

What's Going On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer – October 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 13

OCTOBER 2023

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED COES MEADOW

We are having a working party at Coes Meadow on Saturday 21st October 9.30AM-12PM Could you spare some time to help maintain Coe's Meadow, tasks include pruning, weeding and clearing. Please bring gardening gloves and secateurs and other tools if you have them. Enjoy a chance to meet village people and have a little fun too! Hot drinks and cake will be provided.

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.

Time is running out to get your Green Bin at ½ price

The following has been taken from the Braintree District Council web page.

Garden waste annual subscription service.

We will be charging for the collection of garden waste from March 2024.

Residents who want to continue receiving a garden waste collection will be able to opt-in to the new subscription service and pay a one-off charge of £55 per year.

An early bird discount of 50% will be in place for those who sign up before 30 November 2023, meaning a charge of £27.50 for the first 13 months which equates to just over £1 a collection.

Early bird discount

Early Bird offer is open until 30 November, so catch it soon!

Find out more: www.braintree.gov.uk/gardenwastesubscription

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH BULMER

On the 27th August the team service was Songs of Praise, led by Rev. Claire. Various people had sent in requests for their favourite hymns with reasons. Some gave brief talks on why they had chosen certain hymns, which was interesting and enlightening. Refreshments were served after the service. Thanks to Bill and the choir for helping to sing those memories

Ride and stride around the Benefice was held on Saturday 9th September. Peter completed the circuit, starting out at 5.30 am to beat the heat. Congratulations to Peter.

St Andrew's Bulmer held a coffee morning, which was fairly well supported given the unusual heat experienced. Delicious cakes, scones and goodies were made by many from the village. £152.00 was raised.

Thanks to everyone who made a huge effort, especially Bill and the choir, who entertained us with a selection of harvest songs.

On Sunday 10th September, we held our harvest festival led by Rev. Claire. This was a joyful and thankful service, with poetry and readings by members of the congregation. Once again, the choir sang harvest songs during the service. Offerings of food were made during the service and the food bank was impressed by the amount donated by people from the village as well as the congregation. The church was beautifully decorated by willing helpers, with a display of farm implements supplied by Bill.

Thanks to the many who put in time and dedication to make the weekend special as well as to Bill and the choir.

It is with sadness that we are to say Goodbye to Julia, a valuable member of the choir, her husband, Daniel, son Josh and her mother, who are off to pastures new in Norfolk. Our love and best wishes go with them.

The **Remembrance Day Service** will be held on Sunday 12th November at 11.15am. We will start the service outside at the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance.

Our Carol Service will be held on Monday 18th December at 7pm led by Rev. Claire Wilkinson. Mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls will be served after the service. All are welcome.

DO YOU LIKE FLOWERS?

We need more people to help with the Flower Rota at St. Andrew's Church. You do NOT need to be a flower arranger or attend church – if you like to put your flowers into a vase – that is all that is required. The more people we have on the Rota means that the frequency of being available is less. Please give some thought about this and contact

Liz Fulcher 01787 269935 for further information or questions

News from the Village Hall

It is upsetting to report that there have been 2 break ins at the Village Hall over the past 4 months. It is difficult to ascertain the point of entry although we are now fairly sure how it was made. There is absolutely nothing of value stored in the building but the meters were broken into and damaged and very little could have been taken as they are emptied after every event. The padlocked cupboards in the kitchen were broken into doing considerable damage to the doors. These cupboards belong to the various clubs using the Hall and there is nothing of value in them. Just equipment needed for the club's meetings. The Police were informed but no action taken immediately. However regular checks by them will be made. All door locks have been changed and other security precautions have been made.

We have also discovered that the word HELP has been scratched on one of the glass external doors. This was probably done with a sharp flint or something similar who knows. Could we please ask everyone of you to just keep an eye on the building as you pass. If you feel there is something not right, please contact a member of the committee. Thank you.

On a more positive note, the ever-popular Quiz Night will be held on Friday 3rd of November. Tables of up to six, fish and chip supper £10 per head. Please bring your own drink and glasses. To book a table, and do hurry as they are already being booked, please ring 374758.

