

What's Going On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer – March 2024

(Including Bulmer St., Bulmer Tye, Finch Hill, Batt Hall, Upper & Lower Houses, Church Rd & Hedingham Road)

Read this publication online at:
e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc

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BULMER PARISH COUNCIL & VILLAGE NEWS

Did you know there is a website giving all the latest news on meetings, planning applications, Church services and events in Bulmer?

You will find it at e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc

Most importantly if you become a member of the site by following the link of the globe icon top right of the site, you will be notified whenever an important item is added or updated.

1267

THIS NUMBER COULD SAVE LIVES.

This is the number that unlocks the Defibrillators situated at :-
The Fox, The School, Coes Meadow & Finch Hill. If needed take the Defib to the casualty and press the power button and the machine will tell you what to do step by step.

Coe's Meadow working party

23rd March
9.30am - 12.30pm



Could you spare some time to help maintain Coe's meadow? Tasks include pruning, weeding and cleaning. Bring a pair of gardening gloves and secateurs if you have them. Enjoy a chance to meet fellow village people and have a little fun too!

Hot drinks and Cake will be provided.

Lawerence Nicols -
UNCLETOMS2019@outlook.com



News from the Village Hall

We held our 1st meeting of the New Year on an extremely cold evening but our Committee are tough souls and attended in force. We discussed plans for the year and how to keep the Hall in the best condition that we can. Unfortunately the break-ins we experienced had cost a considerable amount both in repairs and in extra security measures we put in place. It was felt as the Hall had been decorated throughout there was no need for any further redecoration this year.

However the outside of the building was in need of a good spring clean, ie paintwork to be washed down etc. With that in mind we will be holding working parties in the spring to give everything a "face lift" both inside and out.

Cupboards need cleaning out, chairs need to be cleaned etc. This is outside of the cleaners responsibility and down to us, the Committee, to carry out this work. If you are a hall user for anything, for parties etc or just appreciate the facility perhaps you would like to join us to help out. We will obviously wait until the better weather but if you would like to help please ring 374758 and we can add you to our list of volunteers and inform you when this will happen.

We are also planning a Village Fete on July 20 so plans are being worked out to try and provide something for everyone. Further details will be given nearer the time.

Thank you to everyone who have renewed their membership to the lottery. We do have a couple of new members which is good news for both the Village Hall and to members as the more there is in the lottery the bigger the prizes will be. Good luck everyone one.

Further information for you, the A.G.M. will be held on 21st May . Please put this date in your diary so that you can come along, shout at us if you need to but tell us what you would like to see or any improvements you would like us to make.

As always thank you for your support.

Lottery Winners

January winners

1st prize. Mr S Coombes

2nd prize Mrs E Wenborn

3rd prize. Mr A Vicos

February winner

1st prize Mr P Fulcher

2nd prize Mr B Elsey

3rd prize Mr A Skipper

BULMER SKYLARKS

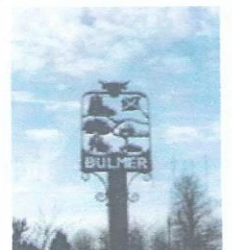
Our Christmas party was again enjoyed by all, with members arriving in Christmas jumpers, hats and in the Christmas spirit. There had been a slight hiccup just before as the speaker booked had developed covid, always around to spoil the fun but we weren't going to let it spoil ours! After a slight panic and a few phone calls a lovely lady, Linda Scholes, agreed to travel over from Bury St Edmunds, very much at the last minute, and gave us a very amusing presentation on Christmas presents. We've all had them, ones we would rather not receive or ones which we would have bought in haste and regretted afterwards. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and we thank Linda for helping us out. After her presentation a Christmas buffet was laid out including Mulled wine (to keep the cold out of course) and presents and cards exchanged. There was a sigh of relief from the committee that we had saved the afternoon.

