







What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer-----June 2007

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

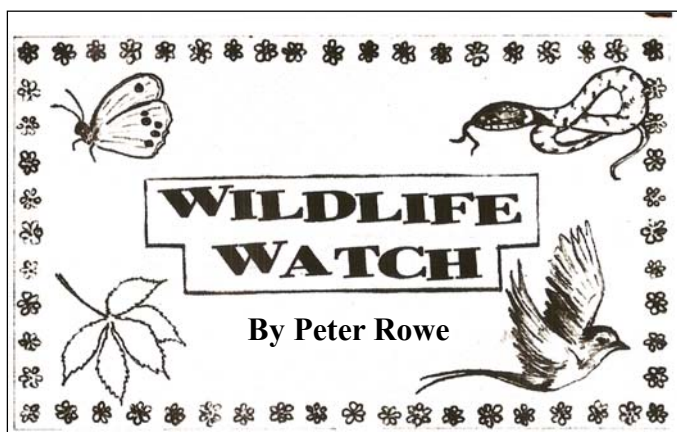
MEET YOUR PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2007 until 2011

 <p>Margaret Mills Chairman</p>	<p>A Bulmer resident for over 30 years I was superintendent physiotherapist at Walnuttree Hospital before retiring 9 years ago. I have been a councillor for 20 years and chairman for the past 3 years. Having spent virtually all my life living in rural areas I believe I have an understanding of the pleasures and problems of country living. My vision for Bulmer is that it should remain a vibrant community, with residents of all ages and backgrounds prepared to work together for the village and its future. (Contact: 269377)</p>
 <p>Mike Crome Vice Chairman</p>	<p>Now retired, having spent most of my working life in computing, the latter years being a Financial Advisor and finally 7 years as a Civil Servant. I have lived in Bulmer for the past 12 years and been a Councillor for the past 8 years. Previously I had lived in towns, Bulmer being my first experience of living in a rural village, which I have enjoyed & appreciate very much. My aim is therefore to try and preserve it as far as possible for future generations to enjoy the tranquillity & beauty of the countryside. My wife Vivienne has supported me for the past 43 years and we have 4 grown up sons and 3 wonderful grand children. My interests are Home Computing, Photography, Communicating, History, Gardening and my loyal & trusted companion Henny (Cocker Spaniel). (Contact: 378155)</p>
 <p>Peter Rowe</p>	<p>Retired builder, born in Bulmer, where the family have lived for at least six generations. Married to Wendy, daughter Caroline teaches music in Leicestershire, where she lives with her husband and young son. Main interests: Watching, noting and filming all aspects of our local wildlife. Folk Dancing (Bulmer Folk Dance Club). Local History, Sport Cricket, played in Bulmer's last village team, early 1960s! Parish Council About 15 years as councillor, some time as vice chairman & chairman. Now allotments officer, manage Little Dean Spinney, the village conservation area at Upper Houses. Keen to preserve the character of the village through sensible planning, to see housing affordable for local people, to preserve and maintain our footpaths and to generally maintain Bulmer as the pleasant village it now is, to live and work in. (Contact: 375935)</p>
 <p>Ron Mansfield</p>	<p>I am a retired engineer. I have been a councillor for Bulmer for many years, several as Chairman. I was deeply involved with obtaining the meadow for the playing field, which took many years to negotiate. I was also involved with acquiring the land for the school and allow the nursery school to grow. I will continue to serve the residents of the village in anyway I can. My interests include wildlife, gardening and the preservation of vintage machinery. (Contact: 375301)</p>

