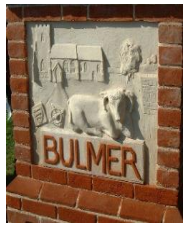




Bulmer Parish Council

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Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Monday 15th March 2021 at 7.15pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

Please note that during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, Bulmer Parish Council will be meeting online using Zoom video conferencing and no physical face to face meetings will take place until further notice.

Present: Cllrs Crawshay (from item 130), Crome, Kershaw, Nichols, Raymond, Street

In the Chair: Cllr Raymond

Clerk: Claire Waters

Also Present: Cllr David Finch ECC to 135/2020
2 parishioners

127/2020 Chairman's Welcome

128/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

129/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Crome declared an interest in item 138 as an allotment holder. Cllr Raymond declared an interest in items 149 & 150 due to work relationships with applicants

130/2020 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the full council meeting of 18th January 2021 were approved as a correct record of events. Remote arrangements will be made for them to be signed by the Chairman

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

131/2020 RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS

To consider options if The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 is not extended and requires a return to face-to-face meetings from May 2021. The National Association of Local Councils has published guidance including "hybrid" meetings, with some people attending face to face and some via video conferencing. This could be difficult at Bulmer Village Hall due to broadband signal issues. Cllr Finch confirmed that ECC are lobbying to have the legislation extended until it is safe for venues to admit larger numbers of people.

RESOLVED: To defer a decision until early May when the guidance may be updated

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

132/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A parishioner raised the problem of blocked drains at the lower end of Church Road, and despite recently seeing jetting being carried out at Vicars Orchard was told that the two Church Rd drains were not on their list. These have been reported more than once and the road floods right across at the location.

Cllr Crome confirmed that following discussions with Cllr Finch the ditch had been cleared but drains are still full of mud to the top. Cllr Finch took on board the comments and will follow this up with Essex Highways.

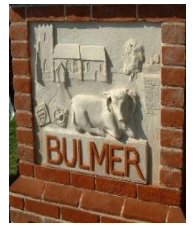
A resident of Bulmer Tye raised the ongoing problem of flooding at the Ryes Lane/A131 junction. Some work has recently been done but the drain top has been left open with the ironwork separated from the brickwork. Cllr Finch agreed to chase this up also.

The same resident of Bulmer Tye wished to express serious concern about a planning application at item 149 for 4 houses at Ryes Lane. He requested assurance that the Parish



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Council would continue its policy of objecting to planning applications outside the defined village envelope for housing development.

The clerk reported that a parishioner who was unavailable to attend the meeting had requested by email that the Parish Council support the principles of a campaign to put wildflowers back into our roadside verges. By delaying the cutting of roadside grass verges until late summer/early autumn, wildflowers can thrive and encourage pollinators which are also in decline. The clerk had replied that we are awaiting the results of a consultation by Braintree District Council about verge cutting only once in autumn, which followed a trial in certain areas of the district the previous year. The results of the consultation and work proposals are now with Essex County Council who have the final say. They are the responsible authority and contract out the work to BDC. Bulmer Parish Council replied to the consultation in support of an autumn cut only as long as road safety is not compromised, and understand many parishes across the district also supported the proposals. Cllr Finch offered to chase up the verge cutting consultation results with the head of Essex Highways and feed back to the Parish Council.

133/2020

CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR: Update on current vacancy

No applications have been received for the current Councillor vacancy

Action: Cllr Crome will put a notice in the next Parish Newsletter requesting applications

134/2020

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr D. Finch

Council Tax: A 0% increase in has been agreed for the 6th time in 10 years. The Adult Social Care tax will increase by 1.5% and will be ringfenced for domiciliary and residential care, mental health and public health.

Covid-19 rates are dropping and primary schools returned successfully, followed by secondary schools. The rate of infection is being monitored closely, with good vaccination progress and test and trace picking up any problems quickly.

Budget: additional money is being made available for green initiatives. £125,000 of grant funding is available for up to 4 Parish Councils to become carbon neutral. £0.5 million is allocated to Police and Crime. £1million is allocated to mental health and reflects an increase in domestic violence and poor mental health during lockdown.