Our programme for the next 3 months will see us welcoming Becky Poynton with a Yarn about Yarn on 27th February, Chris Parfit will be with us on 26th March taking us on a journey on the Arctic Express, and on the 23rd April Amanda Sutherland will be speaking about her journey as a costume designer especially in the film and television industry.

Why not come along and have an afternoon out, meeting other people, a bit of entertainment and tea and cake. We meet from 2 until 4 and you will be made very welcome.



NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL



We have vacancies on the Parish Council, about 2 hours 6 times a year. Coes Meadow committee, about 1 hour 4 times a year & the Village

Hall committee if interested please e-mail for details Laurence Nichols at laurencenichols2020@gmail.com.

Minutes of a Meeting of Bulmer Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Monday 15th January 2024 at Bulmer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Harvey, Morris, Nichols, Raymond.

In the Chair: Cllr Raymond

Clerk: Claire Waters (temporary clerk until after the 15th January meeting)

Also Present: 1 parishioner

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1.1 Councillor Vacancies: Two Councillor seats are still vacant. The Parish Clerk role is also still vacant

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of 20th November 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Morris **Seconded:** Cllr Crawshay Agreed unanimously

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident spoke on behalf of himself and neighbours to express strong objections to planning application 23/02895/COUPA at item 9 on various grounds including Highway safety.

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1 **Defibrillators:** The 4 Bulmer defibrillators are now registered with the Community Heartbeat Webnos system which shows the ambulance service the nearest defibrillators which are "rescue ready" so residents can be directed to use them during a 999 call. They are situated at 1. Kitchen Hill, 2. By Bulmer Street noticeboard, 3. The Fox at Bulmer Tye and 4. Church Road by post box. The code to access each defibrillator is displayed on the outside of the cabinet to ensure no lives are lost due to lack of access. The defibrillators will be checked and a Webnos status report submitted at least monthly.

6. HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

6.1 **Lower Houses road safety:** a Local Highways Panel (LHP) application was considered for improved signage where pedestrians use the road between Footpaths 21, 25 and 8.

Action: A 30mph speed limit request was considered but Essex Highways are unlikely to deviate from national highways policy. A pedestrians in road sign may be

useful – Councillors to review the location and best position for a sign in preparation for a LHP application

6.2 Bulmer Street parking obstruction: Actions were considered to improve safety where vehicles are parked at the Griggs Farm area during building works. Cllr Raymond had already spoken to residents and contractors.

Action: If the situation continues, residents are encouraged to report any obstruction for pedestrians or vehicles and any highway safety issues to Braintree Planning Enforcement at <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/reporting-planning-breach> or call 01376 552525

7. REPORTS

7.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch – a new Essex Police rural team liaison officer has been appointed

7.2 Essex CC report – Cllr Schwier apologised for absence and referred Councillors to his email updates.

ECC Bus Network Consultation 2023: A decision has been made on the outcome of the recent local bus consultation carried out between 13 July – 5 October 2023.

You can view the decision by following the instructions here:

<https://www.travelessex.co.uk/about-bus-services/consultations-supported-services>.

The F315 Sudbury-Halstead service which serves Bulmer will continue for the time being.

7.3 Braintree DC report – Cllr Holland apologised for absence and sent a written update:

- **Budget:** BDC has a £2m budget deficit within the Medium Term Financial Strategy that needs filling and this is being addressed. Cllr Holland is keen to ensure this does not result in further funding reduction for Parish Councils
- **ECC Bus Network Consultation 2023:** the DaRT3 on demand bus service to our communities has been saved. The funding for the service runs till 2026 and we must by then have demonstrated its value to our communities here in the north of Braintree District. Parish Councillors and residents are urged to help by making sure the service is promoted to all local residents, including those that are hard to reach.
- **National Grid substation, Butlers Wood:** issues include heavy vehicle movements, their regulation and control and also the routing of local “haul roads” by which NG’s contractors will move the sometimes enormous pieces of hardware to the various sites near Bulmer. The wider Bramford to Twinstead Tee project is
- before the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) heading for a decision expected in the autumn

8. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

8.1 **Allotments report:** Mr Mike Crome, Allotments Officer apologised for absence and sent a written report.

