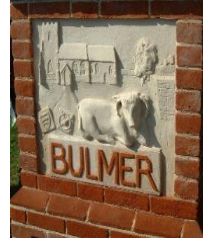




# Bulmer Parish Council

Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)  
25 Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3DG  
07845 056597 [bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com)



## Minutes of a Meeting of Bulmer Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Bulmer Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Crawshay, Harvey, Nichols, Morris, Raymond.  
**In the Chair:** Cllr Raymond  
**Clerk:** Claire Waters  
**Also Present:** Cllr David Holland, Braintree District Council up to item 12  
5 parishioners up to item 12

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

**1.1 Councillor Vacancies:** Two Councillor seats are currently vacant. Applications to be co-opted to join the Parish Council are very welcome, please contact [bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com) for more details.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 17th July 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**Proposed:** Cllr Crawshay

**Seconded:** Cllr Nichols

Agreed unanimously

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Morris declared an interest in a planning application 23/02225/FUL - Erection of Agricultural Building Auberries, Church Road, Bulmer. Notification of this application arrived too late to be on the September meeting agenda, and the deadline for comment is 12th October 2023 so cannot be decided at the November meeting. On the advice of Braintree Planning, the Parish Council will not be submitting a comment to this application because it cannot be discussed at a public meeting. Councillors can comment on any application individually as a member of the public. Details of all planning applications in Bulmer are posted on the website <https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc/parish-council/planning/> with a link to all the documents on the BDC website.

### 4. PUBLIC FORUM

**4.1 F315 Sudbury to Halstead Monday to Saturday service** A resident asked if the Parish Council would be commenting on the consultation regarding withdrawal of the F315 bus service for Bulmer. The consultation on Supported Local Bus Services 2024-2028 closes on 5th October 2023 and can be completed online at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023> or request a hard copy from [passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk](mailto:passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk) or by calling 0345 743 0430 or 0345 603 7631. Residents are urged to respond if they wish to save this local bus service from being withdrawn.

**4.2** A resident asked for the Parish Council's support in objecting to planning application 23/01848/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for - Erection of 8no. 2 Bedroom dwellings and associated development, Land Rear Of The Tye Ryes Lane

### 5. PROGRESS CHECK

**5.1 Defibrillators:** Delivery of the 4 Bulmer defibrillators is expected week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> September. The posts will be installed first and allowed to set before the defibrillators are attached

**5.2 Church Road trees:** Following a request from a resident, Councillors inspected overhanging trees at Church Road. These are on property leased to St Andrews Primary School.

**Action:** The clerk will write to the headteacher and governors about the trees.

### 6. HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

**6.1 Local Highways Panel (LHP):** A LHP application for improvement of pedestrian & playground signage at Coes Meadow entrance in Bulmer Street needs a clear plan, photos and evidence of community need.

**Action:** Councillors will supply the clerk with photos, plans and resident feedback.

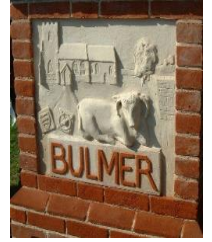


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**6.2 LHP application Bulmer Tye:** The Highways Panel responded that there is no budget for a safety audit, and suggested the Parish Council paid for a speed survey from Parish Council funds at a cost of £368.20.

**RESOLVED:** A speed survey was considered but is not likely to show significant non-compliance with the speed limit and therefore will not prompt Essex Highways to take action. The speed survey will be declined.

**Proposed:** Cllr Raymond

**Seconded:** Cllr Harvey

Agreed unanimously

**6.3 Footpath along A131:** Cllr Schwier, ECC had obtained a response that this footpath was inspected on 15<sup>th</sup> September and was not considered to be bad enough for Essex Highways to clear it. This is despite pedestrians having to walk in the busy main road due to encroaching vegetation. Further action will be taken by the Parish Council with the support of Cllr Holland BDC as this is a problem for other parishes in his ward with footpaths alongside the A131.

**6.4 Verge cutting:** An email from Braintree District Council operations confirms that Bulmer autumn verge cutting will take place in early October. The clerk asked BDC if the verge cutting will include the footpath alongside the A131. This has been referred back to the BDC operations team for a response.

