

What's Going On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer – December 2023

(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

Issue no 14

DECEMBER 2023

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 <https://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 can sign up for email notifications when items are 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.

These are publicly accessible for all; if a medical emergency requires a defibrillator the 999 service will direct you to the nearest "rescue ready" defibrillator and guide you on its use.

All our new defibrillators have video and audio instructions too.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH BULMER

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our traditional **CAROL SERVICE** will be held at 7pm on **Monday 18th December**. We are hoping that Exultation will be joining our choir. We very much enjoyed their participation in last year's service. We shall be serving the usual Mulled Wine and Mince Pies/Sausage Rolls after the service.

There will be no Christmas Day service at Bulmer this year. However there will be services around the Benefice. Please check the rota in the Magazine. BUT we will have a service celebrating Christmas with a **Crib Service, Carols and Communion on Sunday 24th December at 10.30am**. Rev. Claire will lead this service. Please come along.

EPIPHANY SERVICE – Our Gift Day service will again be in aid of East Anglian Children's Hospice which will be held on **Sunday 14th January 2024** at 11.15am. Gifts or donations may be made. Further details in the New Year.

Green Bin Collection – St Andrew's Church Bulmer

Some of you will be aware that in the Parish Magazine it was mentioned that the Green Bin will no longer be available next year. However a couple in the village have very kindly offered to sponsor the green bin. The bin has been removed until the service resumes in March 2024 from when the collection will continue throughout the year.

Re-Ordering of St. Andrew's Church Bulmer

Permission has been granted by the Diocese of Chelmsford to remove the pews in the Nave and North Aisle and replace them with chairs. Chandelier heaters will also be fitted to replace the heaters that are in the pews currently. These will also provide additional lighting. The pews currently in the Chancel will stay and suitable redundant heaters will be fitted in those pews where there are no heaters fitted currently. The purpose of this re-ordering is to make the church a more welcoming and flexible space for worship. The work is due to commence in middle of March 2024 with completion by beginning of May 2024.

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A PEW AT £50 EACH PLEASE CONTACT LIZ FULCHER 01787 269935 BY THE END OF JANUARY 2024.

BULMER SKYLARKS

We now look forward to a New Year full of hope and laughter with a few new members and of course our lovely usual happy crowd who keep us on our toes and bring much joy to our meetings. We can never be unhappy when they all come through the doors whatever the weather and begin chatting to one another that sometimes it's difficult to get them to be quiet!

We have a full programme ahead of us next year with a variety of speakers and entertainers. On 23rd January Liz and Peter Fulcher will be telling us of their "adventure" on Walking the Camino Santiago. We will be welcoming Becky Poynton on 27th February with a yarn about Yarn. March will see us with an old friend, Chris Parfit who along with his wonderful photos will take us for a journey on the Arctic Express.

If you are interested in coming along please don't hesitate. We meet from 2 until 4 and everyone is very friendly. We do know people have said they are nervous about coming in on their own. Don't be, you won't be on your own for more than a minute and you can make more friends over the afternoon. So just come along. Hope to see you there.

News from the Village Hall

It was so good to once again hold the popular Quiz Night at the Village Hall. It has been several years since we have been able to do so due to a certain virus making a nuisance of itself !!!!! 78 people filled the 13 tables available and Dave and Becky were the Quiz masters assisted by their son and daughter. The fish and chip supper was delivered piping hot and on time from the Codfather in Sudbury and much appreciated by everyone. It was a very noisy affair with a lot of friendly banter between the tables. Thank you to everyone who supported us, it's good to be back.

At present we have nothing planned for the first part of 2024 but at our meeting in January we will certainly put plans in place to rectify that. Watch this space!

Reminders will be popping through your doors in January reminding you that it is time to renew your membership to the lottery. For any of you who are curious about the Village Lottery perhaps we can explain it. It is run by the Village Hall Committee for the benefit of both our residents and the Village Hall. It costs 50p a number per month and any one person can hold a maximum of 4 numbers. Payment is taken either annually or six monthly or by direct debit. It is drawn monthly after 20th of each month and monies raised is divided equally between winners (3 each month) and the Village Hall. We hold a licence to enable us to run the Lottery. If you are interested either speak to Dawn in the Post Office or ring 374758 and we can help you. Remember you have to be in it to win it.

May we wish everyone a very happy Christmas and hopefully a peaceful New Year. Thank you all for your continued support.