UKPN have excavated a 3ft x 6ft x 3ft hole for the transformer base, which is now full of water, and no progress on the standpipe installation, also probably due to the wet weather. All rent is paid, except for one who as in previous years is still late in paying.

8.2 Allotment greenhouse query: A request to use taped glass in a greenhouse was considered

RESOLVED: To refuse permission to use taped glass on the allotments due to inability to monitor and ensure it is consistently safe in all cases

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

8.3 Garden allotment query: Consideration of a correspondence from garden allotment tenant

Action: The tenant will be contacted directly to resolve the query.

9. PLANNING

Applications received:

23/03001/LBC Proposed replacement of external sand and cement render with traditional lime render and isolated repairs

The Old Vicarage Sudbury Road CO10 7TA

No objections

Applications received: Decision ratified

23/02895/COUPA Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for associated operational development - Change of use to 2 no. residential dwellings.

The Piggeries Hedingham Road

Request application goes to full planning

Applications determined:

23/02574/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: T1 Blue Cedar Tree -1.Remove lowest limb. 2.Remove dead wood. 3.Thin crown. G3 Conifer Trees X 3- Reduce to height just below power line. T4 Cherry Tree -Remove to ground level

Suffolk Hall Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

23/02508/HH Erection of single bay cart lodge with open lean to

Inglefield Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

23/02369/FUL Proposed development of 2no. detached 3 bedroom dwellings, with off road parking, utilising existing access from highway

Back House Croft Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

23/02225/FUL Erection of Agricultural Building

Auberries Church Road CO10 7DY

Application PERMITTED

23/00455/OUT Outline planning application for 8no. dwellings with all matters reserved

Land Adjacent Kitchen Hill

Application REFUSED

10. FINANCE

10.1 The monthly payments were approved for authorisation by two Councillors. The bank reconciliations were checked and signed by Cllr Harvey - *Financial report Appendix 1*

Proposed: Cllr Crawshay **Seconded:** Cllr Nichols

Agreed unanimously

10.2 RESOLVED Budget 2024-25: The 2024-2025 Parish Council budget was approved.

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

10.3 RESOLVED Precept 2024-2025: A precept claim of £11,140.00 was approved for the coming financial year. This represents a Band D parish rate of £41.08 per year, a 2.5% increase over 2023-2024. This is an increase of 2p per week, or £1 per year.

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

10.4 Parish Council Reserves: Decision on allocation of earmarked reserves and level of general reserve was deferred until a future meeting.

11. BIODIVERSITY POLICY

A draft Biodiversity Policy was reviewed for future adoption. Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Action: Cllr Morris will tailor the Biodiversity Policy for the specific needs of Bulmer Parish and circulate to Councillors for a final decision. *Agenda item for March meeting*

12. BDC POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

Minor updates to the BDC POSI Plan were approved, due by 26th January 2024. Formerly known as the Open Space Action Plan, this is a key document used by Braintree District Council as Local Planning Authority to demonstrate the need for additional and improved open spaces when seeking S.106 monitory contributions for Public Open Space improvements across the district. S.106 contributions now apply to housing development of 10 or more properties. The current Open Spaces Action Plan is available to view at <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/homepage/113/opens-spaces-action-plan>

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE – a query from a resident about shooting at Auberies estate had been received. Both parties had been spoken to but this is not a Parish Council matter

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Biodiversity Policy – to decide on adoption of final version
- Annual Parish Assembly – to confirm a date, probably in May and review plans for public participation

15. MEETING DATES 2024

Monday 25th March 2024	7.15pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Bulmer Village Hall
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The meeting closed at 8.18pm