



What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer - September 2012

(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Rd & Hedingham Road). View in colour at www.bulmeressex.co.uk

Bulmer Street collapses.....

A relatively small culvert was spotted in July soon after it first appeared, and Essex County Council Highways (ECCH) were informed. Within 45 minutes ECCH were on site to inspect the culvert and establish a plan of action. After much investigation and excavation, eventually a hole large enough to fit a family sized car had been made.

The cause was found to be an underground spring protected by a 'french drain' had collapsed. This has now been repaired and the hole filled before the road was resurfaced.

~~~~~



## A Grain Lorry causes Church Road to be blocked.



Then on Saturday morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> August a grain lorry carrying 30 tons of **Rapeseed (*Brassica napus*)** was negotiating its way passed a parked vehicle and thinking it was a grass verge at the side of the road, it turned out to be a ditch causing the lorry to slip into the ditch. An extremely large tow truck with many wheels was called in to tow it out.

Fortunately there was no damage caused to the road surface.

## OIL SCHEMES TO REDUCE HEATING COSTS

There are now at least three schemes operating within Bulmer that can help with your oil heating bills. The first is one that will deliver small quantities of less than 500 litres.

**Badger Fuels Limited** - Heating Oil - 100, 200 or 300 litres - Your **SMALL** delivery specialist!  
0758 269 1111



[badgerfuels@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:badgerfuels@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.badgerfuels.com](http://www.badgerfuels.com)

The second is one run by the **Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE)**



RCCE launched a new countywide, Community based oil-buying scheme in April to help communities reduce their fuel bills. Established as a social enterprise through RCCE Trading Community Interest Co., the scheme is **open to anyone for a modest annual membership fee (£20)**, which covers as many oil orders, as you need during the course of the year.

By bringing communities throughout Essex together and making the most of joint buying power, we can make savings and pass them directly to people like you whose fuel costs are high simply because you use oil-fired central heating. As part of a growing national network syndicate, with RCC's in other counties across the country taking part, there will be even greater potential in harnessing the purchasing power of the many rural communities who are without mains gas. A co-ordinated delivery reduces tanker journeys, which brings environmental benefits too.

Experience has already shown it's possible for oil-buyers to get a discount of around £40 to £50 on a single order. But in May our members paid 52.82p per litre, against an average price of 59p per litre and a highest price of 69p per litre (+5% VAT to all prices). This means that on a 1000 litre order members saved over £60 against the average price quoted, and a whopping £160 against the highest price!

For further information about the scheme, becoming a member, please contact us:

**OIL** Tel No: 01376 574340

Email: [oil@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:oil@essexrcc.org.uk)

Oil Scheme section of RCCE website

[www.essexrcc.org.uk](http://www.essexrcc.org.uk)

~ ~ ~

Thirdly, is the **Foxearth Oil Buying Group**

This group has been set up to use the power of bulk buying to save money on central heating oil and is open to any resident of Borley, Foxearth, Liston, Pentlow and **Bulmer**.

To become a member (no membership fees) all you need to do is send details as below when agreeing to join. An order is placed once a month (only if you

need to order) throughout autumn to spring and once in the summer.

**The group works as follows: -**

When you need oil, e-mail with the details of your requirements (**min 700 litres**). You do not need to order each month, only when you need it! Your order will be acknowledged by e-mail. If no response is received within a couple of days it is probable your order has not been received, please resend.

When the cut off date has passed contact will be made to various suppliers and the groups order placed with the cheapest one. When the order has been placed you will receive an e-mail (whether you have ordered or not so you can see the way prices are going) with the name of the supplier, the delivery date and the agreed price (which is the same for everybody regardless of the quantity you order-provided it is **at least 700 litres**).

That is the end of the group's involvement. The supplier will contact you regarding payment and delivery. You pay them direct. Most will accept debit/credit cards.

**If you want to join, send an e-mail to Barrie Phillpotts [barrie.phillpotts@cbb4u.co.uk](mailto:barrie.phillpotts@cbb4u.co.uk)**

confirming: - Your wish to become a member; Your full name, Full address including post code, Tele numbers- landline and mobile, The quantity your tank holds (if known), The position of the tank (front, back, left side, right side, of house etc)

Your e-mail address (this can be your work if the boss allows it!)

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR ADVICE ON THE SECURITY OF YOUR OIL**

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL HAS A VACANCY

Would you like to have a say in how the Parish Council should manage the village? Perhaps you have ideas on how the area could be improved or how residents' money is better spent. If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then please contact the Parish Clerk, Hannah Fraser on 374310 or email [hannah.fraser@sky.com](mailto:hannah.fraser@sky.com) for more details. Or speak to any of your current Councillors, their details can be found in the Parish Council section of all editions of 'What's On'.

## COE'S MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Another piece of equipment (see-saw) has been ordered and will soon be installed.

However the committee is seeking new members. If

you are interested in joining this group in maintaining this excellent village facility, then Chris. Leigh would be very pleased to hear from you on 378133, all ages are welcome.



If perhaps you do not want to join the committee but would be willing to assist with opening and closing the field gates, then please contact Chris. Leigh. The field is due shortly for its annual ROSPA inspection, and the committee has also entered the field to be considered for a ROSPA award.