Lottery Winners OCTOBER

1st prize. Ms J. Edmeades
2nd prize Mrs J Tomlinson
3rd prize. Mrs A Reid

Lottery Winners NOVEMBER

1st prize. Mr P Rowe
2nd prize. Mrs J Coombs
3rd prize. Mr and Mrs Rooney

Do you use kerosene oil for heating?

Would you like to pay a lower price for your heating oil, why not join the Bulmer & District Oil Syndicate (<https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmeroilgrp/>). This is a non-profit making group, and is run by Mike Crome in Bulmer. I have now been running this syndicate for over 5 years with around 150 members. With the current high prices it is even more important to join the group and pay lower prices than you would get on a single order. Can you afford not to be a member of the group, especially remembering that it costs nothing to join and there are no running costs. How the group works:

The preferred method to place an order. You will receive a reminder of when orders have to be placed. If you wish to place an order, complete the order form with the quantity you require (min 500 litres, this is a statutory minimum requirement). You do not need to order each month, only when you need it! Your order will be acknowledged by the system, and generates a report for me when placing the eventual order. When the cut-off date has passed, I will contact various suppliers and place our order with the cheapest one. When placed I will email all members (whether you have ordered or not so you can see the way prices are going) with the name of the supplier, the agreed price and approximate delivery date. The supplier will contact you regarding payment and delivery. You pay them directly. Most will accept debit/credit cards or by BACS, except if the order is with Active Fuels who do not accept Credit Cards.

If you wish to join the group please go to <https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmeroilgrp/how-the-group-works/>

Bulmer History website update



St Andrews Garden of Remembrance

A new section on the Garden of Remembrance has now been added at bulmerhistory.co.uk/headstones/garden-of-rememberence/ showing all the plaques.



Griggs Farmhouse

With the recent sale of Grade 2 listed Griggs Farmhouse which is to be sympathetically renovated. The new owners are looking for any old photos of the inside or outside and details of its construction. If you have any information, please email the history site at info@bulmerhistory.co.uk. The website currently has some of its history along with other properties in Bulmer.

Approaching Bulmer Street from the Gestingthorpe end, one of the first buildings you see on your left is the 17th Century Griggs Farmhouse, the lands were then farmed as part of Auberis estate. By the latter half of the 18th Century two farms, one north, the other south of The Street, were combined as Griggs and Swains owned by William Jennens of Suffolk. When he died in 1798, aged 98, he was reputed to have been the richest commoner in the country. His holdings close to two million pounds in value, were also Butlers, Black House, Jenkins, Kitchens and Tye Corner farms. Dickens' novel "Bleak House" was said to have been based on the Jennens Case.

In the 19th Century William Bird farmed Griggs, then Charles Bird who farmed 280 acres with 12 men and 3 boys in 1871 and finally John Burlingham, a great supporter of the chapel.

At the turn of century came W. S. Courtnell who farmed it together with Kitchens. Tom Rowe recalls that in 1910, before tractors were generally in use, the chassis of an old motor vehicle was adapted for pulling a self-binder. The barn (now Suffolk Hall), dating from the same period as the house, has been converted into a dwelling.

Opposite Griggs are five houses erected on what was once a meadow known as Stackyard pasture, part of Swains Farm. Swains Cottage, built about 1902, replaced three earlier cottages on the site.

From 1937-51 the Walkers lived there, a show-business family; Mr. Walker was a musician and acrobat and Mrs. Walker a singer. The two daughters were acrobats and performed with a third person as "The Three Garcias". They appeared at the Palladium and other leading theatres. At various times they appeared with many well-known acts and personalities such as The Crazy Gang and Gracie Fields. In 1947 they appeared in a Royal Command Performance.

The house (Fylok) and a bungalow in the Roman style (Oatlands) have been built in the grounds of Swains Cottage, also St Andrew's Rise and the Swains Cottage bungalows on allotments.

If you can add anything to this please contact us at info@bulmerhistory.co.uk.



NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL



We have volunteer vacancies on the Parish Council, Coes Meadow Committee & the Village Hall Committee. If interested please e-mail for details Laurence Nichols at laurencenichols2020@gmail.com.