## 7. REPORTS

**7.1** Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch.- A recent police report will be sent to Councillors

**7.2** Essex CC report – Cllr Schwier apologised for absence due to two conflicting Parish Council meetings and referred Councillors to his email reports

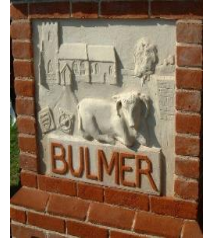
**7.3** Braintree DC report – Cllr Holland reported:

- **Footpath on A131:** Happy to support the Parish Council, this should be considered a policy issue and steps taken to encourage pedestrians and cyclists to be able to travel safely.
- **Verge cutting:** He is awaiting a final report of the 3-year autumn only verge cutting trial, but is clear that there is very little support for the “one cut a year” policy in rural communities.
- **Bulmer Tye road safety:** He has taken an interest in this for some time and will support if he can. In response to a question about motorbike noise on the A131, he feels this is a battle we are unlikely to win as the police would rather have motorbikes using a main road. Traffic police are based too far away to visit.
- **Levelling Up funds:** Rural small business grants and funding for groups is available at BDC, details can be found at <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/ruralprosperityfund>
- **Public Transport:** DaRT buses (demand responsive) are most useful for Bulmer residents, he had timetables and information leaflets available which Cllr Harvey took for distribution locally
- **Parish Magazines:** Cllr Holland is chair of the Parish Magazine group which includes the Hennys, Lamarsh and other smaller villages. He is happy to contribute articles of local interest for Whats Going On.
- **Planning:** As vice-chairman of the BDC Planning Committee he is not able to comment on individual planning applications in order not to compromise his input to BDC Planning Committee. He advised the Parish Council on points to raise with Braintree Planning officers in response to planning applications.
- **National Grid upgrades:** He thanked the Parish Council for their comments in response to substation and pylon proposals, and for recognising the potential loss of prime agricultural land if proposals for 2,500 acres of solar panels and 40 acres of battery storage are brought forward. He is pushing for a supplementary planning document on energy storage to be created by Braintree District Council
- **Green Bin charges:** In response to a question from Cllr Raymond, he explained that BDC funding is being reduced by central government. The alternative to green bin charges would be high increases in council tax for everyone, including the poorest residents in Band A or B properties who wouldn't need a green bin. Green bins are not a service required by law, and 70% of councils across the country charge for collections.



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## 8. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

**8.1 Allotments report:** Mr Mike Crome, Allotments Officer thanked the clerk for taking over the invoicing for all allotments, grazing and garden plots this year, which has saved him a lot of work. One allotment plot will be vacated at the end of the month, due to the tenant moving away. There is no waiting list so new applications for tenancy of the plot are welcome.

**8.2 Allotments water supply:** The new standpipe installation is planned for mid September, and this now coincides with UKPN work (see 8.3) so both parties have been put in contact with each other to liaise.

**8.3 Allotments UKPN substation:** Work commenced at 8.30am on Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> with the first phase lasting about a week. Further work will take place during October. A temporary 12ft welfare container needs to be sited within the allotment and will be positioned to minimise any restriction to access.

## 9. PLANNING

*Applications received:*

**23/01848/OUT** Outline planning application with all matters reserved for - Erection of 8no. 2 Bedroom dwellings and associated development.

Land Rear Of The Tye Ryes Lane Bulmer

*Objection: Outside development boundary, not sustainable.*

**23/02165/LBC & 23/02164/HH** Proposed alterations to existing single storey extension including roof alterations and re-surfacing, modification to window opening for insertion of french doors

Clement Cottage Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

*No objections*

**23/01999/FUL** Proposed ground mounted solar PV system  
Smeetham Hall Smeetham Hall Lane CO10 7EU

*Decision to be ratified: No objections*

*Applications determined:*

**23/01320/HH** Single storey rear and side extension and loft conversion

Larkfield Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

*Application PERMITTED*

**23/01363/HH** Proposed timber weatherboarding to first floor external walls

Church Cottage Church Road CO10 7EL

*Application PERMITTED*

**23/01792/TPOCON** Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 x1 Cherry tree - Carry out a 1m to 1.5m crown reduction

New Mains Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

*Application PERMITTED*

## 10. FINANCE

**10.1** The monthly payments were approved for authorisation by two Councillors - *Financial report Appendix 1*

**Proposed:** Cllr Nichols

**Secinded:** Cllr Crawshay

Agreed unanimously

**10.2** Two donations to the defibrillator fund were noted with grateful thanks, one from the resident of Batt Hall who made the original request for defibrillators in the parish. A donation of £800 was received with thanks from the family of Mr Nigel Burke and Auberis Estate, in his memory and in recognition of his commitment to the Bulmer community.

