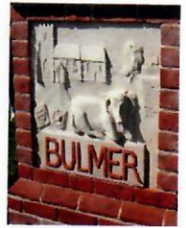




# Bulmer Parish Council



Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The meeting opened at 4.00pm

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

Present: Cllr M Crome, Cllr C Street and Cllr L Nicholls

Also Present – ECC Councillor David Finch, BDC Councillor Wendy Scattergood and Miss Ann C Wood (Locum Clerk). There was one Member of the Public present.

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting elected a Chairman for the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr C Street and seconded by Cllr L Nicholls that Cllr M Crome should chair the meeting. This was agreed.

## 037/2020 **Chairman's Welcome**

Cllr M Crome welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Cllr David Finch and Cllr Wendy Scattergood. It was noted that there was one member of the public present, Mr D Lawrence. Cllr Crome explained that the Chairman, Cllr R Raymond was unable to attend the meeting today and that she had given her apologies to the meeting.

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of taking minutes and that the recording will be deleted after the next meeting when the minutes have been agreed.

Those present were also be told that if the session times out, they should log in again with the same details.

## 038/2020 **Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr R Raymond and Cllr A Crawshay. It was noted that there had been no contact from Cllr E Penn and the Clerk was asked to contact her again.

## 039/2020 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr M Crome declared a non-pecuniary Interest relating to item 047/2020 Allotments, as he is an allotment holder.

## 040/2020 **To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Bulmer Parish Council**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were received and agreed. Proposed by Cllr L Nicholls, seconded by Cllr C Street and agreed unanimously

## 041/2020 **Public Participation Session**

Mr Lawrence had attended the meeting to speak about the speeding traffic through the village and particularly in Kitchen Hill/Batt Hall. Cllr M Crome had said that he had spent a long time negotiating with Essex Highways about 5/7 years ago for a speed limit. Unfortunately, the average speed did not warrant a 30/40mph limit and as there are only houses on one side of the road, it didn't meet the Essex Highways criteria for a speed restriction. Essex Highways installed the white gates at each end as a warning to drivers to slow down.

Essex County Cllr D Finch said that he had noticed that speeding seems to have been exacerbated during the lockdown. He said that the police could be asked to put up an advisory 30mph sign or Highways, a statutory 40mph sign. National Speed Limit signs would not necessarily be as effective as it might be hoped. Cllr Finch asked that he should be e.mailed about the matter and he will speak to the Highways officers. He did not think that the gates had been wasted.



# Bulmer Parish Council



042/2020

## Co-option

It was proposed by Cllr M Crome, seconded by Cllr C Street and agreed unanimously that Sarah Kershaw should be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Cllr S Kershaw joined the meeting and completed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the view of the Locum Clerk. This will be posted to the Locum Clerk for countersigning. Cllr S Kershaw will also complete a Register of Interests and send it to the Locum Clerk.

043/2020

## Essex County Councillors Report – Cllr D. Finch

Cllr Finch reported that HM Government is preparing to consult about the reform of local government and a White Paper is due to be issued in the Autumn. It is not known yet exactly what will be proposed but it is thought it is likely to be the creation of unitary authorities. Cllr Finch has written to the district authorities in Essex and they are due to meet on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. He has also spoken to six MPs representing Essex. Under such a reform, town and parish councils will be empowered instead of the district councils.

Cllr Finch reported that there is a £52-million shortfall in Essex County Council's income due to Covid-19, although some monies have been received from the Government. He noted that there is also pressure on the district councils, who have also suffered a fall in income. In October, the furlough scheme comes to an end and it will be in November/December when the fall-out from this will be seen.

A report has been produced about the Essex County Council response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and this will be sent to the Clerk for dissemination.

The Council thanked Cllr D Finch for his report and he left the meeting.

044/2020

## District Councillors Report – Cllr W. Scattergood

Cllr W Scattergood confirmed Cllr Finch's report that other authorities will be affected by a fall in income. For Braintree District Council, this will possibly be about £9 million.

The District Council is making headway in catching up with its planning applications and the officers are once again making site visits.

Cllr Scattergood also said that BT had managed to improve the broadband speeds in her location and hence why she has now been able to join the Bulmer Parish Council remote meeting.

The Council thanked Cllr W Scattergood for her report and she left the meeting.

045/2020

## Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

As the Chairman was not present at the meeting, there was no update report.

046/2020

## Clerks Report

| Minute Number            | Subject          | Action   |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| 016/2020 and<br>030/2020 | Internet Banking | Cllr M Crome asked about the progress on the internet banking and the Locum Clerk said that she will be progressing this matter as soon as possible. |



# Bulmer Parish Council



047/2020

## Representative reports / Parish Upkeep

Village Green – Cllr M Crome reported that the noticeboard repair and the Coe's Meadow signs had been agreed but had not yet been actioned.

Allotments - Cllr M Crome reported that there is a waiting list of 2 but there are currently no vacant plots.

Website Update – Cllr M Crome reported that he is continuing to work on the accessibility statement for the September 2020 meeting.