.....continued

MEET THE THREE NEW MEMBERS

 <p>Stephen Coombes</p>	<p>I moved to Bulmer Tye with June, my wife, ten years ago. Previously a 'city slicker' (Southampton, Birmingham, London and Chelmsford) the move to the country was overdue and welcome! I continued commuting into London daily by car for two years from The Tye before redundancy forced me into completing my 'countrification' i.e. I found employment locally at Hadleigh.</p> <p>Career wise, I started out in pharmaceuticals, switched to the security industry and ended up in animal food (not literally, much to the disappointment of some people!?) i.e. the product chain has been suppositories, crime and guinea pig dietary requirements. This is quite an original career path, especially when you add in the fact that I am an accountant!</p> <p>June and I only have 'give back' children i.e. nieces and nephews who we give back when we're fed up with them - it works for us! We have also 'adopted' 90+ children in Kenya via supporting a charity set up to run a school in the slums outside Mombasa.</p> <p>As for hobbies, beer, food and gardening feature high on my list of favourites, especially when combined. Regular visits to the local gym seem to be helping to offset the adverse effects of some of these activities. I am trying to break into the Jetset, however certain barriers still require climbing; finance and social contacts included.</p> <p>On a more serious note, June and I are extremely happy in Bulmer. I welcome the opportunity to put something back into the community via the PC.</p> <p>(Contact: Pepper Mill House, 4 Park Lane, Bulmer Tye - or junestephen@tesco.net)</p>
 <p>Stephen Morgan</p>	<p>Born in Essex, proud father. Lived in nearby Sudbury for a significant part of my life. Run a local training company. Keen on country life and keen on doing what I can to protect our environment. Having travelled quite a lot and hoping to do lots more I can say honestly I am very pleased to come home and enjoy my life in England.</p> <p>(Contact: 07973 341048)</p>
 <p>Peter Fulcher</p>	<p>I am married with two sons and four granddaughters. During my working life I served as a Fire Officer in the London Fire Brigade for 34 years specialising in Fire Safety Engineering during the last ten years. After retiring from the Fire Service I spent 5 years with Barts and the London NHS Trust. On retirement I moved from Chigwell Essex to Bulmer in November 2003, having lived all my life, apart from two years, in Essex where I was born. I am a volunteer for Sudbury Common Lands, The Stour Valley Trust and Melford Hall (room steward). I am currently Church Warden for St Andrew's Church Bulmer. Having lived here for nearly four years I appreciate the outstanding countryside in the Parish and would wish to preserve it for future generations.</p> <p>(Contact: 269935)</p>



I said in March that it looked as though we were heading for an early spring this year. How true that true that turned out to be, with the last three weeks of April serving up temperatures more in keeping with summer than spring. This premature warmth brought the oaks into leaf and the cow parsley into flower, a good three weeks earlier than usual. On the bird front, I spotted the first swallow, skimming over the backfield on April 7th and a swift on the 24th. Both a few days earlier than the average for the last few years. The first whitethroats, three of them, were flitting about in the Upper Houses lane, on the 24th. which is about the usual time of their arrival. House martins turned up on 28th April, the same date as last year. However, 5th of May for a cuckoo, was considerably later than normal.

Isn't it strange that many things that we take for granted are not always as straightforward as they seem at first sight. If you've ever been enthralled by the electric blue flash of a kingfisher darting across a river, or simply admired the colours of a blue tit, you will probably be most surprised to learn (as I certainly was) that birds have no blue pigment in their feathers at all. The blue colour is actually produced by the microscopic make up of the feathers, which, by refraction, will only reflect the blue section of the spectrum. The same process, in a rainbow, splits up the light to produce the different colours that we see in the bow. Most of us are used to the concept of birds moulting and changing their plumage from season to season, but here again, there are other mechanisms at work, which I had never suspected. Young starlings for example.

These, in late summer and autumn, display a most varied plumage; being covered with large white spots and mottled white patches. As the months progress, these outer white feathers gradually wear away, exposing the black feathers underneath. The male house sparrow demonstrates this again, the filigree black collar, part of their breeding plumage, is uncovered gradually during the winter, as the lighter outer feathers slowly disintegrate to expose darker ones underneath. These feathery facts were gleaned from a fascinating talk that we attended a few weeks ago, delivered by Geoffrey Abbott at the Lavenham Bird Club.

The sun parched days towards the end of April made it a difficult time for a pair of song thrushes, as they sought out food for their nestlings. They spent ages on our lawn, only to be rewarded with a few measly little slugs or the occasional worm. Thinking to make life a little easier for them Wendy hunted

out some snails from their hidey-holes and threw them on the lawn. (Song thrushes are the only birds that have perfected the art of smashing snails on any handy stone or hard surface) Would you believe it, the thrushes ignored the snails, which made their escape at breakneck speed into the border! Ah well, you can take a horse to water, etc. etc.