Lottery Winners

August. 1st prize. Mrs E. Cook. 2nd prize Mrs P. Whillock. 3rd prize. Mr and Mrs K Mills.
September. 1st prize Mrs V. Owen, 2nd prize Mrs L. Fulcher, 3rd prize Mrs M. O'Reilly- Cicconi.

BULMER SKYLARKS

We held our AGM at our September meeting and were delighted that everyone has rejoined. All our members voiced their opinions on the club which was very pleasing and gave us ideas for the way forward. The enthusiasm from them all was very reassuring that we will continue well into the future. Following the discussions we then held a quiz which, as always, resulted in lots of friendly banter and a great deal of laughter. It is so good to see everyone so happy and friendly at our meetings and makes our efforts well worthwhile.

We would like to invite anyone who wants to know about us to come along to one of our meetings. It is often said that Skylarks is an OAP club. WRONG, it is for anyone who doesn't work on Tuesday afternoons (4th Tuesday of every month) and wishes to meet other members of our community for a chat, cup of tea and enjoy our speakers and entertainers.

Our programme to Christmas is---

24th October. The Shelly Centre for therapeutic riding

28th November Gary Egerton will be speaking about his life as a bodyguard

12th December. Christmas party HOPE TO SEE. YOU THERE.

However if you would like to speak about it first please ring Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758

Bulmer History 10th November 8pm Village Hall

Our next meeting is an evening not to be missed. We are delighted to welcome our guest Charlie Haylock on the 10th November (entrance is free) which is to be one of his last presentations before he retires from the circuit. Charlie's talk is entitled "Charlie and the "Dig".



This is an intriguing and sometimes hilarious look behind-the-scenes in the making of the Netflix film *The Dig*. . . a film based on a novel with the same title about the famous Sutton Hoo burial ship and the people involved.

Charlie will explain how a potential scam email from *The Dig* producer, turned out to be real, and was followed by a phone call from Ralph Fiennes

Charlie will show how Ralph Fiennes, who played Basil Brown, and the other Suffolk actors learnt their Suffolk accent . . . and not sound like West Country pirates!

Charlie will also explain the extreme lengths Ralph Fiennes took, not only to play Basil Brown . . . but to become Basil Brown.

The talk is both informative and very entertaining.

ESSENTIAL – This event is likely to be well supported, so to ensure your seat is booked, please email Allen Burbidge at allen444@btinternet.com or phone Ashley Cooper on

01787 460641 and leave a message.

Bulmer History Website (www.bulmerhistory.co.uk)

On this website you will find much about the history of Bulmer. One item we are particularly wish to devote more space is your memories of attending one of Bulmer Schools or just your childhood in Bulmer. Currently we have 3 articles on the site, "Alan Dixey School days", "Coral Dixey childhood memories" and "Two Upper Houses Characters by Peter Rowe".

If you be happy to submit article either electronically or hand written, then please send it via email to info@bulmerhistory.co.uk, or call Mike on 01787 378155 and I will arrange to collect it.

Other recent items added is the memory of the "Great Fire of 1995" in Bulmer is an article by Peter Rowe.



Aerial photographs of Bulmer in 1982 and 1998 taken by Peter Rowe.

There is also now a section for "Can you help?", photos that we wish to identify who the people are, and for people who would like help in tracing their ancestors,

If you have any suggestions on what other items you would like to see, or are

able to provide photographs published, then please contact us at info@bulmerhistory.co.uk



NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of a Meeting of Bulmer Parish Council held at 7.15pm on Monday 18th September 2023 at Bulmer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Harvey, Nichols, Morris, Raymond.
In the Chair: Cllr Raymond
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: Cllr David Holland, Braintree District Council up to item 12
5 parishioners up to item 12

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

1.1 Councillor Vacancies: Two Councillor seats are currently vacant. Applications to be co-opted to join the Parish Council are very welcome, please contact bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com for more details.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 17th July 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Crawshay
unanimously

