

# Bulmer Parish Council

## Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Meeting

Held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the Village Hall, at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr. P. Fulcher, Cllr. S.Morgan, Cllr. S.Buchanan, Cllr. R. Raymond, Cllr. C.Leigh, Cllr.P. Bennis, Cllr.C. Bennett and Mrs D.Jacob (Parish Clerk)  
17 members of the public.

### **17/023 Welcome and Apologies of Absence.**

Cllr.P.Fulcher welcomed everyone. Apologies for absence received from District Councillor Wendy Scattergood.

### **17/024 Declaration of Interests.**

Received from Cllr. S.Buchanan relating to item 17/041 Item 2 and Item 3. Received from Cllr.S.Morgan relating to Item 17/041 Item 4. Cllr. R.Raymond relating to item 17/041 Item 4, stated that she had sent a written request to the Clerk for a dispensation, the Clerk informed Council members that no request had been received, an e-mail seeking information had been received but not a request for a dispensation, the clerk explained that she had sought advice from Braintree District Council on this matter and that Cllr.R.Raymond should declare a non-disclosable pecuniary interest and leave the room, however, Councilors wanted to remain in the meeting. Cllr. P Bennis proposed to Suspend Standing Orders and to allow 3 councilors to remain in the meeting, no seconder.

### **17/025 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.**

Six members of the public wished to speak so the Chairman suspended standing orders.

Proposed by Cllr.P.Fulcher, seconded by Cllr.C.Leigh, all in favour.

Two gave their views regarding grazing land, stating that they have been good tenants, not asked for any help with hedge cutting, they have re-seed areas of the land at their own cost, they have a barn that cannot be used, they have installed fencing, however, the fence posts are rotting away. They have no electricity or water installed.

Cllr.R.Raymond sent photos around the table showing the flooding issue.

A member of the public spoke regarding grazing land, water is provided which they currently pay for, but have no other facilities.

One member of the public complained that Cllrs were not speaking up, and could not be heard.

A member of the public spoke about the Coe's Meadow Fun Day, and that it would be a shame if it had to be cancelled for the second year running, due to lack of funds, and said it would be a great disappointment to the child of the village if no further play equipment was provide.

A member of the public spoke of the lack of service regarding Super-fast broadband at Bulmer Tye, Chairman suggested to invite BT and County Broadband to the Annual Parish Assembly, as Superfast Broadband have said they will be attending.

Standing Orders reinstated proposed by Cllr.P.Fulcher, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, all in favour.

### **17/026 County Councillor David Finch & District Councillor Wendy Scattergood to address the members if present.** None present.

### **17/027 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Approved as a true and accurate record were signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

### **17/028 Internal Auditor**

Thanks expressed to Cllr.P.Bennis for the extra background information provided. Council members appointed Heather Heelis as the internal auditor for the financial year of 2016/2017, at a cost of £128.00.

Proposed by Cllr.P.Bennis, seconded by Cllr.C.Leigh, all in favour, resolution passed.

### **17/029 Vote to suspend Standing Order Item 7.**

To revisit item 17/015 On Agenda dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Grass & Hedge cutting (Revisited Special Motion)

Proposed by Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

Signed.....

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**17/030 Grass Cutting 2017.**

Mortimer Contracts Limited have made one cut to Coe's Meadow invoice to appear on next agenda for approval and payment, however, as Mortimer Contracts Limited no longer want to cut grass in Bulmer, the number of cuts was discussed, and the cost, and it was agreed to award JPB Landscape the contract for 2017 to cut grass in Bulmer. Proposed by Cllr.P.Benns, seconded by Cllr.C.Bennett, all in favour, resolution passed.

**17/031 To reinstate Standing Orders.**

Proposed Cllr.S.Buchanan, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

**17/032 Planning Matters.**

Ref: 17/00176/FUL

4 Vicars Orchard, Bulmer, Essex CO10 7TB

Erection of side extension – The Parish Council support this application.

Clerk to send comments to Braintree District Council

Proposed by Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.C.Bennett, all in favour, resolution passed.

**17/034 Open Spaces Parish Plan.**

The following areas were considered;

- Turnpike Piece Allotments - To provide improvement to extending water supply
- Turnpike Piece Allotments - To provide drainage
- Church Meadow – Fence around large tree
- Footpath from Primary School to Village Hall – To provide a hard footpath
- Coe's Meadow – To provide new benches, new signage, new play equipment and a new French Boules pit
- All Parish Land - Drainage

Clerk to inform Braintree District Council to revise Open Spaces Action Plan.

Proposed Cllr.S. Morgan, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan , all in favour, resolution passed.

**17/035 Drainage Issues at Bulmer Grazing.**

Cllr.R.Raymond updated that we have not had any reply from Highways since December. Clerk now to contact Highways for an update.