Song Thrush by Wendy Rowe

Nature watching should be a relaxing pastime, but when cameras are involved, it can be more than a little frustrating. One of my ambitions has long been to get some acceptable video of a cuckoo, actually calling. About the middle of May, some loud "cuckoos" awakened me quite early, obviously very close at hand. I Quickly set up camera and tripod. Clearly, the cuckoo was just behind our boundary trees, in our neighbour Maudie's garden. As I was keeping my vigil, two large birds swept into view. A carrion crow mobbing a

buzzard! and close at hand. Not something to miss. I whipped the camera off the tripod and leaned out of the window to get them in my sights, whereupon they promptly wheeled back over the roof and out of my sight. Whilst all this was going on, I was still aware of the cuckoo still calling merrily away. Well might I have heard it, for it was perched on our garden weather vane, in full view, where it remained for all of five seconds. Needless to say, it took off down the field before I could even focus on it. If it hadn't have been for that damned buzzard!.....

Welcome additions to our garden this spring, are a couple of bee orchids. They have appeared, as if by magic, on the lawn, in mid May. Makes a change from dandelions.

If you've got a garden pond, watch out for colourful little damselflies that will probably have hatched there. On our pond we get the Large Red, Common Blue, Azure



Four Spotted Chaser

and Blue Tailed Damselflies. Their larger relations, dragonflies also turn up from time to time, including Britain's largest, the Emperor, with a wing span of about 4 ins.(100mm) The Broad Bodied Chaser is the most colourful, the male's broad abdomen being a vivid sky blue, whilst the female is quieter honey brown. Other dragonflies, which visit us, include the Migrant Hawker, Brown Hawker, Common Darter and the Four spotted chaser, pictured. To dispel any ones fears, damselflies and dragonflies, neither bite nor sting.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall was full to capacity for the welcome return of the "Time of our Lives Music Theatre". We are always amazed at the talent of the young company and their enthusiasm encouraged us all to join in with their singing. Their sketches were slick and highly amusing and left us all wanting more. Hopefully a return visit will be made next year so watch this space!

Work still continues to improve the Hall. Unfortunately the light summer nights have once again seen a few children on the roof of the building. We urge parents to be aware of this as the roof is totally unsuitable for this practice and we are fearful that there could be an unfortunate accident.

We are busy planning our Autumn programme and are always eager to listen to your requests for events you would like us to organise. We still welcome new members to the Village lottery so if you wish to join then please contact Dawn at the Post Office who will gladly explain the rules and sign you up.

Events already planned for the future are:

FERRET RACING
Saturday 8th September

BARN DANCE
Friday 12th October

QUIZ NIGHT
Friday 16th November

For information on any of these events please contact any Committee member or watch the Parish notice boards and www.bulmeressex.co.uk for more details.

VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. Are you a member? The more members, the bigger the prize! Please contact Dawn at the Post Office if you would like to join.

Month	First	Second	Third
March	Mrs J Dutson	Mr A Skipper	Mr & Mrs P & S Maynard
April	Mr & Mrs J Duck	Mrs J Steed	Mrs T Bowler
May	Ms J Compson	Mr & Mrs M Raymond	Mrs B Mauldon

BULMER AND DISTRICT W.I.

We are now halfway through our year and we have seen our membership gradually increase and have welcomed many new and interesting speakers. We held a very successful Table Sale and Craft Fair on a beautiful afternoon in April and have enjoyed a trip to the House of Lords, coffee mornings and lunches out. Some of our ladies have even formed a darts team.

We are a small W.I. but what we lack in size we more than make up for in enthusiasm. We are always delighted to welcome new members but are happy for anyone to come along as a visitor just to see what happens at our meetings.

We meet on the first Monday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, so if you wish to come along or find out more about us then please ring Muriel on 01787 373464.

