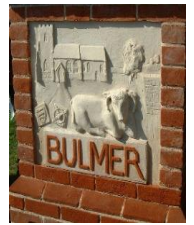




Bulmer Parish Council

Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)
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Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Monday 18th January 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, Crome, Kershaw, Nichols, Raymond, Street
In the Chair: Cllr Raymond
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: Cllr Wendy Scattergood BDC from 106/2020 to 115/2020

106/2020 Chairman's Welcome

107/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
There were no apologies for absence

108/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Crome declared an interest in item 117/2020 as an allotment holder. Cllr Raymond declared an interest in a planning application at item 122/2020 for a neighbouring property to her own.

109/2020 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF BULMER PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2020 were approved as a correct record of events. Remote arrangements will be made for them to be signed by the Chairman
Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

110/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION
There were no members of the public present.

111/2020 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR: Update on current vacancy
No applications for the current Councillor vacancy had been received.

112/2020 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr D. Finch
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Finch.

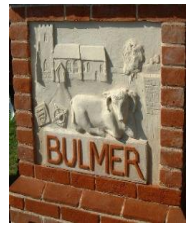
113/2020 HIGHWAYS: Speedwatch
Areas of priority concern including Batt Hall, Sudbury Road to Smeetham Hall Lane were considered. Cllr Crome suggested that speed watch needs at least 3 volunteers and can only be carried out in areas with an existing 30 or 40mph speed limit. Sudbury Road at that location has a 60mph speed limit.
Action: The clerk will investigate the options for speed watch with Cllr Finch and the Chief Constable, and also the possibility of an Essex Highways speed survey at Batt Hall

114/2020 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr W. Scattergood
Cllr Scattergood reported that many officers at BDC are ill with Covid-19 or isolating due to contact with colleagues who have the virus. Planning, enforcement and finance are particularly affected. In order to catch up with work backlogs, when the situation improves operational meetings will resume once a week instead of once a fortnight.
Refuse department staff are less depleted but coping with including fewer operatives in the cabs, so services may be slower but still meeting collection dates in most cases.
BDC Covid-19 updates are sent by email daily to the clerk and forwarded to Councillors
In answer to a question from Cllr Crome about the proposed mobile phone mast near Ryes Lane, Cllr Scattergood confirmed that a formal planning application had not yet been submitted.



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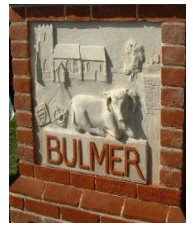
Cllr Scattergood also confirmed that the planning application for a new entrance at Heddingham Road (application 20/01112/FUL Proposed new access item 122/2020) is on the agenda for the Braintree Planning Committee meeting on 19th January. The meeting can be viewed online.
Cllr Scattergood left the meeting