Freeports have been approved in the county at the Thames Estuary, Harwich and Felixstowe. This means goods can be brought in, modified and shipped out with lower tax and charges. This will bring an expected increase of 10,000 jobs and £4billion to the economy in Felixstowe & Harwich and an increase of 20,000 jobs and £10billion to the economy at the Thames Estuary.

Climate Action Commission report is available online and a meeting on 16th March will be worth watching and will be available to view following the meeting via the ECC website

Infrastructure funding of £318million has been received from government. £218million is allocated for a link road and station at Beaulieu outside Chelmsford, linking to Liverpool Street. £100million is allocated for an improved A120/A12 connection and a rapid transit system from Wivenhoe to Colchester main station.

135/2020

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr W. Scattergood

Cllr Scattergood sent apologies for absence due to a Climate Change meeting at BDC and sent a written report via email:

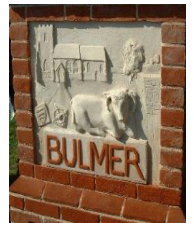
The BDC Council Tax will not be increased. The Councillors Community Grant will continue for another year. Funding of the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Project will continue. If the Climate Change Strategy is approved this evening it will go out for consultation for 6 weeks commencing on May 10th

On February 22nd the Council adopted the Shared Strategic Section 1 of the Local Plan.



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On adoption the policies in the Shared Strategic Section 1 Local Plan superseded Policies CS1 CS4 CS9 and CS11 of the core Strategy 2011. The Council Development Plan therefore consists of the Braintree District Plan Review 2005 and the policies of the Core Strategy 2011 which have not been superseded, the Shared Strategic Section 1 Local Plan and any Neighbourhood Plans

BDC are now moving forward with the examination of Section 2 of the Draft Local Plan and are therefore able to give some weight to the policies in the emerging Draft Section 2 Local Plan. Cllr Scattergood hopes this explanation will assist Parish Councillors when commenting on applications in Bulmer.

136/2020 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT and any update since the last meeting**

Cllr Raymond expressed her sadness at the recent death of two residents of the village, both of whom had contributed a great deal to the community over a number of years. She hoped that other residents would continue their legacy by stepping up and actively supporting the village.

A fallen tree, drainage issues and other highways problems have been reported promptly to Essex Highways. Residents can also track and report problems directly here: <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us> . We are now waiting for Essex Highways to take action.

137/2020 **CLERKS REPORT:** No matters to report that are not already on the agenda

138/2020 **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS / PARISH UPKEEP**

Allotment report Cllr M Crome reported that all allotments are now allocated. One person is still on the waiting list as did not want the plot that recently became available. Two others on the waiting list had now been removed as they did not respond when offered a plot for rental. The annual allotment inspection by Cllr Crome and the clerk will take place after the end of March, when lockdown restrictions ease. Cllr Crome will write to allotment holders Hedge cutting at the allotments has not yet been done and will be chased up by the clerk

139/2020 **HIGHWAYS: Speedwatch**

To identify a Parish Council speedwatch co-ordinator to liaise with Jim Palmer at Essex Fire & Rescue, and plan next steps to recruit volunteers as restrictions ease after the end of March. Cllr L Nichols offered to act as the Parish Council co-ordinator which will involve organising a volunteers rota and taking charge of signs and equipment. Speedwatch sessions may involve around an hour a week in groups of 3 people and at least 10 adult volunteers will be needed.

Action: A request for volunteers will be put in the next edition of Bulmer What's On Both residents present at the meeting offered to join the speedwatch volunteer group, and thanks were expressed by Councillors. *Agenda item for May meeting*

140/2020 **HIGHWAYS: Blocked drains and flooding at new barn, Hedingham Road**

To decide on further actions to be taken to resolve the flooding issue, which has been reported to Essex Highways, Braintree Planning and inspected by the Essex Flood team

Action: Since Essex Highways and Braintree Planning are liaising about this which is a planning issue on private land, the clerk will continue to keep in contact with both to chase progress.

