



What's Going On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer -September 2016

(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Rd & Hedingham Road). View in colour at www.essexinfo.net/bulmer



Coe's Meadow is about to undergo major maintenance. Last September Coe's Meadow, once again, won a ROSPA award. Prior to receiving the award the inspection was carried out by ROSPA and it went extremely well. The inspector then informed me that they now had a new piece of equipment which enabled them to see into the core of the wooden poles to look for rot not detectable from an external inspection. This type of inspection was deemed essential because there had been a case in London of a certificate being issued only to have a cross beam collapse, killing a child.

We immediately asked for a thorough inspection of all the equipment costing about £700. This inspection showed that there was indeed rot in a number of pieces of the equipment. These parts are to be renewed within the next few weeks at a cost of around £3,000 – 4,000. Some of the equipment will be cordoned off during the work and may result in the Meadow being closed for a week. Information about any possible closure will be posted on the village notice board.

We are hoping that, this year, some new equipment will be bought using S 106 funding and we have consulted with St. Andrews school, Bulmer as to what sort of equipment they would like. This consultation was carried out with great enthusiasm from the children and involved all the classes. They produced spread sheets looking at 3 levels of cost. Since then I have had many letters from the children with their suggestions. CMMC are reviewing these. We are researching the possibility of installing a "boules pit" as requested by several parishioners.

We are always open to suggestions from the villagers.

2017 FUN DAY is planned to be bigger and better – possibly carrying on into the evening with a disco and Hog Roast.,

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE PUBLIC TELEPHONES FROM BULMER STREET AND PARK LANE

A notice was placed in both of the telephone boxes on Monday 22nd August 2016 stating that BT intend to remove the telephones as the they are rarely used. There is an opportunity for people to make representations to Braintree District Council Planning Department on these proposals. These representations must be made by the 30th September 2016.

Several years ago BT made the same proposals. The Parish Council successfully made representations to keep the telephones due to the unreliable mobile phone system in these locations. The need, in particular for Coe’s Meadow, for the ability to be able make emergency calls at all times was the reason for the Parish Council’s response. The proposal to remove the telephones will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 19th September 2016 and a decision made whether to make any representations.

By the time you read this the meeting will have taken place but the Parish Council would urge you if you have any comments about the removal of these public telephones to make them known to Braintree District Council Planning Department.

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**BULMER STITCH AND SEW CLUB**

On the first Monday in the month (exception Bank Holidays it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) the club meets in Bulmer Village Hall. We only charge a £1 per month, which pays for the hall and refreshments. Whether you knit or sew you are welcome, we have a good chat over a cup of tea and biscuits. So please come an join us you will be made very welcome – Ladies or Gents  
Details ring Margaret on 01787 312915

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BULMER SKYLARKS

We celebrated the Queen’s birthday by holding a Garden Party in the Village Hall. Thanks to many helpers we were able to bring the “outside in” by decorating the Hall with garlands of flowers and beautiful bunting. Our members arrived dressed for the occasion, our Ladies in striking hats or tiaras and our Gentlemen were not to be beaten and wore many medal ribbons awarded to them for washing up, not disagreeing with their wives and many other quite obscure acts of courage! The proceedings began with a visit from “Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall” thanks to Brian and Kath for bringing them along. Afternoon tea was then served followed by Brian Thurlow giving an insight into the world of the Music Hall. He had many amusing stories to relate and got everyone singing.

Our programme up until Christmas will see us welcoming Alexander Mitchell and her jewellery on 25th October. By popular demand Sue Butcher will be back on 22nd November with another Music Workshop and once again we will be enjoying our Christmas lunch at St Andrews School in December. We will also be visiting Van Hage Garden Centre in November for some early Christmas shopping.

If you would like to know more about Skylarks then please ring Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758 or just come along to a meeting, you will be very welcome.