~~~~~

BULMER SKYLARKS

Our Jubilee celebrations took place at our June meeting and our ladies and gentlemen arrived dressed for the occasion in red, white and blue. Before we sat down to a 1950's style tea we welcomed our very special "Royal" guests who shook

everyone by the hand and managed to chat to every member! Following tea we held our Jubilympics with events such as a fruit gum suck, and a balloon relay. Our male "Royal" visitor who seemed to enjoy that part of the proceedings presented Gold, Silver and Bronze medals!



We held our Ladies Day at the Races event in July and once again our members arrived in magnificent hats and outfits. The racing was very noisy and we wondered if the Pimms was to blame! Following the racing, a strawberry tea was enjoyed by all. The last 3 meetings of the year will find us hearing about old sayings and their meanings, listening to a performance from hand bell ringers and enjoying our Christmas Lunch with the children at St. Andrew's school.

If you would like to know more about us please ring Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758 or come along to a meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month in the Village Hall 2pm until 4pm.

~~~~~

**VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

Although we have not been organising any events this summer we have been busy working to improve the Village Hall for your convenience and comfort. We had received requests to improve the seating as the chairs in the main Hall were cold and uncomfortable. We hope you like the new padded ones, which now match the ones in the back Committee Room.

We have two events planned for the autumn. The first will be on October 12th when we will be holding our very popular **BARN DANCE**. This is a fun evening and the ability to dance is not essential. Two legs are all that is required and "two left feet" can sometimes be an advantage! A ploughman's supper will be served during the evening. Tickets can be obtained from Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758.

Our last event for the year will be on Friday 23rd November and will see the return of the much-requested **QUIZ NIGHT**. Once again Dave and Becky will be setting the questions and after last years "Chocolate Tasting" round we wonder what they will have in store for us this year. Fish and Chips will be served in the interval and all you have to do is book a table (max 6 people) and come along and enjoy the evening. To book a table please ring Maggie on 374758.

Watch out for notices on the Parish notice boards or on the website – [www.bulmeressex.co.uk](http://www.bulmeressex.co.uk)

~~~~~

BULMER NATURE DIARIES

In the last What's On, I showed Jess Davies picture of the Hornet Clearwing Moth. Since then we have encountered another clearwing, the Red Belted Clearwing Moth, rather a strange looking creature.