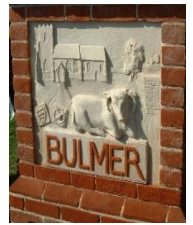
141/2020 **HIGHWAYS: Church Road parking**

To decide on next actions to resolve parking obstruction at Church Road following Cllr Crome's meeting with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP). The Parish Council has received numerous complaints over a number of years from residents about the danger of driving or walking past parked cars at the Church Road bend. Yellow lines at the bend could be applied for but might push the problem further up the road and inconvenience other residents. The advice



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from NEPP is to apply to Braintree District Council for their support under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

RESOLVED: To contact Braintree District Council to investigate Antisocial Behaviour act options
Proposed: Cllr Raymond **Seconded:** Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously

142/2020

BUS SHELTERS: IPTU INFRASTRUCTURE ESSEX HIGHWAYS LICENCE APPLICATIONS

To consider instruction to complete an application for a license for all shelters owned by the Parish Council which sit on the Highway by 30th April 2021. The clerk requested clarification from Councillors on the history of ownership and liability for the bus shelters. Police reports of damage to the bus shelter at Ryes Lane in 2020 were incorrect and the shelter is undamaged

Action: The clerk will clarify who will be responsible for ongoing maintenance and what is covered by Parish Council insurance. If satisfactory the license forms will be completed.

143/2020

MOBILE SIGNAL BLACK SPOTS

Concerns have been raised by residents about lack of mobile signal, particularly in lower lying areas of the parish. This presents a particular problem in emergency and care situations. No immediate solutions are being proposed by mobile providers. A future proposal from a mobile network for a mast near Ryes Lane would not serve the problem areas reported by residents.

Action: The Parish Council will monitor the situation as a matter of ongoing concern.

144/2020

BULMER WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER: ADVERTISING REQUESTS

To decide whether to accept requests to publish advertising or commercial information which might be of benefit to residents, e.g. from social care or health care providers. The Bulmer Whats On newsletter has not carried advertising before but the church newsletter accepts paid advertising. Cllr Crome will forward contact details of the church newsletter editor to the clerk, so they can discuss the matter.

Action: For now, the Bulmer What's On editor will be told not to include advertisement articles, but exceptions will be considered if there is a public benefit

145/2020

COES MEADOW – Cllr S Kershaw, Chair of Coes Meadow Management Committee

- Receipt was noted of the draft minutes of the Coes Meadow Management Committee public meeting of 4th March 2021
- Bulmer Parish Council actions arising from the Coes Meadow Management Committee meeting of 4th March 2021. EALC advice has been sought to confirm if VAT can be reclaimed on spending from the Coes Meadow bank account, and a response is expected in the near future. Until then the balance of the Coes Meadow fund will remain in the Parish Council account.
- Cllr Kershaw expressed thanks to Mr Allen Burbridge and Mr Steve Cant for their voluntary help in trimming off dangerous areas of the basketball surface and making it safe. Cllr Crome proposed a vote of thanks which was seconded by Cllr Raymond and agreed by all.
- Notification has been received that the Stour Valley Volunteers and Mr Stephen Barnes will be undertaking annual clearance and scythe mowing at Coes Meadow in September this year
- Tree surgery work has been completed although there is a question about some work which was planned but does not appear to have been carried out.

Action: The clerk has not yet received an invoice from the tree surgeon but will investigate.

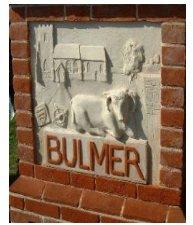
- A resident had suggested a plan to purchase land adjoining Coes Meadow now that a planning application at the site has been refused on appeal. It was agreed to contact the landowner in the first instance to ask if they would be prepared to consider selling the land to the community.

Action: Cllr Raymond will obtain contact details and provide to the clerk.



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146/2020

FINANCE

- To note income received by the Council since the last meeting

Feb-21	
HMRC VAT reclaim	£1,942.83
Mar-21	
Jess Soper Allotment key deposit	£10.00

- To agree payments to be made

Mar-21	
Lyster & Associates - Newsletter Printing January 2021	£73.00
Clerk pay Jan to March 2020	£1,060.20
HMRC PAYE Jan to March 2020	£156.00
TOTAL in month	£1,289.20

RESOLVED: To pay the annual Information Commissioners Office registration fee by direct debit at a cost of £35 a year rather than £40 by bank transfer