- 115/2020 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT and any update since the last meeting**
Blocked drains at Ryes Lane had been cleared, but Cllr Raymond asked all Councillors to keep an eye on problem locations in the village in case flooding recurs.
Hedge trimmings cut and left at the roadside and in ditches by a utilities company, possibly BT, in various locations seem to have been mostly cleared away by residents.
Parish Council and Coes Meadow files stored at the Village Hall have not been accessible as the building is locked. Cllr Raymond has made arrangements to visit the Village Hall to find some necessary documentation for Coes Meadow Management Committee and will report back.
- 116/2020 CLERKS REPORT:**
North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) who are responsible for parking enforcement in the district have re-started face to face "surgeries" via video conferencing. Cllr Crome has booked a meeting for 19th January to ask for advice about dangerous parking at the bend at Church Road.
- 117/2020 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS / PARISH UPKEEP**
Covid-19 Support - Update on use of social media to communicate with residents. Cllr Kershaw had investigated village Facebook pages and the Bulmer Village Hall Facebook page is active and covers various subjects of village importance, so she felt that with permission from the administrator, this is a better forum for social media communication than setting up a separate page for the Parish Council.
Action: Cllr Street will contact the Facebook page administrator to discuss this option.
Allotment report update from Cllr Crome – There are 2 residents on the allotment waiting list with no plots available, but this may change in the spring as allotment holders review plans. The allotment gate at Turnpike Piece has again been repaired by Peter Fulcher, but will be looked at again when the weather is drier as a major repair or replacement gate may be needed.
- 118/2020 COES MEADOW**
To decide on Bulmer Parish Council actions arising from the Coes Meadow Management Committee Public Meeting of 14th January 2021
- **Contact details:** all Committee members had sent their preferred contact details for access by members of the public to Cllr Crome and the clerk, so contact lists and the website can be updated
 - **Tree work:** In addition to a quote from the tree surgeon of £225 to fell two willows and cut down the willow arch, also considered was a previous quote of £375 to lift crowns of the Lime avenue to approx 8 - 9ft and cut back base growth, and £225 to trim tops of laurel hedge and facing sides with hedge cutters. The tree surgeon can work at Bulmer on Wednesday 20th January
- RESOLVED:** Due to budget constraints, to authorise work on the Lime avenue as the current priority, and plan other tree work for later in the year or use volunteer help.
Proposed: Cllr Raymond **Seconded:** Cllr Crome Agreed unanimously
- 119/2020 OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN**
To agree updates to the Open Spaces Action plan for the 2021 edition. The OSAP determines how Bulmer Parish Council can spend S106 money which is held by Braintree District Council as a contribution to open spaces from housing development previously approved in the parish.
- **Coes Meadow:** Improvements to car park surface, gates, goalposts and net, basketball surface, benches, signage and general play equipment. New climbing equipment and boules pit



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- **Allotments** Turnpike Piece – add “installation of new gate”
Action: The clerk will amend the OSAP update form and circulate to Councillors for final approval before submitting to BDC by the deadline of 1st February. Cllr Raymond agreed that due to lockdown restrictions, in place of the required Chairman’s signature the clerk will sign the update form as Proper Officer of the Parish Council.

120/2020

FINANCE

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

Dec-20	
NONE	
Jan-21	
Mr Eyup Baz Allotment plot 10	£22.60

- **To ratify payments made since the last meeting**

Dec-20	
JPB Landscapes Ltd - Grass Cutting October	£309.60
Earthworks Scythe mowing Coe's Meadow	£54.00
EALC Councillor Training Days 1&2, AC SK LN November	£648.00
EALC Councillor Training Days 1&2, CS January	£216.00
Suffolk County Council Dedham Vale AONB	£200.00
Clerk pay Oct to Dec 2020	£1,060.19
HMRC PAYE Oct to Dec 2020	£156.00
DM Payroll Services Payroll 2020-2021	£120.00
Wave Water - Allotments	£94.14
Unity Trust Service Charge	£18.00

- **To agree payments to be made:**

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

Jan-21	
Lyster & Assoc - Newsletter Printing October	£66.00
Cllr R Raymond. Flowers, bereavement gift for ex Cllr	£43.97

- **Bank balances as at 11th January 2021**

Barclays Current A/C	CLOSED
Unity Trust Current A/C	£11,945.14
Barclays Business Savings A/C	To be confirmed
CCLA PSDF	£30,701.60

Action: Clerk to chase change of contact details with Barclays, requested in November

- **Unity Trust Bank Account** – The new online bank account is now fully open. The clerk is the named key contact, authorised signatories are Cllrs R Raymond, M Crome, A Crawshay, L Nichols.

121/2020

FINANCE

- **To agree the Bulmer Parish Council budget for the financial year 2021-2022**

The proposed expenditure budget was presented by the clerk with an explanation of items including employment costs which are estimated. Other items can be predicted more accurately. More accurate expenditure predictions will be calculated at the 2020-2021 financial year end.

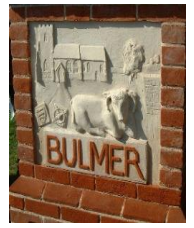
RESOLVED: To approve the proposed expenditure budget for 2021-2022

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



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- **To agree the Bulmer Parish Council precept request to BDC for 2021-2022**

The Parish precept is used to support and maintain the fabric of Bulmer. Parish Councillors are unpaid elected volunteers and are not entitled to any income other than essential expenses. In deciding the 2021-2022 precept request, Councillors considered economic pressures for residents during the difficult circumstances in 2020-2021. Other factors taken into account included reduction in government grants to Parish Councils since 2015 (now zero since 2019) and the possibility that government may introduce "referendum principles" to Parish Councils in future years preventing a precept increase of over 2% without a local referendum. A referendum would add unwanted cost and increase the precept by an even higher percentage.