Seconded: Cllr Nichols

Agreed

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Morris declared an interest in a planning application 23/02225/FUL - Erection of Agricultural Building Auberis, Church Road, Bulmer. Notification of this application arrived too late to be on the September meeting agenda, and the deadline for comment is 12th October 2023 so cannot be decided at the November meeting. On the advice of Braintree Planning, the Parish Council will not be submitting a comment to this application because it cannot be discussed at a public meeting. Councillors can comment on any application individually as a member of the public. Details of all planning applications in Bulmer are posted on the website <https://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc/parish-council/planning/> with a link to all the documents on the BDC website.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

4.1 F315 Sudbury to Halstead Monday to Saturday service A resident asked if the Parish Council would be commenting on the consultation regarding withdrawal of the F315 bus service for Bulmer. The consultation on Supported Local Bus Services 2024-2028 closes on 5th October 2023 and can be completed online at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023> or request a hard copy from passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk or by calling 0345 743 0430 or 0345 603 7631. Residents are urged to respond if they wish to save this local bus service from being withdrawn.

4.2 A resident asked for the Parish Council's support in objecting to planning application 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

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1 Defibrillators: Delivery of the 4 Bulmer defibrillators is expected week beginning 18th September. The posts will be installed first and allowed to set before the defibrillators are attached

5.2 Church Road trees: Following a request from a resident, Councillors inspected overhanging trees at Church Road. These are on property leased to St Andrews Primary School.

Action: The clerk will write to the headteacher and governors about the trees.

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 needs a clear plan, photos and evidence of community need.

Action: Councillors will supply the clerk with photos, plans and resident feedback.

6.2 LHP application Bulmer Tye: The Highways Panel responded that there is no budget for a safety audit, and suggested the Parish Council paid for a speed survey from Parish Council funds at a cost of £368.20.

RESOLVED: A speed survey was considered but is not likely to show significant non-compliance with the speed limit and therefore will not prompt Essex Highways to take action. The speed survey will be declined.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond

Seconded: Cllr Harvey

Agreed unanimously

6.3 Footpath along A131: Cllr Schwier, ECC had obtained a response that this footpath was inspected on 15th September and was not considered to be bad enough for Essex Highways to clear it. This is despite pedestrians having to walk in the busy main road due to encroaching vegetation. Further action will be taken by the Parish Council with the support of Cllr Holland BDC as this is a problem for other parishes in his ward with footpaths alongside the A131.

6.4 Verge cutting: An email from Braintree District Council operations confirms that Bulmer autumn verge cutting will take place in early October. The clerk asked BDC if the verge cutting will include the footpath alongside the A131. This has been referred back to the BDC operations team for a response.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch.- A recent police report will be sent to Councillors

7.2 Essex CC report – Cllr Schwier apologised for absence due to two conflicting Parish Council meetings and referred Councillors to his email reports

7.3 Braintree DC report – Cllr Holland reported:

Footpath on A131: Happy to support the Parish Council, this should be considered a policy issue and steps taken to encourage pedestrians and cyclists to be able to travel safely.

Verge cutting: He is awaiting a final report of the 3-year autumn only verge cutting trial, but is clear that there is very little support for the “one cut a year” policy in rural communities.

Bulmer Tye road safety: He has taken an interest in this for some time and will support if he can. In response to a question about motorbike noise on the A131, he feels this is a battle we are unlikely to win as the police would rather have motorbikes using a main road. Traffic police are based too far away to visit.

Levelling Up funds: Rural small business grants and funding for groups is available at BDC, details can be found at <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/ruralprosperityfund>

Public Transport: DaRT buses (demand responsive) are most useful for Bulmer residents, he had timetables and information leaflets available which Cllr Harvey took for distribution locally

Parish Magazines: Cllr Holland is chair of the Parish Magazine group which includes the Hennys, Lamarsh and other smaller villages. He is happy to contribute articles of local interest for Whats Going On.

Planning: As vice-chairman of the BDC Planning Committee he is not able to comment on individual planning applications in order not to compromise his input to BDC Planning Committee. He advised the Parish Council on points to raise with Braintree Planning officers in response to planning applications.