Job Vacancy: Bulmer Parish Council seeks a **Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer**, working approximately 9 hours per week supporting Councillors for the benefit of the community. Applicants should have knowledge and experience of I.T. systems (Word, Excel, e-mail), good communication and organisation skills, ability to write concise, clear reports and minutes, basic accounting skills and an ability to use their own initiative in the execution of their duties. Prior experience of working either as a Parish Clerk or in a similar post would be advantageous. For more details please contact bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com

Minutes of a Meeting of Bulmer Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Monday 20th November 2023 at Bulmer Village Hall

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

In the Chair: Cllr Raymond

Clerk: Claire Waters

Also Present: Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Council between item 12 & 13
1 parishioner

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1.1 Councillor Vacancies: Two Councillor seats are still vacant. Applications to join the Parish Council are very welcome, please contact bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com for more details or speak to a Councillor

1.2 Clerk vacancy: It was noted with regret that the clerk had submitted her resignation due to other personal commitments. The vacancy will be advertised and applications are welcome to bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of 3rd October 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman,

Proposed: Cllr Crawshay **Seconded:** Cllr Harvey

Agreed unanimously.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1 Defibrillators: The 4 Bulmer defibrillators are now installed at 1. Kitchen Hill, 2. By Bulmer Street noticeboard, 3. The Fox at Bulmer Tye and 4. Church Road by post box. These will shortly be 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. The code to access each defibrillator will be displayed on the outside of the cabinet,

this is recommended as a measure to ensure no lives are lost due to lack of access. Incidents of theft or vandalism of defibrillators are a very low risk but the defibrillators will be checked and monitored at least monthly and the policy reviewed if problems occur.

6. HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

6.1 Local Highways Panel (LHP): A LHP application for improvement of pedestrian & playground signage at Coes Meadow entrance in Bulmer Street has been submitted.

6.2 A131 Footpath Bulmer Tye: Cllr Schwier, ECC and Cllr Holland BDC had supported the Parish Council in raising this issue with Cllr Tom Cunningham, BDC Cabinet member for Highways. Although the verge has been cut, the side growth of invasive weeds in the footpath is still making it dangerous and inaccessible for pedestrians. This was raised again with Cllr Schwier when he reported after item 12. Points to note are:

- Lack of a spring verge cut causes invasive weeds/grasses to spread horizontally and self-seeding in footpath cracks. The autumn verge cut is done with a tractor mounted side flail which does not tackle this low growth.
- Essex Highway Rangers used to deal with the lower growth on footpaths (this is called siding) by selective spraying or clearing. Highway Rangers were disbanded in April 2023 so this is a service which since this year is no longer provided. Use of weedkillers has been reduced generally by BDC and ECC
- Parish Council responses will be sought for the planned BDC review of the autumn only verge cutting trial during the second half of 2024/25.

Reporting problems: All residents are encouraged to use the <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us> reporting tool. Using What3words <https://what3words.com/> in photo mode allows a photo to be uploaded with the exact location, which enables Highways inspectors to identify the site and the problem more accurately. This saves time and avoids errors which delay remedial action being taken.

Action: Photos and other evidence to be sent to Cllr Schwier to enable him to raise this again with Highways

7. REPORTS

7.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch - Changes to Neighbourhood Watch activity in the village were noted. Action: Clerk to add Braintree District weekly Neighbourhood Watch newsletters to the Bulmer website.

7.2 Essex CC report – Cllr Schwier arrived and reported between items 12 & 13. He then left the meeting.

ECC updates: These are emailed regularly to the clerk. Those relevant to Bulmer residents are now shared on the new Latest Posts section on the Parish Council website <https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc/>. Bulmer residents are encouraged to request membership of the website and opt in for weekly email updates on new content that has been added.

Essex Primary School applications: these are now open until 15th January, details available at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-school-places>

Highways: Drain jetting crews have been working ad hoc to clear drains following heavy rain

Sandbags: These are not supplied by ECC, householders needing a supply should contact the Environment Agency. ECC provides funding help for residents with flooding concerns, call Essex County Council general enquiries on 0345 743 0430 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm or use the general enquiries online form at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/general-enquiries>

Winter operations: pothole repair work is not effective when carried out in freezing conditions. Crews are redeployed on winter gritting and there are now 50 gritters, with 2 smaller electric ones for accessing narrower rural roads. 40% of highways are covered each night, spreading around 21,000 tonnes of grit. Last year the gritters were deployed on 70 nights.

Police, Fire & Crime: The commissioner has a current consultation on increasing the budget, see <https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc/> for details

ECC Consultations: Draft Waste Partnership consultation ended on 22nd November, and the Vehicle Booking for recycling centres consultation ended on 19th November

A131 footpath In answer to a question from Cllr Raymond, Cllr Schwier gave feedback on progress with requesting clearance of the (see item 6.2)

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

Budget: BDC is currently amid the budget setting process and a key stage is reached this week when the Budget is the main subject of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on which I sit. So, if there is a matter relating to this that you want to raise, one option is to drop me a line so that I can feed it into the process.