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**VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

The Village Hall Committee are organising two events for the Autumn. The first is a Craft and Gift Fayre, which will take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October from midday until 4pm. There are only a few small tables left to hire at a cost of £5 so if you are interested in booking one please contact Ann on 373451. However if you are interested in perhaps buying your Christmas presents early then come along and browse at the many beautiful gifts on display. Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon. If you would like to donate any unwanted items etc to our Tombola stall please drop them off at the Post Office or again ring Ann (373451) who will be pleased to collect them.

The second event will be the much-requested Quiz Night which is being held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Tables of up to 6 members can be booked by ringing Maggie on 374758. This is always a popular event so book early to avoid disappointment.



**CRAFT  
& GIFT FAIR**  
**BULMER  
VILLAGE HALL**  
**SAT 8 October 2016**  
**12:00—4pm**

**Refreshments**  
**20p Admission, Free Parking**

Contact Anne 01787 373451 or Fay 01284 789309  
 E: fay.gridley@gmail.com  
 In aid of Bulmer Village Hall,  
 Reg Charity No: 1090284

## 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 bigger prizes!

| Month  | First          | Second       | Third       |
|--------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| June   | Mrs S Buchanan | Mr I Hepburn | Mrs V Crome |
| July   | Mrs T Bowler   | Mr K Mills   | Mrs M Rowe  |
| August | Mr & Mrs       | Mr & Mrs R   | Mrs J Duxon |

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

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BULMER HISTORY WEB SITE www.bulmerhistory.co.uk

The Bulmer History Group holds two meetings per year in the village hall, when guest speakers and members of the group present topics on local history. There is no charge for attending the meetings, which have an average attendance of approximately 50 people, there is no formal membership, just turn up, new faces are always welcome.

The History Group was started by Basil Slaughter, the headmaster of Bulmer School (and to whom the web site is dedicated), initially as part of a WEA programme and early committee members included Ashley Cooper, Doreen Desmond, Joe Dalimore and Peter Rowe. The web site was constructed and is managed by Mike Crome and has had approximately 6,600 visitors since it started in 2010.

The web site contains an interesting history of the Bulmer area written by Ashley Cooper and covers the area's pre history with an overview of its modern history from circa 1066. The bulk of the content however, comprises information, photographs and researches by members of the history groups themselves. A key section is the information on the headstones in the churchyard, which were all painstakingly manually recorded by Doreen Desmond, Joe Dalimore and Hilary Slaughter in 1986. Since then, many of the stones have deteriorated, to the extent that inscriptions that were clear in 1986 are no longer legible. As a result, each stone has been photographed, and the original record, plus a current photograph of the memorial are now available on the web site. Doreen Desmond also researched short biographies of village residents on the War Memorial and the Bulmer Roll of Honour. These are again on the web site, but group members are working on revising these biographies using modern internet research facilities.

Links from the churchyard memorials take you to further biographies of a number of ex residents, whose families have provided their own information and photographs of family members who are buried there. This section is constantly expanding as further information is provided by ex residents families.

Basil Slaughter's research notes were made available to the History Group, and his 'Index of Bulmer Names,' some of which date back to the Domesday Book has been edited by Sandy Burbidge and placed on the web site. Whilst it is impossible to list all of the names of Bulmer residents, and in a large number of cases the name is only recorded as a birth or burial, there are intriguing gems of information that provide the opportunity for further investigation. An example of this is John Weaver, who in 1712 was sentenced to be hung for stealing goods to a value of £6.10s from Lidia Dixey. Research however, has found no evidence to date that he was hung, and could possibly have been transported to either Jamaica or Barbados in 1714. Work is still going on, and may provide a subject for a future History Group meeting.

The web site contains many photographs provided by residents of people, places, and events in Bulmer over the past 100 years or so. These include the old school and its pupils, village cricket, the church and farming and local small businesses. These are continually added to, the latest of which is a contribution from Alan Dixey who has made an interesting collage of different parts of the village using old and new photographs. There is a separate section on the brickworks, with a link to the Bulmer Brick and Tile web site.