RESOLVED: To request an increase on the precept of 2%, which means the annual cost to a Band D property will be £38.34 next year. This represents an increase of 75p per year for the average household. The cost to Bands A to C properties will be less than this.

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously
In answer to a question from Cllr Nichols, the clerk confirmed that a VAT reclaim is due and the reclaimed amount will be used as contingency in case of unforeseen expenditure e.g. an election.

122/2020

PLANNING: applications received for comment

RESOLVED: To ratify decisions on all Planning Applications *en bloc*, as they had previously been agreed by email and the Parish Council response submitted to Braintree Planning

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

20/01962/HH Conversion of garage to include new roof to create new hobby room and storage area above, including a Juliet balcony.
Polrudden Finch Hill CO10 7EX *Decision ratified: No objections*

20/00419/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 2 Willow trees (a), Coppice Willow arch (b), faceback overhanging branches (mixed hedge) (c) and cut down thorn thicket (d)
Coes Meadow Bulmer Street *Interest declared: No objections*

20/00437/TPO Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 12/82 - T4 - Trim back lower branches lift the crown over driveway control growth towards house and T2 - Remove overhanging low branches from neighbouring property Polrudden Finch Hill CO10 7EX. *Decision ratified: No objections*

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 *Decision ratified: No objections*

20/01112/FUL Proposed new access
Land South Of Hedingham Road
The application will be considered by the Planning Committee on 19 January at 7.15pm.
The Parish Council has sent a written statement to the Planning Committee requesting that if the new access is approved, the existing access at a dangerous location is closed.

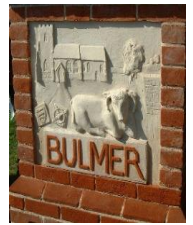
Notification of Planning Appeal

20/01249/FUL Demolition of existing garages and erection of two dwellings, garages access and landscaping and restoration of existing pump station
Pump House Adjacent Ashbourne Cottage, Smeetham Hall Lane
Previous comments raising no objection have been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate



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- 123/2020 PLANNING: applications determined**
20/01679/HH Erection of single bay cart lodge with open lean to
 Inglefield Bulmer Street CO10 7EW *Application PERMITTED*
- 20/01673/HH** Erection of Cart Lodge
 Laundry Cottage Church Road CO10 7EL *Application PERMITTED*
- 20/01744/HH** Proposed single storey side extension, roof alterations and balcony.
 Oakview Finch Hill CO10 7EX *Application PERMITTED*
- 124/2020 BRAintree PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION**
 BDC minutes 7th December detailing decision on revised scheme of delegation are available
 here:
<https://braintree.cmis.uk.com/braintree/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/816/Committee/2/Default.aspx> n
- 125/2020 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**
 Please advise the Parish Clerk by Monday 8th March 2021 of items for the March agenda
- **Coes Meadow Management Committee** Decisions to be taken following planned public meeting of CMMC on **Thursday 4th March 2021** via Zoom video conferencing.
 - **Coes Meadow Management Committee:** Confirmation of appointment of secretary and treasurer

126/2020 MEETING DATES FOR 2021
All meetings will continue via Zoom video conferencing until further notice.

15th March 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	via Zoom video conferencing
17th May 2021	Annual Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
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

Councillors: Cllr Antonia Crawshay Cllr Mike Crome Cllr Sarah Kershaw
Cllr Laurence Nichols Cllr Rose Raymond Cllr Christine Street
VACANT POSITION

Copy to: **County Councillor:** Cllr David Finch
District Councillor: Cllr Wendy Scattergood

The meeting closed at 8.34pm

Signed..... 18th January 2021
Cllr Rosemary Raymond