

Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)
25 Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3DG
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Minutes of a Meeting of Bulmer Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Monday 15th January 2024 at Bulmer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Harvey, Morris, Nichols, Raymond.

In the Chair: Cllr Raymond

Clerk: Claire Waters (temporary clerk until after the 15th January meeting)

Also Present: 1 parishioner

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1.1 Councillor Vacancies: Two Councillor seats are still vacant. The Parish Clerk role is also still vacant

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of 20th November 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Morris Seconded: Cllr Crawshay Agreed unanimously

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident spoke on behalf of himself and neighbours to express strong objections to planning application 23/02895/COUPA at item 9 on various grounds including Highway safety.

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1 Defibrillators: The 4 Bulmer defibrillators are now registered with the Community Heartbeat Webnos system which shows the ambulance service the nearest defibrillators which are "rescue ready" so residents can be directed to use them during a 999 call. They are situated at 1. Kitchen Hill, 2. By Bulmer Street noticeboard, 3. The Fox at Bulmer Tye and 4. Church Road by post box. The code to access each defibrillator is displayed on the outside of the cabinet to ensure no lives are lost due to lack of access. The defibrillators will be checked and a Webnos status report submitted at least monthly.

6. HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

6.1 Lower Houses road safety: a Local Highways Panel (LHP) application was considered for improved signage where pedestrians use the road between Footpaths 21, 25 and 8.

Action: A 30mph speed limit request was considered but Essex Highways are unlikely to deviate from national highways policy. A pedestrians in road sign may be useful – Councillors to review the location and best position for a sign in preparation for a LHP application

6.2 Bulmer Street parking obstruction: Actions were considered to improve safety where vehicles are parked at the Griggs Farm area during building works. Cllr Raymond had already spoken to residents and contractors. **Action**: If the situation continues, residents are encouraged to report any obstruction for pedestrians or vehicles and any highway safety issues to Braintree Planning Enforcement at https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/reporting-planning-breach or call 01376 552525

7. REPORTS

- 7.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch a new Essex Police rural team liaison officer has been appointed
- **7.2** Essex CC report Cllr Schwier apologised for absence and referred Councillors to his email updates.
 - ECC Bus Network Consultation 2023: A decision has been made on the outcome of the recent local bus consultation carried out between 13 July 5 October 2023. You can view the decision by following the



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instructions here: https://www.travelessex.co.uk/about-bus-services/consultations-supported-services. The F315 Sudbury-Halstead service which serves Bulmer will continue for the time being.

- **7.3** Braintree DC report Cllr Holland apologised for absence and sent a written update:
- Budget: BDC has a £2m budget deficit within the Medium Term Financial Strategy that needs filling and this is being addressed. Cllr Holland is keen to ensure this does not result in further funding reduction for Parish Councils
- ECC Bus Network Consultation 2023: the DaRT3 on demand bus service to our communities has been saved. The funding for the service runs till 2026 and we must by then have demonstrated its value to our communities here in the north of Braintree District. Parish Councillors and residents are urged to help by making sure the service is promoted to all local residents, including those that are hard to reach.
- National Grid substation, Butlers Wood: issues include heavy vehicle movements, their regulation and control and also the routing of local "haul roads" by which NG's contractors will move the sometimes enormous pieces of hardware to the various sites near Bulmer. The wider Bramford to Twinstead Tee project is before the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) heading for a decision expected in the autumn

8. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

8.1 Allotments report: Mr Mike Crome, Allotments Officer apologised for absence and sent a written report. UKPN have excavated a 3ft x 6ft x 3ft hole for the transformer base, which is now full of water, and no progress on the standpipe installation, also probably due to the wet weather. All rent is paid, except for one who as in previous years is still late in paving.

8.2 Allotment greenhouse query: A request to use taped glass in a greenhouse was considered **RESOLVED:** To refuse permission to use taped glass on the allotments due to inability to monitor and ensure it is consistently safe in all cases

Proposed: Cllr Raymond Seconded: Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously

8.3 Garden allotment guery: Consideration of a correspondence from garden allotment tenant

Action: The tenant will be contacted directly to resolve the query.

9. PLANNING

Applications received:

23/03001/LBC Proposed replacement of external sand and cement render with traditional lime render and isolated repairs

The Old Vicarage Sudbury Road CO10 7TA

No objections

Applications received: Decision ratified

23/02895/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 2 no. residential dwellings.

