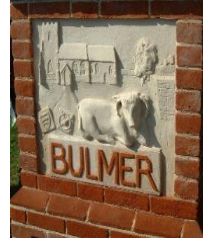




Bulmer Parish Council

Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)
25 Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3DG
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ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 7.30pm, Monday 16th May 2022 held at Bulmer Village Hall

The Annual Parish Assembly is not a Council Meeting – it is for people and groups of the Village to publicly talk about local activities and celebrate our community

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Nichols, Ponty, Raymond, Street
In the Chair: Cllr Raymond
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: 9 parishioners and representatives of village groups

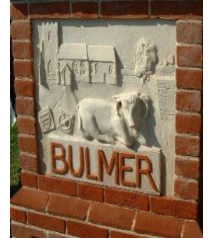
MINUTES

CHAIRMAN	Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 30th April 2019 The minutes were approved as a correct record of events and signed by the Chairman
CHAIRMAN	Chairman's report for Bulmer Parish Council 2020/22 – Cllr R Raymond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last couple of years have been challenging for us all due to Covid-19. Thanks are due to everyone who has supported the village and residents in any way, but in particular thank you to Maggie Skipper and the team for managing the Village Hall, and to Barbara Rawlings and the team of litter pickers who work hard to keep the village looking tidy. We now have an active Coes Meadow Management Committee and will welcome any volunteers who wish to join the committee or to help out at the occasional working parties that are now taking place at Coes Meadow. The land along Church Road adjacent to Coes Meadow was offered for sale to the Parish Council by the owners. Discussions and meetings took place, and we made an offer which was not accepted. The owners have been asked to confirm what price they want for the land, but have not responded to this request. The proposed National Grid pylons and the substation at Butlers Wood is a significant planning application which the Parish Council will be responding to. Cllr Raymond has been to 2 public meetings and following the proposals, but the plans keep changing so it is challenging to keep up with this. The substation is now coming further towards Butlers Farm, and it is difficult to know if residents of Bulmer will experience a hum from pylons. The installations will be very large and it will make a significant difference to the landscape. Bulmer What's Going On newsletter is urgently in need of a new volunteer editor. The aim is to produce around 4 issues a year, with printing costs paid by the Parish Council. The aim is to include information about everything that is going on in the parish, not just the Parish Council minutes so it really needs someone who lives in the village. It may be possible for 2 or 3 people to manage it together. If you are interested in doing this on a voluntary basis for Bulmer, please contact the Parish Clerk at bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com
ECC	Cllr Peter Schwier: Essex County Council report Cllr Schwier apologised for late arrival due to conflicting meetings, he gave his report at the end of the meeting and focused on the highlights. His full annual report will be put on the Bulmer website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways repairs across the whole county include 187 pavements, 3711 drains cleared, and 2240 street lights repaired. All street light bulbs are being replaced with LED bulbs Information for parishes is triaged and sent by Cllr Schwier to the Parish Council via the



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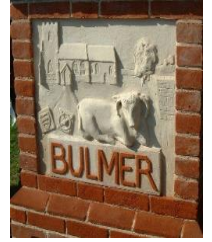


	<p>clerk to be forwarded to residents and business. Feedback shows this is appreciated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School applications: Secondary schools, 98% of applications got their first choice and 99% of applications were made online. Primary school, 86% got their first choice and 6% their second choice, all applications were made online. • Essex Forestry Initiative: A target of 375,000 trees to be planted by the 2024-25 season. Last season against a target of 50,000 a total of 104,000 were planted in co-operation with partners. • Ukraine refugees: Weekly updates are being sent to the Parish Council. 1800 applications from refugees are being allocated to 780 people who have offered to be hosts. Entry points at Stansted and Harwich are being supported by ECC in conjunction with the Red Cross. • Bulmer speeding issues A131. In response to concerns raised by a resident, he has been in contact with Essex Highways and has also asked for the support of Roger Hirst, Police and Crime Commissioner, in particular with traffic regularly going the wrong way at the Bulmer Tye junction with Hedingham Rd. Roger Hirst has requested a regular police presence to pick up dangerous driving. • Comment from resident: Houses along this section of the A131 have people pulling out of their driveways in the face of speeding traffic and vehicles overtaking. If the police contact us we can tell them where to stand, including in our driveway. Thank you for raising our concerns with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Ideally we would like speed cameras installed please at each end of this stretch of road. • Question: Can you support us along with BDC in getting our narrow lanes and dangerous junctions cut? We report it but it takes to much time for a response. • Question: What is the ECC view on the National Grid substation and power lines? Answer: I have expressed concerns about the effect on the countryside, but this will be decided at national level including Essex & Suffolk County Councils and Braintree District Council. We would ideally want to see a sea link all the way to the destination.
<p>BDC</p>	<p>Cllr Wendy Scattergood: Braintree District Council report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Bulmer for hosting a collection point for small electrical items (WEEE) at the Village Hall car park. In total across the district these collection points have collected 7 tonnes of materials which would otherwise have gone to landfill • BDC was the first council to recommence planning meetings after the first lockdown, holding virtual meetings which Cllr Scattergood had to join from Causeway House due to insufficient broadband at home. Despite the challenges, it meant that Braintree Planning did not get behind on processing planning applications despite being hugely busy during lockdown. • BDC Local Plan Section 2: This was sent to the Planning Inspectorate in July last year, and the 2 inspectors are still considering the responses to the consultation. • BDC budget was approved, including a thorough review of Planning Enforcement. 5 new enforcement officers have been appointed and this is a major step forward. • BDC Economic Development department has been busy processing all Covid-19 related grant applications. • BDC Grants: The Councillors Community Grant has been reduced from £1500 to £1000 per District Councillor, and Cllr Scattergood was pleased to approve two grants to Bulmer over the last year. The District Council has surveyed Parish Council funds over the district and has asked that grants are given to community groups this year, not Parish Councils. • Verge Cutting – BDC are continuing to cut verges in autumn only after the trial carried out