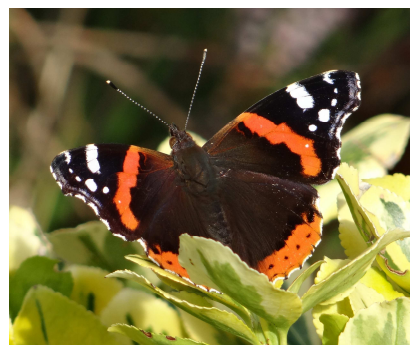


Wendy found it in a hedge at Alphamstone. Less than three-quarters of an inch long, we were convinced that it was some kind of fly, before we looked more carefully.

With the days shortening, hinting menacingly of the short, dark days of winter just around the corner, one can't help wondering if we have really had a summer at all. Let's hope for an old fashioned "Indian Summer", to make amends for the sunny days that we have been starved of.

The weather certainly hasn't suited many of the insect tribe, except perhaps those like mosquitoes, which delight in breeding in static water. There's been no lack of puddles and stagnant pools for them to lay their eggs in, bringing about an increase in the number of mosquito bites being treated, according to the media. Blackfly is another that seems to have flourished; our cherry tree was poisoned with them at the end of July. These Blackfly are "farmed" by ants, which collect the sweet honeydew, which the Blackfly exude. Not only this, the ants actually move some of the Blackfly on to fresh plant growths to start up fresh colonies of them to increase their supply of honey dew. This resulted in more Blackfly infestation, which in turn led to an explosion in the numbers of their number one predators, Ladybirds. I counted over thirty larvae of the Seven Spot Ladybird in one small area.

Butterflies have been badly hit by the miserable weather, only the likes of Orange Tip and Brimstone, which emerge early in the year, have appeared in anything like normal numbers.



The Blues, Skippers and Browns have all suffered a big drop in numbers. Things have looked up in the past couple of weeks, with Speckled Woods, Small Coppers and Red Admirals turning up in reasonable numbers.

However, in late July we spotted some butterflies flitting about in the very top of some oak trees in Deal Nursery. Binoculars revealed them to be Purple Hairstreaks, not that common, but often overlooked as they only seldom come down from the canopy to be noticed.

Tony Minter tells me that they also get them in oaks around the Brickyard, which is not far from where we saw them. But then, the Brickyard is a haven for all manner of wildlife.

Most importantly, it seems to be a hotspot for Spotted Flycatchers, which are causing great concern as their numbers are plummeting nationally. No less than four pairs nested around the yard this year



(The bird pictured nested in Sandy and Allen Burbidge's garden a few years ago). We were also shown one of the three Treecreepers nests, which they had discovered. Across the road from the Brickyard, beside the track to Butlers Hall was a fine patch of Harebells. On the adjoining field Corn Marigold and Vipers Bugloss were in flower. These are native to the site, but seed has introduced the Corn Cockle and Cornflower that could also be seen.

Talking to a beekeeper from Lamarsh and expecting to have to commiserate with her about her honey crop, (having assumed that the miserable weather would have hampered the bees in their search for nectar). I was astounded when she assured me that they had produced a bumper crop. She put this down to the fact that the cool wet weather had delayed, but also extended the flowering season of practically all plants, which meant that whenever the weather was suitable for the bees to be abroad, there was always a good selection of nectar bearing flowers close at hand for them. Certainly the oil seed rape was in flower for weeks longer than normally.

Bulmer History had a most enjoyable and interesting visit to Daws Hall nature reserve in June. There was a very fleeting glimpse of a Badger for a couple of the party, but it obviously didn't like the look of us and disappeared for longer than our Patience endured! A couple of weeks later, Sarah who had guided us around phoned to ask if Wendy and I would like to go on a Badger watch. We turned up on an unsettled evening, with rain threatening. It was comfortable enough sitting in the Plastic stacking chairs --- but then it started to rain, and how! We did see the Badgers; indeed a young one was scoffing peanuts

practically under our feet. In all we saw five of them, three adults and two young. Quite an unforgettable experience, especially as we were literally sitting in water, I have only been wetter in a bath.

