

Bulmer Parish Council

Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Meeting

Held on 21st November 2016 at the Village Hall, at 7.45pm

In the Chair: Cllr.P.Fulcher
 Present Cllrs: Cllr.C. Leigh, Cllr.R.Raymond, Cllr.P.Benns, Cllr.C.Bennett, Cllr.S.Morgan, Cllr.S.Buchanan
 Clerk: Mrs D.Jacob
 Also Present: 13 members of the public

16/161 Welcome and Apologies of Absence.

Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from District Councillor Wendy Scattergood. The Chairman presented the Freedom of the Village to Mr M.Crome, and Mr Crome expressed his thanks.

16/162 Declaration of Interests.

Received from Cllr.C.Leigh regarding item 16/173 Ref: S16/00321/TPOCON.

16/163 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding vehicle access issues and dropped kerbs at Bulmer Street. It was asked if the Clerk could write a letter to the developer to ask if the area could be kept tidy. Footpath opposite the Fox, hedge over hanging footpath. Path way from the Fox to Sudbury has been reported that it needs clearing.

16/164 County Councillor David Finch & District Councillor Wendy Scattergood to address the members if present.

Cllr.David Finch reported the budget for next year and that they will need to find savings. Social care concerns regarding the growth in the community, older population in Essex above average and funding it is limited. A drain causes flooding on the A131 near its junction with Hedingham, Cllr.D.Finch to arrange a site meeting with Cllr.R.Raymond.

16/165 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th September 2016.

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

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

16/166 Allotment Issues – Footpath.

To discuss and consider the following options.

1. Claim: For this to be successful it would have to be proved that the footpath had been walked regularly for the last 20 years. The claim would not be dealt with by him but someone from ECC legal department.

They would complete the relevant forms and check the proof of the 20-year walking. There would be no cost to the Parish Council and ECC would be responsible for maintaining the path and the footpath would be added to the definitive map. The process could take some time.

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.P.Benns, 5 against

2. Agreement: Public Rights of Way Officer would deal with this and he would arrange for the paper work to be completed and there is no cost to the Parish. The one problem with this is he would have to get ECC to agree to this because of the cost of maintenance and mentioned the difficulty in gaining funding at the moment. He said it might help if the Parish Council would agree to maintain the footpath and this would have to be written into the agreement.

A responsible person(s) would be required to sign the agreement on behalf of the Parish Council.

There would need to be fingerposts marking the footpath at both ends for both options.

No proposer. No Vote.

The Parish Council were unable to make a decision regarding the above item.

The Parish Council confirmed that the footpath is to remain open to the public and for it to remain as it is.

16/167 Precept/Budget for 2017/2018.

As required by section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, Parish Councillors are obliged to leave discussions where they have a disclosable pecuniary Interest. To participate in the setting of a precept for the Council. The councillors will require a dispensation, and for this purpose, Bulmer Parish Council resolves to delegate to the Clerk the power to grant a dispensation from exclusion to all Councillors for the purpose of considering and setting the precept.

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

Signed.....

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16/168 Precept 2017-2018.

To consider various options. Further information and headings to be provided by Cllr.P. Benns. This item deferred until next meeting.

16/169 Affordable Housing.

Survey now received. 290 forms sent out to residents for completion, 96 have been returned. Majority of which were from 56 year and over. Residents are looking to downsize. No young families looking for affordable housing. The Parish Council to raise this issue again with residents at the next Annual Parish Assembly.

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

16/170 Parish Calendar 2017/2018.

Parish Calendar for 2017/2018. Dates set for Parish Council meetings 16th January, 20th March, 15th May, 17th July, 18th September, 20th November and 15th January 2018 and the Annual Parish Assembly to be held on ~~11th April 2017~~ changed to 24 April 2017 due to hiring village hall.

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

16/171 Quality Council.

To consider and decide if Bulmer Parish Council would like to work towards becoming a Quality Council. Item deferred.

16/172 Financial Matters.