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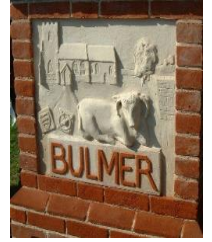


	<p>last year. Cllr Scattergood has opposed this decision, particularly in respect to single track roads. Residents can request a safety cut at particular locations by contacting Customer Services at BDC by phone 01376 552525 or email csc@braintree.gov.uk and naming the road or junction – keep reporting them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Grid proposals – Cllr Scattergood cannot make comments due to the need to remain impartial as Chairman of the BDC Planning Committee. Numerous meetings have been held with National Grid and plans keep changing.
<p>ALL MEMBERS</p>	<p>GUEST SPEAKERS - Representatives of village groups and organisations:</p> <p>Bulmer Village Hall: Maggie Skipper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Village Hall is a charity, and the Parish Council is the custodian of the deeds to the land. During lockdown there was suddenly no income but still bills to pay. The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) Village Halls adviser Sue Gibson gave invaluable help to Bulmer Village Hall, pointing us in the right direction to apply for grants and lottery funding. As a result there was enough funding to have the floor re-varnished and all rooms decorated, plus new cupboard and crockery for the kitchen. The main hall is the last to be decorated and this will be completed in July this year. • The hall is used every day, and all clubs except one have now restarted regular sessions. Margaret Mills, who ran the Keep Fit Club for 40 years will be greatly missed. • Platinum Jubilee celebrations are being organised by the Village Hall and Church together. The lunch on Sunday at the Hall is fully booked with 90 people attending and a waiting. Thank you to the Parish Council for funding the band. Any surplus from the ticket sales and donations will be donated to the Red Cross. <p>Skylarks: Maggie Skipper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skylarks was set up 14 years ago and it is still going which proves there is a need for people to come together. Anyone is welcome to come for a chat and a cup of tea. Meetings include talks, and recently there have been visits from new lambs, talks on hearing dogs, quizzes and games. A Jubilee party is being held at the end of June with food and entertainment reflecting the 70 years of the Queen's reign. • Anyone is welcome to attend Skylarks, there is no lower or upper age limit. If you know a resident who is in need of support or needs to be encouraged to join, please let Maggie know. She can help signpost people if they need help, for example hospital transport, buses etc. <p>Carpet Bowls: Barbara Rawlings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group started again in August 2021 and not has enough members to run two carpets. Members come from the village and from Sudbury. Sessions include a cup of tea and a chat and it's a happy group. <p>St Andrews Church: Peter Fulcher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to Church tower is in progress, scaffolding is up and a window being built. They hope to finish by the end of June • Re-ordering of the Church interior – this is being led by Revd Gill who took over from Revd. Margaret. The congregation is happy with the proposals, which include removing pews in the knave and north aisle and replacing with chairs. This will mean the space can be used better e.g. for the Jubilee cream teas, and different types of service to encourage people. These changes have to go through the diocesan planning system. There are no plans to change the chancel and the pews there as they are more special and are listed. • Grass cutting in churchyard: The contractor used in previous years has injured his knee and cannot continue. It has been arranged for JPB Landscapes who cut the parish grass to cut it once a month, but even this is costing 3x more than was previously paid. Consideration is being given to a wildflower churchyard but this still needs work, and he will be consulting with the Stour Valley and Dedham Vale conservation volunteers.



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- Church organ – this is very old and will need £15,000 to refurbish, or a new organ which would cost a similar amount. It may be possible to obtain one second hand
- General costs: This is almost being met by income, last year was £2,000 short but was made up from savings. Our share to the diocese costs £21,700 this year. A second full time vicar, Revd Claire is joining in July plus Kate the curate who will stay until her training is complete. They have been told this is the last time two full time priests will be allowed; when one leaves they will not be replaced.