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

- Bank balances as at 8th March 2021**

Unity Trust Current A/C	£13,788.00
Barclays Business Savings A/C	To be confirmed – awaiting update of contact
CCLA PSDF	£30,703.81

147/2020

PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND

- To note correspondence from the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund regarding their response to falling interest rates and decide on actions to be taken, if any. No immediate action to be taken as options to move funds are limited, but the situation will be monitored closely.
- Decision on changes to bank mandate and new signatories to the account. Cllrs Raymond and Crome are the only current Councillors who are signatories, and the withdrawal destination account needs to be changed to new Unity Trust Account.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Crawshay and Nichols will be additional signatories for CCLA PDSF as they are also signatories for the Unity Trust account.

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

148/2020

STAFF MATTERS

A meeting of the Personnel Committee to consider 6 month review for the clerk and the option of enrolling in a pension fund will be held at 7.15pm on Monday 22nd March. This meeting will not be open to the public and the clerk will take part in the review session only.

149/2020

PLANNING: applications received for comment

21/00161/HH Retrospective application for a proposed carport

Meadowside Bulmer Tye CO10 7ED

Decision ratified: Objection submitted

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.

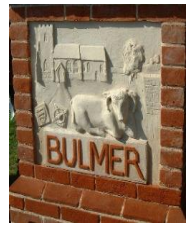
Auberries Church Road CO10 7DY

Decision ratified: No objections



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21/00504/HH Erection of gym, Installing outdoor pool and revision of front elevation.
Stanleys Heddingham Road CO10 7EF *No objections*

Cllr Raymond declared an interest and left the meeting.

21/00412/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for -Erection of 4 no. bungalows and associated development.

Land Rear Of The Tye Ryes Lane *Objection: Although smaller houses are welcomed to enable residents to stay in the village, on principle this is outside the development boundary and may set a precedent for future development in the parish.*

150/2020

PLANNING: applications determined

20/01112/FUL Proposed new access
Land South of Heddingham Road

Application PERMITTED

20/00437/TPO Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 12/82 - T4 - Trim back the lower branches to lift the crown over the driveway and control growth towards the house and T2 (boundary of property) - Remove and reduce overhanging low branches from neighbouring property
Polrudden Finch Hill CO10 7EX *Application REFUSED*

20/02098/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 dwellings
Smeetham Hall Barn Smeetham Hall Lane CO10 7EU *Planning permission Required*

Cllr Raymond returned to the meeting

151/2020

NATIONAL GRID BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD TEE NETWORK REINFORCEMENT

To consider response to invitation to meet the project team ahead of the public consultation, which begins at the end of March. The proposed reinforcement is around 29km and includes building new pylons, some underground cables and a substation at Butler's Wood off the A131 on the border of Bulmer and Twinstead parishes. A joint meeting including Twinstead Parish Council was considered but it may be that their priorities and concerns differ from Bulmer. The clerk reported that Cllr Finch had been present for this item at a meeting of another Parish Council, and was urging for all cabling to be put underground off the coast from Ipswich to Southend as the extent of the work will eventually reach Rayleigh to the south of the county.

Action: The clerk will organise a meeting between Bulmer Parish Council and National Grid representatives as soon as possible, in preparation for full public meetings from April onwards.

152/2020

BRAINTREE LOCAL PLAN

To note the adoption of Braintree District Local Plan 2013-2033: North Essex Authorities' Shared Strategic Section 1 Plan which was adopted by the Council Meeting held on 22nd February 2021. <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/directory-record/1057365/braintree-section-1-plan-february-2021> The deadline for objections is 12 noon 5th April 2021

153/2020

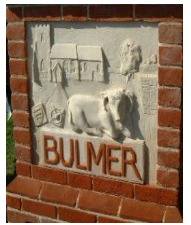
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Council meeting: Election of Chairman and review of groups & representatives
Please advise the Parish Clerk by Monday 10th May 2021 of items for the May agenda



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154/2020 MEETING DATES FOR 2021

All meetings will continue via Zoom video conferencing until further notice.

17th May 2021	Annual Parish Council	via Zoom video conferencing
19th July 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
20th September 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
15th November 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Location to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 9.09pm

Signed.....
Cllr Rosemary Raymond