**17/036 Coe's Meadow.**

**Item 1.** Agreed to consider resurfacing the whole of the basketball surface from capital reserves, as capitalised maintenance. To seek three quotes for the work to be on the next agenda for discussion and approval.

Proposed Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

**Item 2.** Agreed to consider the purchase of new signs to replace all existing signs which need replacement, from capital reserves, as capitalised maintenance. To seek three quotes for the work to be on a future agenda for discussion and approval.

Proposed Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

**Item 3.** As Item 1 was approved – it was agreed that if required, some of the money budgeted for the repair of the basketball surface may be used for the provision of a fun day.

Proposed Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, all in favour, resolution passed.

**Item 4.** The Parish Council to approach the Charity Commission with a view to removing the charity status, and Coe's Meadow then become part of the Parish Council responsibilities. Item to be on next agenda.

Proposed Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

**17/037 Financial Matters.**

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

| DESCRIPTION   | CHEQUE NO. | TOTAL  |
|---|------------|--------|
| Mrs D. Jacob Salary for March                                 | SO         | 305.85 |
| Essex Pension Fund (for March)                                | SO         | 75.28  |
| Mrs D. Jacob (Expenses for February/March)                    | 101388     | 114.93 |
| Mrs D. Jacob (Overtime for March)                             | 101389     | 152.73 |
| Essex Pension Fund (Difference relating to overtime in March) | 101390     | 36.24  |
| Running Total Book Keeping Inv. 1086                          | 101391     | 30.00  |
| Chilton Office Supplies Inv.No. 201314                        | 101392     | 83.52  |
| Bulmer Village Hall (Village Hall Hire)                       | 101393     | 95.00  |
| P.Fulcher (Reimbursement for Hedge Plants at Allotments)      | 101394     | 14.50  |
| Chilton Office Supplies Inv No. 201699                        | 101395     | 83.52  |

Signed.....

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

|  |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|
| J. Doe Inv. No. 19123                                  | 101396 | 420.00 |
| Bank Storage Charge                                    | DD     | 1.00   |
| <b>Figures to appear in New Financial year 2017/18</b> |        |        |
| Mrs D. Jacob Salary for April                          | SO     | 305.85 |
| Essex Pension Fund (for April)                         | SO     | 75.28  |

Proposed by Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

2) Balance in Hand.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| HSBC as at 30th December 2016                              | 30,164.37 |
| Business Savings Account as at 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2017 | 36,959.19 |
| Community Account as at 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2017        | 4,367.44  |
| Total as at 16th January 2017                              | 71,491.00 |

3) The Council to consider making an investment of £30,164.00 into the Local Authorities Fund.  
Proposed by Cllr.P.Fulcher, seconded by Cllr.C.Bennett, all in favour, resolution passed.

4) Cllr.C.Bennett to carry out regular bank reconciliations (At least once a quarter).  
Proposed by Cllr. R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour resolution passed.

### 17/038 Work Community Governance Review – Survey

Questions on the survey considered, Council members confirmed the answers. Clerk to send reply to Braintree District Council.

### 17/039 Red Telephone Kiosks.

BT have confirmed that both telephone kiosks, one adjacent to the Allotments in Park Lane, one adjacent to Coe's Meadow are to remain as existing operational Telephone kiosks and to remain the property of BT. Cllr.P.Benns to acquire paint from BT free of charge, and a volunteer will be required to carry out maintenance.

**17/040 Clerk's Report.** Received and noted, Cllr.P.Benns requested that the Land owned by Bulmer Parish Council should be listed under the transparency code.

### 17/041 Rent Increases.

**Item 1** –Rent increase for land known as Hedingham Road, Corner Piece (Plot F). From September 2017 to increase from £24.00 to £40.00 after consulting a land agent.

Proposed by Cllr.P.Fulcher, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

Cllr..S.Buchanan left the meeting.

**Item 2** - Rents increase for Allotments at Turnpike Piece from September 2018 to increase the charge by 2p per sq.mtr.

Proposed by Cllr.P.Fulcher, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, 4 in favour, 2 votes against, resolution passed.

**Item 3** –Rent increase for Garden Allotments, Clapps Field, Alms Piece, and Alms Field. From September 2018 to increase the charge by 2p per sq.mtr.

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.P.Benns, 6 in favour, one against, resolution passed.

Cllr. S.Buchanan re-entered the meeting.

Cllr. S.Morgan and Cllr.R.Raymond left the meeting.

**Item 4** - To consider increasing the rent for Grazing Land known as Great Dean Field and Bulmer Grazing. Proposal is 2% (which is the increase in CPI over the last 2 years) Due to the flooding issue, this item to be deferred until July.

Proposed by Cllr.P.Benns, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

### 17/042 Date of Next Meeting.

**Annual Parish Assembly 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 7.30PM**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM) 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY** (Early Start time 7.15pm as two meetings in one evening) Followed by **Parish Council Meeting.**

Meeting closed at 9.47pm.

Signed.....

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017