The Piggeries Hedingham Road

Request application goes to full planning

Applications determined:

23/02574/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 Blue Cedar Tree -1.Remove lowest limb. 2.Remove dead wood. 3.Thin crown. G3 Conifer Trees X 3- Reduce to height just below power line. T4 Cherry Tree -Remove to ground level

Suffolk Hall Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

23/02508/HH Erection of single bay cart lodge with open lean to

Application PERMITTED

Inglefield Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

23/02369/FUL Proposed development of 2no. detached 3 bedroom dwellings, with off road parking, utilising existing access from highway

Back House Croft Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

23/02225/FUL Erection of Agricultural Building Auberies Church Road CO10 7DY

Application PERMITTED



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23/00455/OUT Outline planning application for 8no. dwellings with all matters reserved Land Adjacent Kitchen Hill Application REFUSED

10. FINANCE

10.1 The monthly payments were approved for authorisation by two Councillors. The bank reconciliations were checked and signed by Cllr Harvey - Financial report Appendix 1

Proposed: Cllr Crawshay Seconded: Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously

10.2 RESOLVED Budget 2024-25: The 2024-2025 Parish Council budget was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond Seconded: Cllr Crawshay Agreed unanimously

10.3 RESOLVED Precept 2024-2025: A precept claim of £11,140.00 was approved for the coming financial year. This represents a Band D parish rate of £41.08 per year, a 2.5% increase over 2023-2024. This is an increase of 2p per week, or £1 per year.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond Seconded: Cllr Morris Agreed unanimously

10.4 Parish Council Reserves: Decision on allocation of earmarked reserves and level of general reserve was deferred until a future meeting.

11. BIODIVERSITY POLICY

A draft Biodiversity Policy was reviewed for future adoption. Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Action: Cllr Morris will tailor the Biodiversity Policy for the specific needs of Bulmer Parish and circulate to Councillors for a final decision. *Agenda item for March meeting*

12. BDC POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

Minor updates to the BDC POSI Plan were approved, due by 26th January 2024. Formerly known as the Open Space Action Plan, this is a key document used by Braintree District Council as Local Planning Authority to demonstrate the need for additional and improved open spaces when seeking S.106 monitory contributions for Public Open Space improvements across the district. S.106 contributions now apply to housing development of 10 or more properties. The current Open Spaces Action Plan is available to view at https://www.braintree.gov.uk/homepage/113/opens-spaces-action-plan

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE – a query from a resident about shooting at Auberies estate had been received. Both parties had been spoken to but this is not a Parish Council matter

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Biodiversity Policy to decide on adoption of final version
- Annual Parish Assembly to confirm a date, probably in May and review plans for public participation

15. MEETING DATES 2024

| Monday 18 th March 2024 | 7.15pm | Ordinary Parish Council | Bulmer Village Hall |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|---------------------|

| | | П | he | mee | ting | closec | l at | 8.1 | 8 | pm | ١ |
|--|--|---|----|-----|------|--------|------|-----|---|----|---|
|--|--|---|----|-----|------|--------|------|-----|---|----|---|

| Signed | |
|--------------|------------|
| CIIr Rosemar | ry Raymond |



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Financial Report Appendix 1

PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION JANUARY 2024

| Jan-24 | | Payments in Month | Details | Amount |
|--------|-----|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| 15-Jan | B/P | HMRC | 475SA894912409 | £251.39 |
| 15-Jan | B/P | E C Waters | Clerk final pay December | £855.61 |
| 31-Jan | B/P | E C Waters | Clerk pay temporary work January | TBC |

TOTAL in month £1,107.00

| Jan-24 | Receipts in Month | Details | Amount |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| | Unity Trust | Deposit a/c interest | £0.00 |
| | Unity Trust | Reserve a/c interest | £0.00 |
| 03-Jan | CCLA PSDF | Interest to Unity Trust deposit a/c | £139.72 |
| | | Total interest | £139.72 |
| | None | | |
| | | | |

TOTAL in month £0.00

| Accounts balances at 15th January 2024 | Interest 2023-24 | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Bulmer Parish Council | | |
| BPC Unity Trust Current account | £19,132.59 | N/A |
| BPC Unity Trust Allotment Deposits | £437.49 | £6.94 |
| | | |
| BPC Capital Reserves | | |
| BPC Unity Trust Deposit account | £26,885.26 | £603.63 |
| CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund | £31,211.46 | £1,255.60 |
| | £58,096.72 | |
| Coes Meadow | | |
| LCRT Unity Trust Current account | £2,614.57 | N/A |



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RECONCILED PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS DECEMBER 2023

| Dec-23 | | Payments in Month | Details | Amount |
|--------|-----|-------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 05-Dec | B/P | HMRC | 475SA894912408 | £94.00 |
| 15-Dec | B/P | Hedingham School | Printing What's Going On | £90.00 |
| 31-Dec | | Unity Trust | Service Charge | £18.00 |

TOTAL in month £202.00

| Dec-23 | | Receipts in Month | Details | Amount |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| | Unity Trust [| | Deposit a/c interest | £2.90 |
| | | Unity Trust | Reserve a/c interest | £183.70 |
| 04-Dec CCLA PSDF Interest to Uni | | Interest to Unity Trust deposit a/c | £8.97 | |
| 04-Dec CCLA PSDF II | | CCLA PSDF | Interest to Unity Trust deposit a/c | £126.03 |
| | | | Total interest | £321.60 |
| 13-Dec | | UKPN | Lease Allotments substation | £250.00 |
| | | HMRC | VAT reclaim to end Nov 2023 | £2,648.53 |

TOTAL in month £2,898.53