Our programme for the next three months is:

THE PYRAMIDS TO PENICILLIN

July 2nd

SUMMER BARBEQUE

July 28th(SAT)

CAKE DECORATION

August 6th

DEBT COLLECTING

September 3rd

BULMER HISTORY GROUP

Dates for your diary: -

October 19th – ESSEX HISTORY THROUGH TOWN & VILLAGE SIGNS by the Rev'd Keith Lovett

March 7th 2008 – UNDERSTANDING & ENJOYING OLD CHURCHS by Roy Tricker

Both speakers are extremely well known and popular and will slant their talks to this area.

All events are held in the Village hall commencing at 8pm and *entrance is free.*

MARGARET'S SPRING STRIDES

With Margaret now back in charge of the leaders clipboard I think we've managed a record number of walks this season as well as our now annual expedition to the Lake District. For our first parish path walk though way back in March we eventually managed the walk beyond Belchamp Walter, which due to the weeks of heavy rain last November unfortunately had to be cancelled. Although we quite often venture over to Belchamp, Margaret had planned a route consisting of many paths we'd not walked before. With the kind permission of Ashley Cooper we set off from Goldingham Hall, some a little earlier than others due to the reporters incorrect time information, but nevertheless a good turn out for a fine and dry day when we all finally gathered a little while later not far from Forty Acres. We headed for Newbon and took a right onto a bridle path where the rains from the early part of March



were still as much in evidence as the arrival of Spring as it was here it became a little wet and muddy underfoot, especially at brook crossings. Continuing on our almost circular walk of Belchamp Walter of mostly field paths and tracks we were then presented with the highlight of the day, across a flowing sea of green, gracefully leaping was a small herd of deer, that occasionally paused to catch our scent on the wind as we made our way to Fishers Farm. From Fishers Farm our path and guide led the return trail and us to Belchamp Walter church to Goldingham Hall to conclude a lovely walk, which was well worth the wait.

For our next walk on Easter Monday Margaret led a family nature walk. Seven of us left Jenkins to discover what delights nature held over a distance of about a mile and a half around the Upper Houses area of Bulmer. Even a walk of such a short distance provided a mass of species to identify, a task in which Margaret had no difficulty in proving her extensive knowledge. There were not many trees or flowers went unidentified as we travelled round putting my own recognition of species to shame as my only contribution for the day was detecting a dead rat. We naturally visited Little Dean Spinney where everything by now was beginning to grow with great enthusiasm, unfortunately the sun wasn't as enthusiastic and my hopes of spying a lizard or slow worm at

Little Dean Spinney were dashed due to the cool and overcast conditions of the day. Peeking under the small tin sheets provided for these elusive little creatures we did however spend some time inspecting the ants nests that have been constructed underneath them. We finally left the ants to go about their business as we went about ours letting Margaret point out all of the remaining bushes and blooms on the return from Upper Houses to Jenkins Farm.

Blooms were also the theme for our next walk on the first Bank Holiday Monday of May. It was once again time for the bluebell walk. The organisation of this walk, I think, is now becoming a little problematic for Margaret due to the ever unpredictable and variable timing of the arrival of spring. For those of you who don't remember, last year spring was a little delayed and at the time of our bluebell walk the daffodils were still in bloom with very few bluebells deciding to emerge. This year, well, for the six humans and four black Labradors that were in hope of viewing some beautifully blue carpeted woodlands we were nearly too late. By now many specimens were wilting with exhaustion from the above average temperatures of April and total lack of rain, but thankfully we did get the chance to appreciate some beautifully blanketed areas of woodland whilst wandering the paths of Bulmer and Gestingthorpe before the bluebells of 2007 gave a sigh of relief and passed on to await the signal for their return sometime next year.



And so to the final walk of Spring. On the Sunday of the last Bank Holiday of May Belchamp was our destination once more heading off for the fields behind Belchamp Hall where our paths enabled us to take a close up look at the folly. Even the continuous rain that was showing no sign of abating didn't deter five waterproof clad souls from setting off from the village hall to dodge dog doo in the fields behind Bulmer Street and wade their way up to Belchamp Church via the back tracks of Goldingham Hall. Passing the church we took the road veering left and very soon found the path that would



take us down to the folly. As the rains still came we only spent a short time studying the folly but you could see where the elements were gradually taking its toll on this marvellous solidly built structure. On first sighting it looks as though it is the remaining ruins of something much grander due to its ornate and sturdy construction but I am informed that this is

not so. It does however seem to be a popular nesting sight for a few breeds of bird despite having the feeling of being a little too exposed. On leaving the folly the rain did finally give us a short reprieve as we made our way on through the fields and back over the brook heading for the rolling pastures of Gestingthorpe. Our final stretch from Gestingthorpe then brought us to the rear of Upper Houses before we crossed the road to climb the bridle path behind the church, which emerges, beside the village hall.