We thought that we were in for a good crop of cobnuts, but the local Grey Squirrels had other ideas. The one pictured had just buried a nut in the lawn. Talking of nuts, Hazel nuts weren't the nuts referred to in the old jingle "Here we go gathering nuts in May". This was not



just a nonsense rhyme, but probably referred to the underground tubers of the Pig Nut, an Umbellifer, they still grows in Parsons Wood. As kids, we used to dig them up. They had a sweet, earthy taste. It was good to find a large patch of them still growing when we surveyed the wood last summer, as they are far from common now. Another rarely found plant we discovered flowering there, is Slender St. Johnswort. Lily of the Valley was the flower that we were really hoping to find in the wood, they were certainly surviving there up to the 1950s, but we had no luck in our search. Anyone with memories of them?

Last Weekend we had an afternoon of "threes", when we decided to go and seek out some blackberries. By the side of Brakey Hill we found some plump, juicy beauties. We were busily picking these, when we were aware of some loud mewling coming from the wood. Looking up we spied three Buzzards circling overhead. On Little Dean Spinney three Comma Butterflies were feasting on the juice of some over ripe blackberries and when we arrived home, discovered that we had picked just three pounds of fruit.

Peter Rowe

~~~~~

### **BONFIRES – A REMINDER**

There are no times when you can or can't have a bonfire.

However, limit smoke and burn only dry material. Never burn household rubbish or rubber tyres or use oil to light the fire.

Never light a fire in unsuitable weather conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the early evening.

**Never burn when the wind will carry the smoke over roads or other people's property.** Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens. Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder - douse it with water if necessary.



**Legal controls**

A statutory nuisance is generally considered to be an act that is persistent or likely to recur, is a cause of material harm, or interferes substantially with the well being, comfort or enjoyment of a neighbour. Causing a statutory smoke nuisance will result in the service of a legal notice. Failure to comply with the notice can result in prosecution.

Smoke can also obscure on the roads. Under the Highways (Amendment) Act 1986 anyone lighting a fire may be guilty of an offence if road user's visibility is seriously affected.

*For further information contact:*

*The Environmental Services Dept., Braintree District Council. Telephone: (01376) 551414 Ext. 2223 or go to*

[www.braintree.gov.uk/downloads/file/1254/bonfires\\_leaflet](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/downloads/file/1254/bonfires_leaflet) to download a leaflet giving full advice.

~~~~~

VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. It is a vital fundraiser for your village hall. Are you a member? The more members the more funds for the village Hall and the bigger the prize!

Month	First	Second	Third
July	Mrs E Mack	Mr J Mortimer	Mrs K Macaree
Aug.	Mr & Mrs C Bennett	Mr & Mrs K Mills	Mr & Mrs B Smiles
Sept.	Mr D Neil	Mrs L Burns	Mr & Mrs B Smiles