A further growing and intriguing section of the web site is Bulmer Memories; these are short articles of resident's memories of people and events in Bulmer. Your own contributions would be welcome. Please visit the Bulmer History web site, at www.bulmerhistory.co.uk. If you would like to make a contribution come, to one of our meetings which are advertised in 'Whats On, or e mail info@bulmerhistory.co.uk.

Allen Burbidge

NATURE DIARY

Nature has a tendency to make you eat your own words..... That's how I started the June Diary and blow me down if I don't have start with another retraction of something I also mentioned in June. This time I do so with pleasure, I had reported that the slow worms had sadly disappeared from Little Dean Spinney conservation site, where they were introduced 11 years ago . Not having seen one for 5 or 6 years, I was convinced that they had died out. So I was amazed and delighted when in early July, I found a shiny gold slow worm beneath one of the "tin" refuges. 10 days later it was there again, this time curled up with a sizeable grass snake. This indicates that there is still a viable breeding population on the site.

We enjoyed a privileged glimpse into the lives of a pair of song thrushes in June, they having decided to build their nest in a cotoneaster less than a yard from our lounge window. A particularly wise choice for them, as they were well sheltered from the numerous deluges we were "blessed" with towards the end of the month. By that time the young birds were pretty well fully feathered, small replicas of their



parents. During this couple of weeks I was videoing some of the comings and goings of the old birds, as they stuffed their 3 chicks with evermore earthworms, extracted in quantity from our rain drenched lawn. In a dry spell, when worms retreat well below the surface, they would probably have struggled to find enough food, but this year they were in the land of plenty. Quite late in the evening of 4th July the first youngster left the nest, the other two hopped out the next day around noon. One of these was noticeably smaller than the others, clearly it was getting pushed to the back of the food queue by it's stronger siblings. One thing which did strike me about the young thrushes, was that their plumage was pretty well identical to their parents. This is unusual, as in most other species the youngsters are quite dowdy --- robins, goldfinches, chaffinches, starlings and blackbirds, for example. This undoubtedly helps to keep them hidden from would-be predators. But young blackbirds are often mistaken for thrushes, having quite speckled breasts. This helps both young blackbirds and thrushes by breaking up their outline, and blending into the background when hiding in undergrowth.

If new life was celebrated in the garden with the success of the thrushes raising their brood, sudden death was the drama played out a few weeks later. A young sparrow hawk was perched on our rose arch busily plucking a small bird, possibly a greenfinch. It was having difficulty in maintaining it's balance on top of the arch and a couple of times lurched downwards madly flapping it's wings to regain it's perch, but clinging on very tightly to it's prey, steadying itself it began to eat. The small bird was easy pickings for this sparrow hawk, but one tackled a much larger quarry in Sandy & Allen Burbidge's garden, an adult woodpigeon. Sandy's picture of their hawk is on the left, the woodpigeon is bigger than the hawk. A female sparrow hawk will tackle a woodpigeon, whereas the smaller male goes for lighter quarry.



Exactly ten years ago a single pyramidal orchid threw up a flower on the road verge between the Village Hall and the School. Over that decade I have watched their numbers steadily increase. By 2014 there were 14 of them and this year they have actually doubled that, a thriving population. There have been bee orchids flowering on the same stretch of verge for about 25 years, but they are slowly declining as the trees and hedge gradually shade them out. On the whole, it's been an indifferent summer for butterflies. Our buddleias are usually besieged with small tortoiseshells and peacocks throughout their flowering season, but we hardly had a tortoiseshell before the

flowers were mostly over, when there was a sudden flush of them towards the end of August. Peacocks and red admirals have been quite scarce. On the other hand Meadow browns, gatekeepers and ringlets occurred in about average numbers and the last week in August brought forth hosts of speckled woods. There is a marked difference in the lifecycles of these two groups of butterflies. The caterpillars of last four mentioned all feed on various species of grass and they hibernate through the winter as caterpillars, whereas the food-plant of the caterpillars of the first three butterflies is stinging nettle, but they hibernate as mature butterflies. It seems probable that the mild wet winter favoured the grass eaters and didn't suit the nettle feeders. Certainly if the hibernating butterflies were awakened in the winter, they would have struggled to have found any source of energy giving nectar and the subsequent cold spring would have been another blow for them.

Every August we usually get a large flock of house sparrows descend on our back garden. Whilst they swamp the bird feeder and rob the garden to some extent, their main target is the ripening cereal crop on the field behind us. This year the flock was about 30 strong. There were far more young birds than adults, thronging together in our hedge, before going as a small cloud of rustling feathers to drop into the crop.



One of the more unlikely edible fungi is a bracket fungi, the *chicken of the woods*. This will grow on a variety of hardwood trees, especially oak. Really attractive, a tier of knobby lobes pale lemon in colour, sometimes flushed pink. This seems a good year for it, we have seen several specimens. A particularly fine one was growing on the massive oak pollard which stands in front of Hill Farm Gestingthorpe, shown with a close up of the fungi above. I had always been curious to try one, to our surprise it really did have a slight chicken flavour and moreover the texture was very similar. One of the best "wild mushrooms we have tasted. But I suppose the dreaded health and safety should come in here and I have to stress that before trying any fungi you must be certain that you have identified it correctly. There is an old saying that ---- "You can eat absolutely any wild fungi that you can find"---- "**but some of them you can only eat once !**" **Bon appetite**

Peter Rowe

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS [www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)

#### YOUR COUNCILLORS

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Peter Fulcher - Chairman       | 01787 269935 |
| Stephen Morgan (Vice Chairman) | 07973 341048 |
| Chris Leigh                    | 01787 378133 |
| Rose Raymond                   | 07813 205743 |
| Stella Buchanan                | 01787 312152 |
| Philip Benns                   |              |
| Carole Bennett                 | 01787 311315 |

**Diane Jacob** - Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer – Tele: 07497 226274 or

Email: [bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com)

#### DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 21 <sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 |
| 16 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017  |
|                                |
|                                |

**All meetings are bi-monthly, normally held**

**on the third Monday of the month** in the Village Hall at 7:45pm except the AGM starts 7:15pm

All parishioners are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for statements/questions from the fl

## **Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Meeting Held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at the Village Hall, at 7.45pm**

Present: Cllr. P. Fulcher, Cllr. S.Morgan, Cllr. S.Buchanan, Cllr. R. Raymond, Cllr. C.Leigh, Cllr.P.Benns, Cllr.C.Bennett and Mrs D.Jacob (Parish Clerk)  
14 members of the public.

### **16/113 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllr Fulcher welcomed everyone, no apologies for absence received.

### **16/114 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None.

### **16/115 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST.**

A member of the public wanted to know why all Councillor Information was not listed on the website. Chairman confirmed that all communication and correspondence should go via the Clerk.

### **16/116 COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID FINCH, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WENDY SCATTERGOOD, TO ADDRESS THE MEMBERS.**

Apologies for absence received from County Councillor David Finch.

District Councillor Wendy Scattergood reported on the following:

Local Plan, and that sites put forward could still be considered if targets are not met.

Funding for local communities is also available in September, to apply direct for an application form.

### **16/117 To CONFIRM THE MINUTES**

#### **1. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**

To note that under item 16/082 Cllr.P.Benns made a Non-Pecuniary Interest.

To note that under item 16/097 The Telephone Box at Turnpike Piece, Park Lane to be deferred and discussed if and when notification received from BT that they wish to decommission it.

Minutes signed by the Chairman after these notes had been considered.

Proposed by Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, 6 in favour, 1 abstained, resolution passed.

#### **2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**

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

#### **3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016.**

Proposed Cllr.S.Buchanan, Seconded Cllr.S.Morgan all in favour, resolution passed.

### **16/118 AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Guest speaker Edward Rigby from Rural Community Council of Essex. Not present.

### **16/119 HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL FOR SCHOOLS**

The Parish Council would like to place a new order for 15 commemorative medals for the children within the village at a cost of £47.35 Plus VAT

Proposed Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.R.Raymond, 6 in favour, 1 abstained, resolution passed.

### **16/120 COE'S MEADOW**

Maintenance to be carried out to the play equipment, at a cost of £3,915.65 Plus VAT

Proposed Cllr.C.Leigh, seconded by Cllr.C.Bennett, 4 in favour, 1 abstained, 2 objected, resolution passed.

The Willow Den needs repairing by Graham Nicholls at a cost of £175.00

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

Cllr.C.Leigh reported that the paths will be sprayed, and a Fun Day proposed for next year.

**16/121 Item 1.** The Mayor of Sudbury, has been invited to attend a welcome meal on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Bulmer Village Hall, for the guests of our twin town in Hoxter, Germany.

The Parish Council agreed to give permission for the Mayor to wear the Chain of Office in the parish of Bulmer.

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

**Item 2.** To give delegated authority to Clerk to decide these applications in the future.

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

### **16/122 PLANNING MATTERS**

#### **Ref. No: 16/01207/FUL**

The Dower House Smeetham Hall Lane Bulmer Essex CO10 7EN

Demolition of existing and erection of new single storey extension to rear

As this application had only just been received it was delegated to Cllr.C.Leigh as Planning Officer, to submit the comments direct to Braintree District Council

Proposed by Cllr.P.Benns, seconded by Cllr.R.Raymond, all in favour, resolution passed.

### **16/123 FREEDOM OF THE VILLAGE**

To consider offering Mike Crome the Freedom of the village for work carried out within the local community.

Proposed by Cllr.S.Morgan, seconded by Cllr.P.Fulcher, 6 in favour, 1 abstained, resolution passed.

### **16/124 VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

Received and noted.

**16/125 ALLOTMENT REPORT** Received and noted.

**16/126 ALLOTMENTS** New quote from DB Security as previous quotes not adequate.

To consider the purchase of 4 padlocks and extra keys  
 4 x IFAM 83mm Laminated padlocks keyed alike £12.5 4 £50.00  
 17 extra keys at £3.00 each £51.00  
 Subtotal £101.00  
 VAT 20.20  
 Total £121.20

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

**16/127 ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT**

To consider adding the following clause, under item 3, Tenancy and Rent on the agreement:-  
 Item 3.5 - Keys to gain access to the allotment plots require a £10.00 refundable deposit.

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

**16/128 BDC HOUSING STRATEGY FOR CONSULTATION**

No comments to be sent in by the Parish Council, individual comments to be sent.

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

**16/129 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**1) FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUGUST.** (ITEMS TO BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT AND SIGNED AS PER PAYMENT SCHEDULE).

| DESCRIPTION                                        | CHEQUE NO. | TOTAL    |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Anglian Water (Feb-May) Coe's Meadow               | 101336     | 13.88    |
| Anglian Water (Feb-May) Allotments                 | 101337     | 6.36     |
| Rural Community Council of Essex (Subscription)    | 101338     | 48.00    |
| EALC Inv.No. 6956 (Training)                       | 101339     | 75.00    |
| Stephen Morgan (Expenses Mileage)                  | 101340     | 21.15    |
| Rosemary Raymond (Expenses Petrol for Strimmer)    | 101341     | 25.63    |
| Colne Contracts Ltd Inv.No. 6122 (Dropped Kerb)    | 101342     | 2,791.20 |
| Braintree District Council Inv. 6472799 (Election) | 101343     | 1,321.57 |
| Mortimer Contracts Ltd (Inv.No. 85)                | 101344     | 1,166.40 |
| Made out incorrectly (Cheque Void)                 | 101345     | 0.00     |
| Essex Pension Fund (for July)                      | 101346     | 84.96    |
| Essex Pension Fund (for August)                    | 101347     | 74.54    |
| Diane Jacob, Salary for June, July and Expenses    | 101348     | 860.56   |
| Bank Storage Charge                                | DD         | 1.00     |

Also approved and signed the following:

Cheque no. 101347, made payable to Graham Nicholls for £175.00 (see minute number 16/120)

Cheque no. 101348, made payable to DB Security for £121.20 (see minute number 16/126)

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

**2) BALANCE IN HAND**

|                                                           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| HSBC as at 30th June 2016                                 | 30,156.14 |
| Business Savings Account as at 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 | 41,374.60 |
| Community Account as at 18th July 2016                    | 12,282.74 |
| Total as at 18th July 2016                                | 83,813.48 |

**16/130 CLERKS REPORT**

Received and noted.

**16/131 TRANSPARENCY FUNDING**

Item 1. To consider issuing a cheque in advance to the Clerk, to purchase a new laptop and software, as per PC World quote £538.99 (to be issued in September).

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

Item 2. To consider donating the existing laptop to Coe's Meadow Committee

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

Item 3. To consider instructing the Clerk to purchase a mobile phone – On Contract approximately £16.00 plus VAT per month.

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

**16/132 TRAINING** Item 1. To consider if Councillors would like to attend training, and how they should apply. It was agreed that if sufficient funds in the budget then Cllrs could attend, if nothing remaining in the budget then this item to be brought to the next Parish Council meeting for discussion..

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

Item 2. Agreed to purchase 1 New Councillor Pack at £17.00 each.

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

Item 3. To consider the purchase of the Good Councillor Guide Booklet at £3.00 each. This item can be and has been downloaded free of charge.

**16/133 STRIMMER** Maintenance/repairs to the Strimmer, already undertaken, awaiting invoice.

**16/134 ALLOTMENT FOOTPATH**

To consider making the footpath across the allotments into a registered public footpath and a public right of way.

Further information required, to be on next agenda, proposed by Cllr.S.Morgan, seconded by Cllr.C.Leigh, all in favour.

**16/135 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

Further information required, to be on next agenda, proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.C.Leigh, all in favour.

**16/136 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- Allotment Footpath
- Parish Paths Partnership
- Drainage issues at Bulmer Grazing
- Noticeboard at Park Lane
- Stour Valley small orchard project
- Parish What's On Magazine

**16/137 Next Parish Council Meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
Meeting closed at 9.27pm

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**From Bulmer Parish Council - A Flyer that was posted through your letter boxes and we hope you have taken the opportunity to comment on your services.**

**--- The following is taken from a poster issued by Essex County Council which affects all Bulmer Residents who use the bus service and they are strongly advised to get a copy of the questionnaire and complete it with their comments. If you need help to obtain a questionnaire please contact one of your Parish Councillors.**

LOCAL BUS NETWORK REVIEW CONSULTATION AUGUST 2016

Consultation – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016 to Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

In 2015 Essex County Council (ECC) began a thorough review of its financial support for those local bus services that it pays for across the County.

This consultation is the start of the second part of the review and looks at 70 services across Essex where the current contract ends in 2017. We have grouped together services by geographical area of the County so it is easy to see whether your service is part of the review.

**We hope you have taken the opportunity to comment on your services.**

**How to consult with us:**

Questionnaires will be available from ECC libraries, or online <https://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk/BusConsultation> or by phoning: 03457 430 430

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**"Warm Night" - Some Crime Prevention advice for the home**

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](http://www.compoundsecurity.co.uk) and Tank Commander - [www.commandersecurity.co.uk](http://www.commandersecurity.co.uk) which have "Secured by Design" accreditation; these products will detect 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 switched on within a room [www.immobilise.com](http://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 ensure gates are in good condition, closed and locked. A new product available is a movement sensor that activates an appliance plugged into a plug socket; an internet search will find such.

If you would like further advice regarding security please look at the Essex Police website <https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/>, the crime prevention website <http://thecrimepreventionwebsite.com/> or 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  
Braintree & Uttlesford Crime Prevention Officer*

**The next edition will be published at the end of December 2016. Please can I have all your pictures & articles, by the 14<sup>th</sup> December. Call Stella on 312152 or email [stella.buchanan@btinternet.com](mailto:stella.buchanan@btinternet.com)**