As always, a big thank-you goes to Margaret for giving her time so willingly in organising and leading these lovely walks. For details of this and future walks log on to www.essexinfo.net/bulmer.

BULMER COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH TEAM

You may have seen people in the Street dressed in fluorescent jackets pointing a speed gun at passing traffic and wondered what was happening. Since February this year three teams of two people have been monitoring the speed of traffic through the village.

If cars are found to be breaking the speed limit they are reported to the police who will then write to the owner of the car reminding them that they would not like anti-social driving near their home. The police support the scheme and provide all the necessary equipment including the signs that are put out to warn drivers that a Community Speed Watch session is taking place. They have also attended with their equipment and whilst not issuing any speeding fines did warn several drivers about their speed.

Generally teams only see a few speeding cars, however the record is 13 in one hour (the normal session length). Initially about 4% of the cars surveyed were found to be speeding;



recently this has risen to about 8%. Some of this increase is due to the time of the survey. We have started targeting the end of the working day when people are going home from work.

Month	No. Monitored	No. Speeding	%
January	364	18	4.95
February	497	16	3.22
March	473	33	6.98
April	545	23	4.22
May	292	29	9.93
June	177	11	6.21

Two members of the team are now unable to continue due to other commitments so we are looking for more volunteers. This will normally be only meaning a commitment of an hour a fortnight. Please contact me on **269935** if you are interested in joining the team.

Peter Fulcher
Bulmer Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BULMER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16th MARCH 2007

PRESENT: Councillors Margaret Mills (Chairman), Mike Crome, John Dixey, Chris Leigh, Jeff Wright and the Clerk. Nigel Harley DCllr, Dave Wade (Community Warden)

4 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: David Finch CCllr, Peter Rowe, Ron Mansfield.

DECL. OF INTERESTS: None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS: None

COMMUNITY WARDEN - Dave Wade was invited to introduce himself to the Council and give a brief summary of his duties.

- Dave was previously a Special Constable for 11 years and was also a Town Ranger;
- as a community warden he patrols 20 parishes in the Stour Valley North area;
- a monthly report is received by the Parish Council on issues he has actioned and patrols he has made within Bulmer/Bulmer Tye;
- he will help, if required, with any youth activity;
- if residents have any complaints he would like them to speak to him directly rather than go to the District or Town council (Mobile 07785 515514)

Dave has found Bulmer mainly trouble free. He visits the village at least once a week, driving through slowly along most of the lanes at various times and days up to 9.00pm.

APPROVE THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 12th January 2007. Proposed Cllr. Crome, seconded Cllr. Wright.

MATTERS ARISING: The Clerk reported that the phone has been reinstated in The Street, but it was now a cashless payphone. It will allow the following type of calls - BT chargecard, prepaid calling card, credit/debit card, 100 operator calls, 999 emergency calls, freephone ie.0800 calls.

Highway contractors have collected the sockets for the Speed Indicator Device so, hopefully, they will soon be installed, then the Device can go on display.

The Community Speed Watch team is now in operation, mainly in The Street at present. 3 to 4% of drivers have been caught speeding, but it has been found that parked cars play a big part in slowing down the traffic.

The replacement bus shelter has been installed at The Tye.

Work on the damaged hedging at The Tye has been completed.

NIGEL HARLEY - spoke briefly on the achievements of Braintree DC over the past year.

- recycling was one of the best in Essex
- community policing
- community transport
- quick response to fly-tipping and abandoned cars
- help given to rural towns and villages
- quicker service when phoning in
- transfer of housing stock - better deal for tenants

VISUAL DESIGN STATEMENT

A *Decision* was made to go ahead with a Visual Design Statement (VDS) but volunteers would be needed to execute it. It was agreed that a leaflet drop should be made to every household inviting residents to a Parish Meeting where Jan Cole would explain the purpose of a VDS.