National Grid upgrades: He thanked the Parish Council for their comments in response to substation and pylon proposals, and for recognising the potential loss of prime agricultural land if proposals for 2,500 acres of solar panels and 40 acres of battery storage are brought forward. He is pushing for a supplementary planning document on energy storage to be created by Braintree District Council

Green Bin charges: In response to a question from Cllr Raymond, he explained that BDC funding is being reduced by central government. The alternative to green bin charges would be high increases in council tax for everyone, including the poorest residents in Band A or B properties who wouldn't need a green bin. Green bins are not a service required by law, and 70% of councils across the country charge for collections.

8. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

8.1 Allotments report: Mr Mike Crome, Allotments Officer thanked the clerk for taking over the invoicing for all allotments, grazing and garden plots this year, which has saved him a lot of work.

One allotment plot will be vacated at the end of the month, due to the tenant moving away. There is no waiting list so new applications for tenancy of the plot are welcome.

8.2 Allotments water supply: The new standpipe installation is planned for mid September, and this now coincides with UKPN work (see 8.3) so both parties have been put in contact with each other to liaise.

8.3 Allotments UKPN substation: Work commenced at 8.30am on Monday September 18th with the first phase lasting about a week. Further work will take place during October. A temporary 12ft welfare container needs to be sited within the allotment and will be positioned to minimise any restriction to access.

9. PLANNING

Applications received:

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 Bulmer *Objection: Outside development boundary, not sustainable.*

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 *No objections*

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

Decision ratified: No objections

Applications determined:

23/01320/HH Single storey rear and side extension and loft conversion
Larkfield Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

23/01363/HH Proposed timber weatherboarding to first floor external walls
Church Cottage Church Road CO10 7EL

Application PERMITTED

23/01792/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - T1 x1 Cherry tree - Carry out a 1m to 1.5m crown reduction
New Mains Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

10. FINANCE

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

10.2 Two donations to the defibrillator fund were noted with grateful thanks, one from the resident of Batt Hall who made the original request for defibrillators in the parish. A donation of £800 was received with thanks from the family of Mr Nigel Burke and Auberries Estate, in his memory and in recognition of his commitment to the Bulmer community.

10.3 A grant application form had been received from the Kernos Centre in Sudbury, which provides psychological and emotional support, with a particular focus on seeing those on benefits or very low incomes who would not otherwise afford help.

Action: To be considered for the 2024-2025 budget. Agenda item for January 2024 meeting.

11. GRASS & HEDGE CUTTING

11.1 Tenders for 3-year contract: Grass & Hedge cutting tender requests had been sent to contractors

RESOLVED: Hedges To accept the quotation from Livertons, the current contractor and the lowest price.

Grass: Only one quote had been received from 4 contractors contacted. Item deferred to November meeting

All members of the public left the meeting

12. GARDEN PLOT BOUNDARY

RESOLVED: To hold this item in closed session due to the confidential nature of the discussion

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE – PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

ECC Passenger Transport: The F315 Sudbury to Halstead Monday to Saturday service via Arrow Taxis is at risk of withdrawal due to low passenger numbers. The consultation on Supported Local Bus Services 2024-2028 closes on 5th October 2023 and can be completed online at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023> or request a hard copy from passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk or by calling 0345 743 0430 or 0345 603 7631

EALC & ECC, National Grid, Norwich to Tilbury pylons consultation responses: Objection letters have been submitted by the Essex Association of Local Councils and Essex County Council to 183 km of new electricity transmission reinforcement between Norwich and Tilbury, made up mostly of overhead line and pylons, along with some underground cables and a new 400 kV substation in Bulmer. This is part of “The Great Grid Upgrade” – the largest overhaul of the grid in generations. Find out more at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury>

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Grass Cutting contract review for 2024-2027
- Budget review in preparation for January 2024 meeting

15. MEETING DATES 2023

Monday 20th November 2023 Ordinary Parish Council Bulmer Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Full minutes of all Parish Council meetings including Financial Reports are available on:

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

You can also follow our new Bulmer Parish Council page on Facebook

We have 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.