Please support your village hall and contact Dawn at the Post Office (376676) if you would like to join.

~~~~~

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**YOUR COUNCILLORS**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Mike Crome (Chairman)         | - 01787 378155 |
| Peter Fulcher (Vice Chairman) | - 01787 269935 |
| Stephen Morgan                | - 07973 341048 |
| Chris. Leigh                  | - 01787 378133 |
| Bethan Cook                   | - 01787 370435 |
| Rose Raymond                  | - 07813 205743 |
| VACANCY (This could be you?)  |                |

Hannah Fraser (Parish Clerk) - 01787 374310

**DATES OF FUTURE PARISH MEETINGS**

All meetings are bi-monthly, normally held on the second Friday of the month in the Village Hall at 7:45pm

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2012 |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2013 |

All parishioners are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for questions from the floor.

**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at the Village Hall, at 7.45pm**

*These minutes are unapproved until the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November*

**Present**

Cllrs. Crome, Fulcher, Leigh, Morgan, Raymond, CCllr. Finch; Mrs H. Fraser (Clerk); 5 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Cook and DCllr. Swift.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Leigh declared that as she was the applicant, she had an interest in the planning application for Langley Cottage.

**3. Public Question Time**

A parishioner raised the matter of a blocked drain on the sharp bend by No.10 Church Road. The Clerk was asked to email the details to CCllr. Finch, who will pursue the matter with Highways.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Fulcher and seconded by Cllr. Leigh; the vote was unanimously in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**5. Matters Arising**

The Chairman asked that, in the absence of Cllr. Cook, that the subject of a village Facebook page was added to the November agenda.

**6. District & County Council Updates**

CCllr. Finch suggested that his short report, previously emailed to the clerk, be put on the village noticeboard & website ([www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)), and noted the following points:

The mobile library is now offering over 400 free online courses.

Essex County Council now publishes online all expenses over £1.

The bus pass application process has been centralised.

Under the Localism Act smaller parishes may lease small pieces of unused land from ECC.

11 million pounds has been earmarked for potholes and carriageway repairs.

The Local Highways panel is meeting in November – the application for the A131 speed restriction at Bulmer Tye is to be heard, and if data analysis concurs, is likely to go through.

CCllr. Finch invited questions:

Parishioners raised the issue of parking at both corners of the 'dog-leg' of Church Road. There was much concern about speeding, and the dangers to the schoolchildren and elderly, and it was suggested that there are not sufficient pavements or lighting. Cllr. Finch and the Chairman confirmed the ongoing meetings with police and Greenfields about the issue outside No.10 and assured residents that the situation was being monitored. It is possible to put the SID device up at this location. Cllr. Finch confirmed that the Government is considering reducing rural speed limits from the blanket 60mph, and that the county council is looking at 20mph zones near schools. He noted that speed humps require their own lighting, and that rumble strips cause considerable noise. The chairman noted that Church Road only has an advisory 7.5T weight limit for Bardfield Bridge.

Cllr. Morgan is to email the correspondence about Blacksmith's Lane potholes to Cllr. Finch. CCllr. Finch left the meeting at this point.

## 7. Coe's Meadow Report

Cllr. Leigh had circulated a written report (appendix A). The Coe's Meadow committee wished to retain the standpipe for use when power-washing the play equipment. A special motion will be raised for the November meeting. A new see-saw has been purchased, suitable for older children. Cllr. Leigh would like to put an advert in the next What's On, for new CMMC committee members, and for volunteers for working parties and to open and close the gates. The chairman thanked CMMC for their hard work. Cllr. Leigh asked the clerk to add the CMMC £125 Jubilee donation to the accounts.

## 8. Allotments report

Cllr. Morgan had circulated a written report (appendix B). Cllr. Morgan noted that the strimmer has had two recent repairs and proposed purchasing a heavy-duty strimmer. He is to look into costs. Cllr. Fulcher agreed that they should consider strimming more frequently so that the task was not so difficult.

A drainage meeting took place to discuss what was needed, in preparation for a possible grant application. It was suggested then that the parish council could cover materials to about £300 if the two residents wished to put in their own drainage. This has been done and the clerk is awaiting the invoice. Cllr. Leigh proposed and Cllr. Fulcher seconded that the parish council cover the materials cost to this amount and the vote was unanimous.