St Andrews C of E Primary School: Helen Padgett (Governor)

- The federation between St Giles' Great Maplestead and St Andrew's Bulmer continues to flourish. While budgets are tight and costs increasing, the federation with St Giles' has helped considerably with savings resulting in the quality of education being enhanced at St Andrew's. At the beginning of the academic year in September the school continued to have four classes and we welcomed two new teaching staff to the key stage 2 classes. The number on roll has gradually increased over the school year and there are now 71 children in the school.
- The federation continues to provide opportunities for the children to work together on shared experiences. This has included learning, sport and trips out. Both schools' year 5 & 6 pupils recently attended a very successful week's residential stay on the Isle of Wight. The school continues to provide sports coaches and a music specialist for music tuition. The emphasis, as always, is on delivering a broad and balanced curriculum experience.
- Pebbles Pre-school have settled in well onto the school site and strong links have been established with the school.
- There has been the expected disruption due to Covid on staff and pupil attendance. Staff have covered for absent colleagues and it is a credit to the team at St Andrew's for pulling together and doing any and all jobs. No classes have had to be sent home nor has the school had to resort back to online learning.
- The children have been delighted to be back in school after the lockdowns of last year and the school made sure that the usual activities resumed as normal. The Christmas activities of Nativity, trip to the pantomime, Christmas lunch and Christmas crib service all went ahead. It is also thanks to parents for the support in twice weekly lateral flow testing that enabled their children to attend these events.
- The school has recently replaced the fencing all around the school site and the double gates to the staff car park. This has provided a much safer environment for the children especially during drop off and pick up times.
- Please see the schools' website for more information and regular news
<https://www.sab.sgasa.uk/>
- Question: How many St Andrews Pupils currently live in Bulmer? Answer: the number from the villages is still very low, this reflects the need for affordable housing.

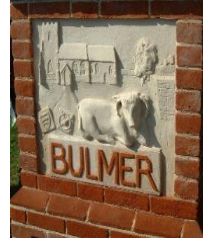
Allotments Officer: Written report from Mike Crome, read by Cllr Cathey Ponty

- All plots are being rented, with one tenant seeking a second plot.
- An inspection of all plots took place on the 29th April by myself the Parish Clerk. As a result all tenants were written to by the Clerk.
- As you are aware I have made formal request to the Clerk for the council to consider assisting volunteers who cut the majority of the areas around the plots. The reason I made the request, and it was not any of the tenants has asked for it, was Steve Morgan who cuts the perimeter grass around the plots on his own sit on mower said to me he would no longer be cutting as many times due to the cost of fuel.
- For those Cllrs who maybe unaware of grass cutting the past, had a resident borrowed one of Council's grass cutters still held by the council, all the fuel was reclaimable from the council.



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	<p>Neighbourhood Watch: Written report from Tom Dickinson read by Cllr Cathey Ponty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since our last report Bulmer NW continues to support our local residents in the prevention and detection of crime, reducing the fear of crime and liaising with local police as/when necessary. • Luckily Bulmer continues to be a low crime area but we are still supported by 14 local co-ordinators spread throughout our population. Their details are published on the Bulmer Village website. Recently two new co-ordinators joined our numbers. Any reports of crime or suspicious activity are circulated between them for local dissemination. • In addition I have direct email contacts for 53 other local residents to pass information quickly if considered urgent. • During the past year NW signs have been replaced/updated around the village. • We are very fortunate to have the services of Clive Stewart, Chairman of Braintree District NW Steering Group and additionally Essex County NW who lives locally in The Belchamps. He circulates to us every week local crimes and information received both from Essex and Suffolk Police. He maintains regular contact with the local police Commanders. He sends out six monthly newsletters for our villagers and supplies stickers/signs/alarms/literature etc that we may require. • Should anyone wish to be added to the email list or act as a co-ordinator please contact me, Tom Dickinson Lead Co-Ordinator by email at solomoncount@gmail.com or phone 01787 370016
<p>ALL MEMBERS</p>	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION</p> <p>Resident Comment: Now that a regular newsletter is no longer being produced, it is more than important that minutes of the Council & Coe's Meadow Management Committee are posted on the noticeboards and website to make sure residents know what is going on. I respectfully refer the council to 7.7 of Coes Meadow constitution that ' CMMC shall keep minutes.....these shall be distributed to members and made available to the public, via the noticeboards and the Bulmer website within 5 days of the meeting taking place'.</p> <p>All other questions and answers are recorded in the relevant section where they were raised</p>
<p>CHAIRMAN</p>	<p>• Close of Annual Parish Assembly – the meeting closed at 20.35pm</p>