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

DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE NO.	TOTAL
Information Commissioner (Data Protection)	101365	35.00
Chilton Office Supplies Inv.No. 199774	101366	83.52
Playsafety Limited (RoSPA) Inv.No. 25883	101367	189.00
Mr P.Fulcher (Reimbursement for Petrol & Wooden engraving)	101368	21.65
J.C. Reddington (Internal Auditor)	101369	50.00
Mrs D. Jacob Salary and expenses for October and November	101370	701.69
Essex Pension Fund (for November)	101371	75.28
Essex Pension Fund (for December)	101372	75.28
Mortimer Contracts Ltd Inv. No. 134	101373	565.20
Timberplay Ltd Inv. No. 5779	101374	4,425.66
Pictorial Meadows Inv. 23225 (Seeds for Coe's Meadow)	101375	295.00
Ken Hill (Reimbursement for play equipment treatment)	101376	39.59

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

2) Balance in Hand.

HSBC as at 30th September 2016	30,161.36
Business Savings Account as at 21st November 2016	41,379.76
Community Account as at 21st November 2016	7,942.57
Total as at 21st November 2016	79,483.69

Received and Noted - Proposed by Cllr.P. Benns, seconded by Cllr.S. Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

- 3) To consider transferring £4,425.66 From Business Savings Account to Business Current Account.

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

- 4) The Council to consider making any investments into any funds. Further information required therefore deferred.

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

Signed.....

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5) The Council to resolve, to in future pay the Clerks Salary and Essex Pension Fund by Standing Order, at the end of each month.

Proposed by Cllr.C. Bennett, Seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

16/173 Planning Matters.

Ref: S16/00321/TPOCON

Langley Cottage Bulmer Street Bulmer Essex CO10 7EP

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Black Mulberry tree is about 30 feet and the spread approx 30 - 35 foot, reduce the tree to approx 10 feet in height with appropriate reduction in spread of crown.

Support this application.

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, 6 in favour, one abstained.

Ref: 16/00347/TPOCON

Stables Cottage Smeetham Hall Lane Bulmer Essex CO10 7EN

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Trim smaller branches from 1 Chestnut tree back to boundary. Support this application.

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

Clerk to seed comments to BDC.

To consider any other applications received.

Cllr.C. Leigh reported for information that a developer wishes to meet with Councilors and members of the public with a view to building houses on Ransom Strip (a strip of land, to the side of Coe's Meadow) to apply for outline planning permission.

16/174 Red Telephone Kiosks.

Bulmer Parish Council to make a request to BDC to keep the existing operational Telephone kiosks on the grounds of Health & Safety and lack of reliable mobile phone signal. Especially as one is adjacent to Coe's Meadow play area and the other adjacent to the Allotments both of which have a potential need for calling emergency services.

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, six in favour, one against, resolution passed.

16/175 Coe's Meadow Report.

Cllr.C. Leigh gave an update – Cllr.P. Benns informed the Council that the report was misleading as is stated that dogs could not be exercised on Coe's Meadow. Cllr.Leigh explained the problem concerning dogs, and that there are signs stating dogs should be kept on leads. Cllr Benns informed the council that there are no bylaws relating to dogs being kept on leads in open spaces, and that perhaps fencing the play area would resolve this issue. A heated discussion took place between Cllr Leigh and Cllr Benns, the Chairman reminded both Councilors of the Code of Conduct.

16/176 Village Hall Report.

Received and noted.

16/177 Allotment Report.

Received and noted.

16/178 Noticeboard at Park Lane.

It has been suggested, the current board is too small.

This item withdrawn from the agenda by Cllr.P. Benns.

16/179 Drainage Issues at Bulmer Grazing.

Deferred until next meeting.

16/180 Parish What's Going on Magazine.

Update by Cllr.S. Buchanan, we currently print 290 and this needs to be increased to 300 copies, Council to consider increasing the budget for printing. It was suggested that the latest minutes should be published, to save on space.

To discuss Hedingham School catchment area. This item has been cancelled, and will no longer require reporting.

16/181 Clerk's Report.

Received and noted.

16/182 Hedingham Road Speed Control.

The Parish Council to ask Local Highways Panel to investigate the speed of traffic and to carry out and provide a survey, in Hedingham Road between Holland Hill and Bulmer Lodge.

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

Signed.....

16th January 2017

16/183 To Exclude the Press and Public.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960

'That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 16/184 on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business subject to the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 Section 1 Sub-section 2.

TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

16/184 Contract of Employment.

Clerk's hours were discussed and it was agreed to award the Clerk overtime each month, starting from January to March, for transparency implementation work.

16/185 Date of Next Meeting.

16TH JANUARY 2017.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed.....

16th January 2017