The clerk and Mrs Rawlins are working on letters to allotment holders about water bills.

There had been a suggestion about reducing the height of the hedge between the allotments and Park Lane. Two emails had been received, both of which were strongly against this suggestion, due to the visual screening from the allotment sheds etc. and the noise from the A131. The suggestion was that if someone wished to rent the plot next to the hedge, they would be responsible for cutting the hedge and that would be difficult if it was over 3m high. It was agreed that the clerk would find out the cost implications and then write to Park Lane residents to gather their views, before the matter is discussed at the November meeting.

## 9. Clerk's report

The clerk had previously circulated her report (appendix C). The clerk is to press ahead on Bakers' Field Lease and First Aid Training.

The Annual Return has been received back from the Audit Commission with no corrections. It was confirmed by the Audit Commission that our next annual audit will be carried out by Littlejohn LLP. The clerk is to email the Register of Interest form to Cllr. Raymond.

The clerk is to email the EALC training available dates to councillors.

## 10. Planning

**1 Vicars Orchard** – this is for building regulations only – and has been granted.

**Goldingham Hall** – this is a retrospective application (non-planning).

**The Bungalow, The Street** – councillors had been concerned that the garages are outside the village envelope. The report from BDC did not favour

garages at the front of the site due to the character of the area.

**Langley Cottage** – this is an amendment from a dark stain to a clear varnish.

**St Andrew's Church** – disabled access – this has been granted.

The clerk was asked to contact the Tree Warden about the path between the Lime Avenue and the corner of Vicars Orchard – the tarmac is breaking up due to tree roots.

## 11. Receipts and Payments

A balance in hand sheet had been circulated (appendix D). The cheques were signed.

The capital investments were reviewed. The clerk had circulated such details as received from Co-op, Scottish Widows and Unity Trust. The clerk is to check whether the Scottish Widows account is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. The Chairman proposed and Cllr. Leigh seconded that the accounts were put in order preference of Scottish Widows, Unity Trust and Co-op and that the clerk should open an account when assurance of FSCS was received. The vote was unanimously in favour. Cllr. Fulcher proposed and the Chairman seconded that the total balance of savings in the Barclays account should be moved (£70,000) rather than the minimum (£50,000). The vote was unanimously in favour.

A contribution of £100 toward the Jubilee costs has been received from BVHMC. This is lower than originally expected due to expenses occurred by the village hall.

The clerk was asked, for the upcoming budget meeting, to estimate her costs of electricity usage as per her home working. Cllr. Leigh noted that under S106 and the building of homes at The Bungalow, the council may receive £5,000 for Open Spaces.

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Balance in hand (£) | 106,059.40<br>(Jun:108,091.34) |
| <b>Debtors</b>      |                                |
| VAT reimburseme nt  | 1041.81                        |

| Receipts                              | Invoice no. |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| BVHMC: 100 new chairs (reimbursement) | 4           | 2,150.00        |
| Allotment rent: Mr Byford             | BR          | 2.60            |
| Allotment rent: Mr Madigan            | BR          | 15.35           |
| Interest                              |             | 5.30            |
| HSBC BVHMC Jubilee contribution       |             | 100.00          |
| ECC Parish Paths Grant 2012-13        | 5           | 150.00          |
| <b>TOTAL (£)</b>                      |             | <b>2,423.25</b> |

| Payments                |                                   | chq |                 |          | in budget? |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------------|----------|------------|
| Sudbury Office Supplies | 100 chairs for BVHMC              | 94  | 2580.00         | inc VA T | Over       |
| Chilton Office Supplies | Newsletter & paper                | 95  | 87.47           | inc VA T | under      |
| Bulmer PCC              | Donation re: Jubilee photocopying | 96  | 50.00           |          |            |
| Mrs A Staveley          | Donation re: Jubilee donkey rides | 97  | 25.00           |          |            |
| Mrs H L Fraser          | Salary & expenses Jul & Aug       | 98  | 563.30          |          |            |
| Mortimers               | Grass cutting Jul & Aug           | 99  | 886.80          | inc VA T |            |
| Mr A J Dixey            | Allotment signs & roots           | 100 | 125.00          |          |            |
| Audit Commission        | Audit fee 2011-12                 | 101 | 162.00          | inc VA T | on         |
| BALC                    | Subscription 2012-13              | 102 | 18.00           |          |            |
| R&R Lawnmowers          | Strimmer repair                   | 103 | 43.66           | inc VA T |            |