048/2020

## Finance

- To note income received by the Council in June 2020

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Barclays Business Savings Interest | £9.97 |
| CCLA Dividend Re-invested          | £8.81 |
- To ratify spending on five EALC Training Webinars for councillors (New Councillor Training and Playground Training) at a cost of £240.00. This was proposed by Cllr M Crome, seconded by Cllr L Nichols and agreed unanimously
- To agree payments to be made to

|   |
|---|
| Cheque 101537 – JPB Landscapes – Grass Cutting (£487.20)                |
| Cheque 101538 – Locum Clerk's Invoice for June 2020 (£493.64)           |
| Cheque 101539 – EALC – New Councillor and Playground Training (£240.00) |
| Cheque 101540 – Lyster & Assoc – Newsletter Printing (£66.00)           |

Proposed by Cllr M Crome, seconded by Cllr L Nichols and agreed unanimously
- Bank balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Barclays Current A/C          | £15063.12 |
| Barclays Business Savings A/C | £37135.89 |
| CCLA PSDF                     | £30678.17 |

049/2020

## CCLA

The Clerk reported that she had not been able to progress the request about the CCLA Investment Account.

050/2020

## Coe's Meadow

To receive a report from the Coe's Meadow Management Committee and to consider information and required actions for the re-opening of the Play Area

Cllr C Street reported that there are now 6 members of the Management Committee. There had been several informal meetings held to discuss an Action Plan to move forward. The pond will be cleared by volunteers from the Stour Valley Trust and they will also investigate the best way to take the matter forward. The trees need to be investigated and a report drawn up by an arboriculturist.

Cllr M Crome told the meeting that the volunteer was no longer emptying the bins but that someone else has volunteered to do it on a temporary basis.

Cllr L Nichols has looked at the RoSPA report on the equipment and noted actions to be taken. Two of these are to put new floor plating on the four rockers and to put metal shields around the legs of the equipment, to prevent strimmer damage.

Before the play equipment can be formally re-opened, a Covid-19 specific Risk assessment needs to be undertaken on the play equipment and Cllr C Street asked if the template could be sent to her.

Cllr M Crome proposed that £100.00 should be spent on installing a noticeboard on Coe's Meadow. This was seconded by Cllr L Nichols and unanimously agreed.



# Bulmer Parish Council



051/2020

## Planning Applications

20/00147/TPOCON - The Dower House Smeeham Hall Lane Bulmer Essex CO10 7EN – Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell T1-T4 Semi mature Scots Pines and Fell T5 Semi mature Sycamore tree - Update T1 to not be felled  
Braintree District Council says that notification of the application was sent to Bulmer Parish Council but this notification was not received. The application has been granted and no alterations can now be made. This was noted.

20/00479/FUL - Pump House Adjacent Ashbourne Cottage Smeeham Hall Lane Bulmer Essex - Demolition of existing Garages and erection of two dwelling houses, garages, access and landscaping and restoration of existing water pump station.

To note that the above application will be considered by the Planning Committee of Braintree District Council on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 7.15pm. The application was refused on the grounds that it is outside the village envelope and that the proposed development will encourage private car use. This was noted.

052/2020

## Telephone Box

The Council considered a reply to the consultation about the removal of the telephone box in Park Lane. It was proposed by Cllr M Crome, seconded by Cllr C Street and agreed unanimously that the following comments should be submitted:

Bulmer Parish Council strongly objects to the removal of this public telephone, on the following grounds:

1. The public telephone is the only one within 800 metres
2. There is an extremely unreliable mobile phone system in the location and indeed in most of the parish of Bulmer
3. The nearby A131 at Bulmer Fox is classed as an accident blackspot, where many accidents have occurred. Therefore, in emergencies, a land line may be needed if a mobile signal is not available
4. The adjacent allotment site is also subject to the unreliable mobile phone system and again a land line may be needed in the event of an emergency

If BT does decide to go ahead and remove the telephone apparatus, which it is strongly hoped that they do not, the Parish Council would like to be consulted on the possible purchase of the kiosk.

053/2020

## Personnel Committee

An advertisement for a permanent Clerk was considered. Cllr M Crome queried the hours but the Locum Clerk suggested that the post was advertised at 9 hours a week, subject to a review once the new Clerk is in place. It was agreed that the Locum Clerk or the Chairman's telephone number will be put at the bottom of the advert. It was agreed that the job should be advertised through EALC and SALC, with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and interviews to be held in mid-September 2020.

054/2020

## Salt Bag Scheme

It was confirmed that the reply to Essex County Council is that no salt is currently required but the Parish Council wants to continue in the scheme for 2020/2021.

055/2020

## Street Cleaning Agreement 2020/2021

Braintree District Council had sent the Street Cleaning Agreement 2020/2021 to the Parish Council and it was proposed that this should be agreed and accepted. Proposed by Cllr C Street, seconded by Cllr L Nichols and agreed unanimously.



# Bulmer Parish Council



056/2020

## Model Code of Conduct

The Council had looked at comments to be submitted by the NALC to the LGA Model Code of Conduct consultation. It was proposed that these comments should be supported and submitted by the closing date of 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Proposed by Cllr L Nichols, seconded by Cllr C Street and agreed unanimously.

057/2020

## Items for Next Agendas:

Coe's Meadow  
Internet Banking  
Face-to-Face Meetings

## Proposed Dates of future meetings:

Parish Council Meeting      21<sup>st</sup> September 2020  
Parish Council Meeting      6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

These dates will be confirmed as soon as possible

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 5.40pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed.....

**Cllr Rosemary Raymond**

..... 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020