEE MEETING

Report from Coes Meadow Management Committee to Bulmer Parish Council as sole trustee:

- 3 recycled picnic benches including one wheelchair accessible have been ordered, delivery has been delayed but is expected within 2-3 weeks. These will be bought from S106 funds by the Parish Council.
- Stour Valley & Dedham Vale grant funding is available, details have been sent to committee members in case a suitable project can be identified

Action: A Coes Meadow Management Committee meeting to be arranged, probably during February

The Sole Trustee meeting closed at 9.35pm

18. MEETING DATES 2023

The Calendar of Meetings for 2023 was distributed to Councillors, including the Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday April 26th at the Village Hall.

Monday 20 th March 2023	Ordinary Parish Council	7.15pm Bulmer Village Hall
Wednesday 26th April 2023	Annual Parish Assembly	7.30pm Bulmer Village Hall
Monday 22 nd May 2023	Annual Parish Council	7.15pm Bulmer Village Hall

wednesday 26" April 2023	Annuai Parish Assembly	7.30pm Bulmer Village Hall	
Monday 22 nd May 2023	Annual Parish Council	7.15pm Bulmer Village Hall	
The meeting closed at 9.36 pm			



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Payments & receipts January 2023: Financial Report Appendix 1

Bulmer Parish Council Account

Jan-23		Payments in Month	Details	Amount
05-Jan	B/P	HMRC	475SA894912309	£141.20
			TOTAL : 4b	C1 41 20

TOTAL in month £141.20

Jan-23	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		

TOTAL in month £0.00

Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust Account

Jan-23	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
	None		

TOTAL in month £0.00

Jan-23	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		

TOTAL in month £0.00

Accounts balances at 16th January 2023

Bulmer Parish Council

BPC Unity Trust Current account £13,791.77
BPC Unity Trust Allotment Deposits £60.15

BPC Capital Reserves

BPC Unity Trust Deposit account £35,336.52

CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund £30,915.37

£66,251.89

Coes Meadow

LCRT Unity Trust Current account £2,183.57



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Reconciled Payments and Receipts December 2022

Bulmer Parish Council Account

Dec-22		Payments in Month	Details	Amount
05-Dec	B/P	HMRC	475SA894912308	£70.40
07-Dec	B/P	Miss A C Wood	Internal Audit 2021-22	£125.00
29-Dec	B/P	Lyster Associates	Newsletter printing	£126.60
30-Dec	B/P	E C Waters	Clerk pay December & backpay	£672.26
29-Dec	DD	Wave	Water Allotments	£21.25
		Unity Trust	Service Charge	£18.00

TOTAL in month £1,033.51

Dec-22	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		

TOTAL in month £0.00

Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust Account

Dec-22	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
29-Dec	Wave	Water Coes Meadow	£14.36
31-Dec	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£18.00

TOTAL in month £32.36

Dec-22	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		

TOTAL in month £0.00



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Reconciled Payments and Receipts November 2022

Bulmer Parish Council Account

Nov-22		Payments in Month	Details	Amount
02-Nov	B/P	E C Waters	Clerk pay October	£388.55
02-Nov	B/P	E C Waters	Clerk expenses	£26.36
02-Nov	B/P	JPB Landscapes	Grass Cutting September	£511.20
05-Nov	B/P	HMRC	475SA894912307	£70.40
16-Nov	B/P	ICO	Annual Registration	£35.00
21-Nov	B/P	JPB Landscapes	Grass Cutting October	£451.20
30-Nov	B/P	E C Waters	Clerk pay November	£388.55

TOTAL in month £1,871.26

Nov-22		Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
03-Nov	CHQ	Hayward	Allotment rent	£62.10
07-Nov	B/P	Morgan	Allotment rent	£48.08
07-Nov	B/P	Munro	Allotment rent	£72.06
09-Nov	B/P	Baz	Allotment rent	£29.43
09-Nov	B/P	Boxall	Allotment rent	£27.67

TOTAL in month £239.34

Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust Account

Nov-22	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
02-Nov	HAGS	Swing seat parts	£30.00
21-Nov	PlaySafety	ROSPA Inspection	£174.60
21-Nov	Bulmer Parish Council	Grass cutting May-Nov	£612.00
24-Nov	Graham Nichol	Laurel Hedge cut	£275.00

TOTAL in month £1,091.60

Nov-22	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
18-Nov	J Soper	Donation	£200.00

TOTAL in month £200.00