| Ms S Theobald           | Allotment rent refund             | 104 | 14.30           |          |            |
| Mrs R Raymond           | Petrol for strimmer               | 105 | 20.17           | inc VA T |            |
| <b>TOTAL (£)</b>        |                                   |     | <b>4,575.70</b> |          |            |

**12. Co-option of new councillor.**

The Chairman asked if there were any parishioners coming forward to fill the vacancy. It was felt by some councillors that meetings being on Fridays might put volunteers off. The vacancy will be advertised in What's On. The clerk is to put the matter of days of meetings on the next appropriate agenda.

**13. Speeding limit application for the A131.**

This item had already been covered under the question time of CClr Finch (item 6). The Chairman added that Essex Highways are going to site another speed trap at the Tye in the next two weeks.

**14. Greenfields parking - update**

The Chairman confirmed that he had been discussing the matter with Paul Partridge at BDC, and that he will be meeting with police to visit the Bulmer Greenfield sites. Greenfields residents can vote on upcoming projects – 2 are suggested for Bulmer: parking near No. 10 and a pavement in front of the bungalows (No. 15 onwards). The clerk was asked to write to the Halstead Greenfields Area Forum to support these projects, and to ask how the voting will be weighted, as Bulmer has a small number of residents involved, and also to note that the parking issue has been a problem for several years.

**15. BT Phone Box – The Street**

A parishioner had contacted the parish council asking for the phone box to be removed. This matter has arisen before, and was debated again. It was felt that since mobile reception is poor, it is more responsible to keep a phone box near the play area of Coe's

Meadow. It was proposed by Cllr. Leigh and seconded by Cllr. Fulcher that the phone box be retained, but that the Coe's Meadow committee will be responsible for cleaning and maintenance. The vote was unanimously in favour. A working party will be set up in due course.

**16.** Correspondence not covered under previous items

**C1:** Electricity quote for Dean's Field – it was felt that the quote for undergrounding a supply was extremely high (£10,000). A second generator would cost in the region of £300. The clerk was asked to write to Lisa Brett (tenant) to convey that the parish council would be happy to provide a generator but would increase the rent over a 5-year period to cover the cost.

**C4:** The Chairman is to attend the EALC AGM.

**C15:** Edible Essex grants – It was agreed that the clerk should draft an application for a grant to create 12 further allotment plots, at a cost of approximately £150 per plot, and to liaise with Cllr. Morgan thereon.

**C21:** Mortimers extra grass cutting – It was felt that the budget was already considerable for grass cutting. It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan and seconded by Cllr. Leigh that the council could afford one further cut of just Coe's Meadow only. The vote was unanimously in favour.

**R25:** RCCE oil scheme – this is to be mentioned in What's On.

20. Items for the next agenda - Parish Council facebook page.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

For all the latest news from your Parish Council, log on to [www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)

**PARISH PATHS WALKS**

After all the rain, some footpaths have featured head high undergrowth on walks beyond our parish boundaries. The overhead power line work has caused quite a few paths to be closed - for how long I am not sure so these next walks are both to the north of Bulmer.



Be prepared. Winter usually brings mud and puddles. Both walks are suitable for adult accompanied children as well as dogs on fixed leads.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm**

"Brundon & the Water Meadows"  
Distance 5 miles.  
Meet at Finch Hill end of Smeetham Hall Lane.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**

"Melford, Liston & the Works"  
Distance 4 miles.  
Meet at public car park beside the Old School, Long Melford.

A walk for Christmas or the New Year will be advertised nearer the time.

Further details on all walks from Margaret Mills 269377.

## CRAFT DAY

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 9.30 till tea time in Bulmer Village Hall**

Booking is essential  
A day to come along and craft with a friendly bunch of people.  
Some materials will be supplied along with refreshments.



It's a day where you can come and make Christmas cards, goodies, or if you prefer just to scrapbook, knit, sew, crochet that is fine too.  
There is a friendly bunch of people and you can share ideas and have a fun day out.  
There will be a raffle and free bingo if enough attend.  
The cost of the whole day is only £12.  
Please call or email me to book ASAP, as places are limited. Booking is essential.  
07732 372 658

[Tina.kelson@btconnect.com](mailto:Tina.kelson@btconnect.com)

This event is mainly for adults/teenagers, as we cannot care for children.

However, if there is enough interest I would consider running a separate, shorter event for younger ones to come with mum or dad.