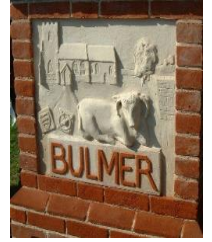
**10.3** A grant application form had been received from the Kernos Centre in Sudbury, which provides psychological and emotional support, with a particular focus on seeing those on benefits or very low incomes who would not otherwise afford help.

**Action:** To be considered for the 2024-2025 budget. *Agenda item for January 2024 meeting.*



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## 11. GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING

**11.1 Tenders for 3-year contract:** Grass & Hedge cutting tender requests had been sent to contractors

**RESOLVED: Hedges** To accept the quotation from Livertons, the current contractor and the lowest price.

**Proposed:** Cllr Raymond

**Seconded:** Cllr Morris

Agreed unanimously

**Grass:** Only one quote had been received from 4 contractors contacted. *Item deferred to November meeting*

*All members of the public left the meeting*

## 12. GARDEN PLOT BOUNDARY

**RESOLVED:** To hold this item in closed session due to the confidential nature of the discussion

**Proposed:** Cllr Raymond

**Seconded:** Cllr Nichols

Agreed unanimously

## 13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE – PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

**ECC Passenger Transport: The F315 Sudbury to Halstead Monday to Saturday service** via Arrow Taxis is at risk of withdrawal due to low passenger numbers. The consultation on Supported Local Bus Services 2024-2028 closes on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and can be completed online at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023> or request a hard copy from [passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk](mailto:passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk) or by calling 0345 743 0430 or 0345 603 7631

**EALC & ECC, National Grid, Norwich to Tilbury pylons consultation responses:** Objection letters have been submitted by the Essex Association of Local Councils and Essex County Council to 183 km of new electricity transmission reinforcement between Norwich and Tilbury, made up mostly of overhead line and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new 400 kV substation in Bulmer. This is part of “The Great Grid Upgrade” – the largest overhaul of the grid in generations. Find out more at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury>

## 14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Grass Cutting contract review for 2024-2027
- Budget review in preparation for January 2024 meeting

## 15. MEETING DATES 2023

Monday 20th November 2023	Ordinary Parish Council	Bulmer Village Hall
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The meeting closed at 9.10pm

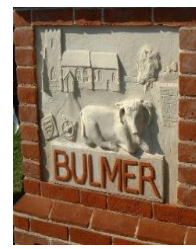
Signed.....

**Cllr Rosemary Raymond**



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## Financial Report Appendix 1

### PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION SEPTEMBER 2023

Sep-23		Payments in Month	Details	Amount
05-Sep	B/P	HMRC	475SA894912405	£94.00
18-Sep	B/P	Hedingham School	Printing Whats Going On	£90.00
18-Sep	B/P	JPB Landscapes	Grass Cutting July	£415.20
19-Sep	B/P	JPB Landscapes	Grass Cutting August	£297.60
30-Sep	B/P	E C Waters	Clerk pay September	£404.14
<b>TOTAL in month</b>				<b>£1,300.94</b>

Sep-23		Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
15-Sep		M Crome	Allotment Rent	£27.44
18-Sep		Whittingdale	Annual Rent Corner plot F	£40.80
28-Sep		BDC	Precept 2nd instalment	£5,557.00
<b>TOTAL in month</b>				<b>£5,625.24</b>

### Accounts balances at 18th September 2023

Interest  
2023-24

#### Bulmer Parish Council

BPC Unity Trust Current account	£10,817.76	N/A
BPC Unity Trust Allotment Deposits	£332.11	£1.56

#### BPC Capital Reserves

BPC Unity Trust Deposit account	£26,213.07	£201.63
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	£31,211.46	£445.93
	<u>£57,424.53</u>	

### RECONCILED PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS AUGUST 2023

Aug-23		Payments in Month	Details	Amount
07-Aug	B/P	HMRC	475SA894912404	£94.00
25-Aug	B/P	Community Heartbeat Trust	4 x Defibrillators and posts	£12,360.00
31-Aug	B/P	E C Waters	Clerk pay August	£404.34
<b>TOTAL in month</b>				<b>£12,858.34</b>

Aug-23		Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
07-Aug		D Archer	Termination rent allotment 18D	£13.66
22-Aug		E L Holt	Defibrillator donation	£50.00
22-Aug		UK Power Networks	Lease Turnpike Piece substation	£250.00
31-Aug		HMRC	VAT reclaim 2022-23	£1,275.26
<b>TOTAL in month</b>				<b>£1,588.92</b>