Verge cutting: I continue to make the case for verge cutting appropriate to ensuring the safety of our community members.

Planning: The Kitchen Hill planning application comes before the Planning Committee on Tuesday 28th November. If there are matters that you feel you have yet to raise with respect to this application, you can of course still feed them into the decision-making process by registering to speak and attending the meeting

Planning Policy: new policy documents that have the potential to impact our lovely rural area are being developed or adopted. Biodiversity net gain is a recent one with energy and infrastructure. Supplementary Planning Documents yet to come. We should also be aware that special area status with respect to improving the natural environment is being worked up. I feel that we must understand this because it could be highly beneficial to us. This matter is being driven by the County Council with the support of BDC.

Meetings: My intention is to attend the entirety of Parish Council meetings such that I am aware of all of the issues that concern you. I very much hope to be able to attend your next meeting. In the meanwhile, if there is anything you feel I can help with in my role as your District Cllr, please let me know

8. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

8.1 Allotments report: Mr Mike Crome, Allotments Officer apologised for absence and sent a written report. Water extension stand pipe not yet installed. No further work carried by UKPN on installing base for transformer. **Action:** Clerk to contact both contractors for an update.

At least 4 plots almost or fully overgrown, although rent is being paid, except for one who as in previous years is late in paying. They have been reminded their rent is overdue and will be chased up again.

9. PLANNING

Applications received: Decisions ratified

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 *No objections*

23/02508/HH Erection of single bay cart lodge with open lean to
Inglefield Bulmer Street CO10 7EW *Question about proximity to boundary. No objections*

Applications determined:

23/01500/VAR Variation of condition 2 'Approved Plans' of permission 23/00373/FUL granted on 04/05/2023 for: Erection of 2 No. replacement dwellings & associated outbuildings. Improvements to existing vehicular access. Variation would allow 1:-Removal of single-storey link roof (to create detached dwellings) and removal of high-level timber detail to rear facing gables (plots 1 & 2).
4 & 5 Smeetham Hall Lane CO10 7EU *Application PERMITTED*

23/01848/OUT Outline planning application with all matters reserved for - Erection of 8no. 2 Bedroom dwellings and associated development.
Land Rear Of The Tye Ryes Lane *Application REFUSED*

23/01999/FUL Proposed ground mounted solar PV system
Smeetham Hall Smeetham Hall Lane CO10 7EU *Application PERMITTED*

23/02165/LBC & 23/02164/HH Proposed alterations to existing single storey extension including roof alterations and re-surfacing, modification to window opening for insertion of french doors
Clement Cottage Bulmer Street CO10 7EW *Application PERMITTED*

10. FINANCE

10.1 The monthly payments were approved for authorisation by two Councillors –

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

10.2 **Budget 2024-25:** The progress against the 2023-24 budget was reviewed in preparation for the January 2024 budget and precept setting meeting

10.3 **Local Government Pay Review 2023:** the final NJC pay agreement was noted, with pay scale and increase to clerk to be backdated to April 2023 in line with the terms of the employment contract

11. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

11.1 **Tenders for 3-year contract: RESOLVED:** To accept the JPB Landscapes quote as the only one received, for a period of one year. This is a similar cost to the current contract. To be reviewed November 2024.

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

12. BDC POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

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> Updates required by 26th January 2024. *Agenda item for January meeting*

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13 Notification of Hearings taking place in the week commencing 11 December 2023. All relevant documents are online at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/bramford-to-twinstead/?ipcsection=docs>

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- **Budget and Precept** to be set for the 2024-2025 financial year
- **BDC Potential Open Space Improvements plan** to approve updates due by 26th January 2024
- **Biodiversity Policy:** The Environment Act 2021 made changes to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 in respect of biodiversity. Section 40 of the 2006 Act, in force 1 January 2023, places a duty on all local authorities, including parish councils, to from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take to further the general biodiversity objective. A draft Biodiversity Policy will be circulated for adoption at the January meeting.

15. NEXT MEETING DATE

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday 15th January 2024 | Ordinary Parish Council | Bulmer Village Hall |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|

The meeting closed at 8.29pm

Full minutes of all Parish Council meetings including financial reports are available on the website:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc/parish-council/minutes/>