~~~~~

HEATING OIL SECURITY

As it comes to the time when you are thinking about topping up your heating oil tank for winter, with the value of fuel it is worth considering its security.

In the more isolated parts of the countryside it is primarily domestic properties that have been targeted by the heating oil thieves, but we have also seen such thefts at farms and other businesses.

There are a number of security devices available that will protect your fuel supplies - details of which can be found via your fuel supplier or local plumber's merchant. One such system is "GPRS Fuel-Oil Alarm" from www.compoundsecurity.co.uk, which has "Secured by Design" accreditation; this detects a dramatic drop in fuel and calls you on the telephone. There are also other systems that will add on to an existing intruder alarm system, whilst others protect the filler cap and there are of course the conventional locks.

Another consideration would be defensive planting around the tank, concealing it and restricting access to it by gates or fencing, and where possible locating the tank under lighting in view of lived in rooms within the house.

The Illusion of occupancy

As the nights draw in earlier don't forget to use table lamps on timers, and there is a product called "Fake TV" that produces lighting that resembles a television being switched on within a room www.immobilise.com, you can also record serial numbers of products here free or charge. Consider installing external "Dusk till dawn" lighting and remember to secure those gates closed and lock up correctly.

If you would like any advice regarding security please do not hesitate to contact your local Crime Reduction Advisor by using the 101 non-emergency telephone number. Naturally we also ask locals to report any unusual activity to police in an emergency on 999 or after the event on 101 or to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Stephen Armson-Smith

Crime Reduction Advisor for the Braintree District

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

Essex County Council's original SCI for Minerals & Waste Planning was adopted in 2009. This set out how we would consult the people and businesses of Essex on our future policies for minerals, waste and County Council development, and in determining planning applications in accordance with these policies.

Since then, progress has been rapid. Consultations on the forthcoming Minerals Local Plan and Waste Local Plan have been carried out in accordance with the SCI, and reviewed by monitoring reports each year. These reports have identified the most successful methods of engagement from those proposed in the SCI, and have shaped subsequent consultations accordingly.

This First Review of the SCI takes on board what we have learnt from the consultation experience on both policy-making and decision-taking since 2009. It also responds to our consultees' requests for a shorter and less technical document.

The First Review has also been triggered by changes in national legislation and changes in ECC corporate policy and procedures; it reflects behavioural and cultural changes happening in Essex now.

The main changes proposed in the First Review are that:

- Electronic communication becomes the preferred method for consultation, in line with ECC's Corporate Communications Strategy. This affects procedures for both policy-making and decision-taking;
- The consultation period for policy documents reduces from our previous 8 weeks to the statutory 6 weeks, bringing ECC in line with neighbouring authorities;
- Developers are now required by the Localism Act 2011 to carry out pre-application public consultation for major developments. Previously, the planning authority could only encourage pre-application consultation;
- ECC's new case management system for planning applications will shortly provide the ability to view and comment on planning applications on line, with enhanced accessibility options. This was previously not practicable because of the size and complexity of minerals and waste applications. Once this system is fully operational, hard copies of applications will no longer be available to view in local planning offices and libraries, bringing ECC in line with Essex borough, city and district councils. The system will also facilitate progress-tracking of minerals, waste and County Council applications from submission to determination.

The SCI – First Review document will be on consultation from **30 August to 25 October 2012**, and members of the public and local businesses are invited to comment on the proposed changes. Comments received will be included for consideration when the document goes to Cabinet for approval in November, and to Full Council in December. Details of how to view the SCI – First Review and to submit representations can be found at www.essex.gov.uk/SCI

~~~~~

The next edition will be published around the end of December 2012. Can I please have all your pictures & articles, by the **15<sup>th</sup> December** Call 378155 or email [mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk)