



# What's Going On?

## The Newsletter of Bulmer - December 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](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer)

### WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR Scenes of the Nativity taken from inside St Andrews church, Christmas.



### FREEDOM OF BULMER



Mike Crome was given the freedom of Bulmer at the Parish Council meeting on 21st November 2016 for his tireless work for the Parish of Bulmer. Mike moved into the village in 1995 and was elected to the Parish Council in 1999 serving for 17 years, five as Chairman. He has given good service to the village, as well as being a Cllr he was editor of 'Whats Going On' for many years until giving it up this year. He also set up the Parish Council and Bulmer History Society's Web Sites. He is always ready to volunteer for working parties especially those for Coe's Meadow and for many years cut the hedge between Coe's Meadow and the Ransom Strip. He was also a leading player in getting SID Community Speed Watch and County Broadband into the village. The village

will miss all the work Mike did, a lot of which we do not know about, as he quietly undertook tasks for the benefit the village. Relax and enjoy your free time Mike, you have earned it. With grateful thanks.

**BULMER STITCH AND SEW CLUB**

Margaret and Jean would like to wish all members a Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We would also like to thank you all for attending the meetings. We meet on the first Monday in the month from 2 – 4pm. If it falls on a Bank Holiday it is on the 2nd Monday. We pay £1 per session this helps to pay for the hire of the hall and refreshments. If anyone else would like to join us (men as well) please ring Margaret 01787 312915.

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**BULMER SKYLARKS -**



We visited Van Hage Garden Centre in November for some early Christmas shopping.

We enjoyed our Christmas lunch at St Andrews School in December

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**

Thank you to everyone who supported our last two events at the Village Hall. It was so nice to see you all at the Craft Fayre and the Quiz Night.

We have been busy planning events and hall improvements for 2017. We are hoping to have an extractor fan fitted in the kitchen as some of you have requested this. There will also be some redecorating done in both the back room and in the main hall.

There will be a collectors exhibition in May and hopefully another Craft Fayre towards autumn. We have had requests to have another evening with Charlie Haylock so this is being researched. Something for you all to think about is a Village Show which will include a home grown fruit and vegetable competition with flower, baking, craft and needlecraft displays. So gardeners start preparing your gardens and allotments and cooks start practising. There will also be special competitions for children. Watch out for details on Village notice boards and in the What's Going On.

Finally may we take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past year at our various events and supporting the lottery. If you aren't a member of the lottery and would like to join please contact Dawn at the Post Office or on 376676 and she will be delighted to sign you up. The lottery is essential to the upkeep of the Village Hall and helps us to keep hiring costs as low as possible.

We hope you all have a very happy Christmas and a bright and peaceful New Year.

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.

Please support your village hall and contact Dawn at the Post Office (01787 376676) if you would like to join the village lottery.

Month	First	Second	Third
Oct	Mr & Mrs B Smiles	Mrs P Matthews	Mrs B Mauldon
Nov	Mr & Mrs R Newman	Mr & Mrs R Tomlinson	Mrs S Herring
Dec	Mr & Mrs N Fraser	Mrs B Mauldon	Mr P Wenborne

## **Bulmer Primary School News**

### **New Play Equipment**

At the end of the summer Bulmer St Andrew's Primary School children were excited to see a new outdoor activity climbing frame being erected in the school field. The previous play unit had become dangerous to use and had been cordoned off for nearly a year. Thanks to the PTA for their fund raising, and donations of £8000 the school were able to invest in equipment that will stand the test of time. Three groups of children within the school council, with a representative from each year group, put together a presentation on the play equipment needed, the type of ground cover that would work best and put together proposals for the school to discuss as a whole. They presented their findings to the school and a winner was chosen.



After much negotiation the school team were able to turn the children's dreams into a reality, with the reception children being the first to slide down the climbing frame on its unveiling day.

### **Local School Join in with the BIGGEST Coffee Morning / Afternoon of the Year.**

Bulmer St Andrew's Primary School joined in with the nation and held a Macmillan coffee afternoon in the school hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October. All the children joined in with raising money for this worthwhile cause, by buying cakes and drinks, inviting their friends and families to attend and taking part in the prize draw. In total the school raised £240.

Whilst most children within the school are not affected directly by cancer, raising their awareness of the disease and the hope and help which is out there for both them and their families will give them the confidence to reach out if needed.

Macmillan have been holding coffee mornings since 1990 when they held a very small local affair, it was so successful that they rolled it out nationally in 1991 and since then it has been going from strength to strength.

Press enquiries:

Bulmer St Andrew's CofE School

Head Teacher: Mrs R Welch

Phone: 01787 372 383; E-mail: [rw@bulmer-st-andrews.essex.sch.uk](mailto:rw@bulmer-st-andrews.essex.sch.uk)

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### **NATURE DIARY**

We seem to live in a world of clever acronyms, buzz words and catch phrases and have come to accept them as the "norm"

I was though, a little taken aback when my old friend Robin Ford introduced "Shifting Baseline Syndrome" into a talk he gave to the Lavenham Naturalists group !

A somewhat curious phrase -- but one which explains how our idea of what is the "norm" in all manner of things, will alter over the years. For example, before Dutch elm disease ravaged our countryside and robbed our landscape of some truly magnificent trees, a mention of elms would have conjured up a picture in our mind's eye of a row of these mighty giants standing sentinel along our hedgerows. Thirty odd years on, and what do we visualise now ?.... an often scruffy hedge (but still an important Natural habitat), invariably including some branches dying off, as they become mature enough for the bark to crack and let in the beetle, which carries the deadly fungal spores. So our perception of "elm" may have moved from stately tree to scruffy hedge.



This is particularly relevant to me because, as a child, one of the defining features of our home at Upper Houses was a group of towering elms just across the field in front of us, one I would think approaching 90 feet tall. I could look across to these every morning without even venturing out of bed. One of my ambitions was to climb this giant, but having no side branches for the first 15ft or so, it always defeated me. But another elm closer to home, a mere sixty footer, was easy game. In 1953 (Coronation Year) I climbed up and fixed a Union Jack to the very topmost branch, swaying about alarmingly in those precariously thin branches.

To return to shifting baselines, some of my own personal lifetime ones are :- *from* much smaller fields with the occasional pasture with bullocks or sheep grazing... *to* the huge purely arable fields of today ..... *from* harvest fields being cut by the binder, and of shocks (or stooks) where the sheaves were stood up to finish ripening, often, in those days before herbicides, with thistle down blowing from their tops.....*to* fields with not a weed in sight ( black grass excepted !) and being harvested in a matter of hours by our modern day monsters.... *from* turtle doves and cuckoos calling almost continuously from the hedgerows and huge mixed flocks of house sparrows, chaffinches, greenfinches, linnets etc. Often 400 birds or more feeding on the winter stubbles..... *to* the turtle dove and cuckoo becoming rarities and any flock of sparrows and finches numbering over 50 or 60, being quite notable. I could go on.

We had a real surprise visit by a couple of snipe in October. Wendy noticed them first, a little way down the lawn. They often their long beaks into the turf, no doubt seeking worms. They ambled their way down to the field gate where they seemed quite happy. A dog suddenly trotted along the footpath, within a few feet of them, the birds must have seen it but remained quite unperturbed. However it was a different tale when the dog's owner appeared, the snipe rocketed upwards and sped away. these birds coincided with the reported influx of snipe migrating in from northern Europe, helped by some strong easterlies. Several different species were coming over at the same time,



especially redwings, the next day a couple of small flocks of them winged their way past. Just a week later we saw our first fieldfares, with about 60 of them feeding out on the field. We had an amazing 20 minutes of bird watching in the garden on Nov 14th, in that time counting 18 different species. Most of course were garden regulars, various tits a robin, goldfinches, Blackbird etc, three were occasionals, long tailed tits, song thrush & green woodpecker, but two are what I would regard as garden rarities, goldcrest and meadow pipit. However a day later there were getting on for 100 pippitts feeding on the field just behind us.



Last edition I showed a picture of "chicken of the woods" a large edible fungus growing on an oak tree. Recently We discovered another monster fungi, growing in a cricket bat willow plantation beside the Belchamp Brook. I spotted it from some distance, not believing at first what it was, because of it's size. Growing from the ground, close to a large heap of wood ash, it was about 2 feet in diameter and dome shaped, with masses of contorted gelatinous "petals" for want of a better word. Looking it up at home I discovered that it was the cauliflower fungus, also known as the brain fungus. It seems to be regarded as something of a delicacy, but this one was way past it's sell by date, so there were no culinary adventures.

The autumn colours this year have been truly stunning. The deep bronzes of the oaks and the bright yellows of maples, making a rich tapestry spread across the valley behind us in Bulmer Street. Particularly so one evening when the colours were intensified by low sunlight flooding across the fields. Of course, it looks nothing in black and white, but to see it in full colour go to <http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/what-s-on/>



Seasonal greeting to one and all.

Peter Rowe

**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 Bennis	
Carole Bennett	01787 311315

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

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

<b>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017
20 <sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017
15 <sup>th</sup> MAY 2017
17 <sup>th</sup> JULY 2017
18 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017
20 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017

<b>DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY</b>
MONDAY 24 <sup>th</sup> APRIL 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 floor.

***(All previous minutes are available to be viewed on the web site [www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer))***

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# Bulmer Parish Council

**DRAFT** Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Meeting

Held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 at the Village Hall, at 7.45pm  
**The minutes are unapproved until 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

- In the Chair: Cllr.P.Fulcher  
 Present Cllrs: Cllr.C. Leigh, Cllr.R.Raymond, Cllr.P.Bennis, Cllr.C.Bennett, Cllr.S.Morgan, Cllr.S.Buchanan  
 Clerk: Mrs D.Jacob  
 Also Present: 13 members of the public

**16/161 Welcome and Apologies of Absence.**

Chairman welcomed everyone, apologies for absence received and accepted from District Councillor Wendy Scattergood. The Chairman presented the Freedom of the Village to Mr M.Crome, and Mr Crome expressed his thanks.

**16/162 Declaration of Interests.**

Received from Cllr.C.Leigh regarding item 16/173 Ref: S16/00321/TPOCON.

**16/163 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.**

A member of the public raised concerns regarding vehicle access issues and dropped kerbs at Bulmer Rise. It was asked if the Clerk could write a letter to the developer to ask if the area could be kept tidy. Footpath opposite the Fox, hedge over hanging footpath. Path way from the Fox to Sudbury has been reported that it needs clearing.

**16/164 County Councillor David Finch & District Councillor Wendy Scattergood to address the members if present.** Cllr.David Finch reported the budget for next year and that they will need to find savings. Social care concerns regarding the growth in the community, older population in Essex above average and funding it is limited. A drain causes flooding on the A131 near its junction with Hedingham, Cllr.D.Finch to arrange a site meeting with Cllr.R.Raymond.

**16/165 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

Approved as a true and accurate record were signed by the Chairman.

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

**16/166 Allotment Issues – Footpath.**

To discuss and consider the following options.

1. Claim: For this to be successful it would have to be proved that the footpath had been walked regularly for the last 20 years. The claim would not be dealt with by him but someone from ECC legal department.

They would complete the relevant forms and check the proof of the 20-year walking. There would be no cost to the Parish Council and ECC would be responsible for maintaining the path and the footpath would be added to the definitive map. The process could take some time.

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.P.Benns, 5 against

2. Agreement: Public Rights of Way Officer would deal with this and he would arrange for the paper work to be completed and there is no cost to the Parish. The one problem with this is he would have to get ECC to agree to this because of the cost of maintenance and mentioned the difficulty in gaining funding at the moment. He said it might help if the Parish Council would agree to maintain the footpath and this would have to be written into the agreement.

A responsible person(s) would be required to sign the agreement on behalf of the Parish Council. There would need to be fingerposts marking the footpath at both ends for both options.

No proposer. No Vote.

The Parish Council were unable to make a decision regarding the above item.

The Parish Council confirmed that the footpath is to remain open to the public and for it to remain as it is.

**16/167 Precept/Budget for 2017/2018.**

As required by section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, Parish Councillors are obliged to leave discussions where they have a disclosable pecuniary Interest. To participate in the setting of a precept for the Council. The councillors will require a dispensation, and for this purpose, Bulmer Parish Council resolves to delegate to the Clerk the power to grant a dispensation from exclusion to all Councillors for the purpose of considering and setting the precept.

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

**16/168 Precept 2017-2018.**

To consider various options. Further information and headings to be provided by Cllr.P. Benns. This item deferred until next meeting.

**16/169 Affordable Housing.**

Survey now received. 290 forms sent out to residents for completion, 96 have been returned. Majority of which were from 56 year and over. Residents are looking to downsize. No young families looking for affordable housing. The Parish Council to raise this issue again with residents at the next Annual Parish Assembly.

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

**16/170 Parish Calendar 2017/2018.**

Parish Calendar for 2017/2018. Dates set for Parish Council meetings 16<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 20<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and the Annual Parish Assembly to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

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

**16/171 Quality Council.**

To consider and decide if Bulmer Parish Council would like to work towards becoming a Quality Council. Item deferred.

**16/172 Financial Matters.**

1) Financial Statement for October/November (Items to be approved for payment and signed as per payment schedule).

DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE NO.	TOTAL
Information Commissioner (Data Protection)	101365	35.00
Chilton Office Supplies Inv.No. 199774	101366	83.52
Playsafety Limited (RoSPA) Inv.No. 25883	101367	189.00
Mr P.Fulcher (Reimbursement for Petrol & Wooden engraving)	101368	21.65
J.C. Reddington (Internal Auditor)	101369	50.00
Mrs D. Jacob Salary and expenses for October and November	101370	701.69
Essex Pension Fund (for November)	101371	75.28
Essex Pension Fund (for December)	101372	75.28
Mortimer Contracts Ltd Inv. No. 134	101373	565.20
Timberplay Ltd Inv. No. 5779	101374	4425.66
Pictorial Meadows Inv. 23225 (Seeds for Coe's Meadow)	101375	295.00
Ken Hill (Reimbursement for play equipment treatment)	101376	39.59

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

2) **Balance in Hand.**

HSBC as at 30th September 2016	30,161.36
Business Savings Account as at 21st November 2016	41,379.76
Community Account as at 21st November 2016	7,942.57
Total as at 21st November 2016	79,483.69

Received and Noted - Proposed by Cllr.P. Bennis, seconded by Cllr.S. Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

3) To consider transferring £4,425.66 From Business Savings Account to Business Current Account. Proposed by Cllr.S. Buchanan, seconded by Cllr.C. Bennett, all in favour, resolution passed.

4) The Council to consider making any investments into any funds. Further information required therefore deferred.

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

5) The Council to resolve, to in future pay the Clerks Salary and Essex Pension Fund by Standing Order, at the end of each month. Proposed by Cllr.C. Bennett, Seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed.

**16/173 Planning Matters. Ref: S16/00321/TPOCON**

Langley Cottage Bulmer Street Bulmer Essex CO10 7EP

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Black Mulberry tree is about 30 feet and the spread approx 30 - 35 foot, reduce the tree to approx 10 feet in height with appropriate reduction in spread of crown. Support this application. Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, 6 in favour, one abstained.

**Ref: 16/00347/TPOCON**

Stables Cottage Smeetham Hall Lane Bulmer Essex CO10 7EN

Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Trim smaller branches from 1 Chestnut tree back to boundary. Support this application.

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.S.Buchanan, all in favour, resolution passed. Clerk to send comments to BDC.

**To consider any other applications received.**

Cllr.C. Leigh reported for information that a developer wishes to meet with Councilors and members of the public with a view to building houses on Ransom Strip (a strip of land, to the side of Coe's Meadow) to apply for outline planning permission.

**16/174 Red Telephone Kiosks.**

Bulmer Parish Council to make a request to BDC to keep the existing operational Telephone kiosks on the grounds of Health & Safety and lack of reliable mobile phone signal. Especially as one is adjacent to Coe's Meadow play area and the other adjacent to the Allotments both of which have a potential need for calling emergency services.

Proposed by Cllr.R.Raymond, seconded by Cllr.S.Morgan, six in favour, one against, resolution passed.

**16/175 Coe's Meadow Report.**

Cllr.C. Leigh gave an update – Cllr.P. Bennis informed the Council that the report was misleading as is stated that dogs could not be exercised on Coe's Meadow. Cllr.Leigh explained the problem concerning dogs, and that there are signs stating dogs should be kept on leads. Cllr Bennis informed the council that there are no bylaws relating to dogs being kept on leads in open spaces, and that perhaps fencing the play area would resolve this issue. A heated discussion took place between Cllr Leigh and Cllr Bennis, the Chairman reminded both Councilors of the Code of Conduct.

**16/176 Village Hall Report.**

Received and noted.

**16/177 Allotment Report.**

Received and noted.

**16/178 Noticeboard at Park Lane.**

It has been suggested, the current board is too small. This item withdrawn from the agenda by Cllr.P. Bennis.

**16/179 Drainage Issues at Bulmer Grazing.**

Deferred until next meeting.

**16/180 Parish What's Going on Magazine.**

Update by Cllr.S. Buchanan, we currently print 290 and this needs to be increased to 300 copies, Council to consider increasing the budget for printing. It was suggested that the latest minutes should be published, to save on space. To discuss Hedingham School catchment area. This item has been cancelled, and will no longer require reporting.

**16/181 Clerk's Report.**

Received and noted.

**16/182 Hedingham Road Speed Control.**

The Parish Council to ask Local Highways Panel to investigate the speed of traffic and to carry out and provide a survey, in Hedingham Road between Holland Hill and Bulmer Lodge.

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

**16/183 To Exclude the Press and Public.**

Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960

'That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 16/184 on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business subject to the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 Section 1 Sub-section 2. TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

**16/184 Contract of Employment.**

Clerk's hours were discussed and it was agreed to award the Clerk overtime each month, starting from January to March, for transparency implementation work.

**16/185 Date of Next Meeting.**

**16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017.**

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.

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**For Information - What is the fundamental of Essex DaRT?**

DaRT means demand responsive or Dial and Ride Transport. It is formed of a number of minibus vehicles, typically accommodating between 8 and 16 passengers. These minibuses operate a range of bus services serving rural communities where conventional buses are not viable operations. They differ from normal bus services, in that they are totally flexible and can divert on and off route to collect and drop off passengers within their operating area. DaRT works by grouping bookings together to make it viable. It is not a taxi service, as there must be sufficient volume of passengers with similar itineraries. Most DaRT work, is former bus routes, and group bookings. But unlike a large bus, DaRT only needs three or four passengers to make a group booking. And, when not operating a timetabled bus route or group booking, vehicles may be available for individual runs where no alternative transport is available. DaRT operates between 0600 and 2000 Mondays to Saturdays inclusive.

Also, unlike a conventional bus, you need to book your seat, and register as a customer, at least two hours in advance of travel, and can book up to three months in advance of travel. But, if you travel regularly, you do not need to book every single time you travel, as you can make a regular booking which lasts for three months.

North Essex DaRT has carried more passengers every month since it first commenced.

To get more information call Essex DaRT on 01621 874411

**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> March. Call Stella on 312152 or email [stella.buchanan@btinternet.com](mailto:stella.buchanan@btinternet.com)**