COE's MEADOW: The Clerk is dealing with the replacement of the broken window on the noticeboard.

A dog waste bin was requested at the Vicars Orchard entrance of the recreation ground, near the pond. Cllr. Crome asked if there was any plan to carry out some clearing and planting of shrubs at the top end of the Avenue outside the bungalows.

PLANNING:

The Bungalow, The Street -reduce and shape crown of plum tree. No objections from BPC.

Kirkwood, Church Road - change of use of land to domestic garden. No objections from Bulmer PC.

8 Park Lane - erection of detached bungalow/garage. The Parish Council opposed this 5th application of the grounds that it was still too large for the site.

Blackbirds, The Street - conversion of loft space to create bedroom/bathroom. No objections from Parish Council, but the Council felt that the partial removal of the chimney was not in keeping with a listed building, which should be seen in its entirety not just externally.

3 Park Lane Appeal - the construction of a first floor balcony, without planning permission on a newly built extension.

4 Bulmer Tye - change of use of land to domestic garden. No objections from Bulmer PC

St. Andrews School - erection of 15m monopole for broadband. No objections from BPC.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES:

1. Church Road permissive footpath. Waiting on posts and volunteers to clear corner of car park. It has been queried in the past by several residents as to why a footpath cannot be created on the eastern grass verge of Church Road. The Clerk has raised this matter with County Highways who state that a possible pedestrian path will be looked at in the future, when funds are available, but there is a long waiting list for these improvements.

2. A letter was received from a resident in **Finch Hill** complaining of the huge foreign lorries that are now using the road due to being guided by their 'sat.navs'. The Parish Council cannot see any solution to the problem other than to log the lorries on a Monitoring Sheet provided by Trading Standards. The Clerk was asked to pass one of these sheets to the resident.

3. Local elections on 3rd May 2007 - it is hoped that residents will put there names forward for nomination to the Parish Council.

4. A new advisory 30mph speed sign has been erected at The Tye on the north side of the A131 just before the junction to Church Road. The Clerk was asked to advise County Highways that firstly the sign is in the wrong place and should be on the bend before the junction with Hedingham Road and secondly, the sign in its present position is hidden by hedging.

RECEIPTS:

Allotment rent		£13.89
Essex County Council	- grant for speed indicator device	£1,000.00
Ditto	- refund on cost of sockets for above	£450.00
Allianz Cornhill	- refund insce for bus shelter	£2,355.00

PAYMENTS:

Littlethorpe	- bus shelter	£5,934.93 inv VAT
Anglian Water	- standpipe Coe's Meadow	£28.36
ditto	- standpipe Park Lane allotments	£28.36
A. Dixey	- securing bus shelter	£88.50
A.Doe	- waders (for work on pond at Coe's Meadow)	£49.94 inc VAT
Percy Brown	- work on notice board	£149.87 inc VAT
CPRE	- subscription	£27.00
B. Rawlins	- clerks salary (6 months)	£850.00
B. Rawlins	- expenses	£55.37 inc VAT

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. It was reported that garden waste was being dumped on the footpath behind one of the houses on the north side of The Street. Cllr. Mills said she would visit the area and speak to the resident.

2. It was felt that a dog waste bin should be put up at the end of Old Church Lane at Plough Green.

CLLR. JOHN DIXEY - John announced that he would be retiring from the Parish Council at the elections on 3rd. May. He has served the Parish Council for 46 years, 23 of which was Chairman. This is quite an accomplishment and a vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr. Crome, seconded by Cllr. Mills and carried unanimously, for John's loyalty, commitment and hard work for the Parish of Bulmer. His vast knowledge of Bulmer, Bulmer Tye and its residents (past and present) will be sorely missed at future Parish Council meetings. **THANK YOU JOHN.**

CLOSED SESSION: the public was asked to leave the meeting whilst the Council discussed the sale of allotment land at Clapps Farm piece. Cllr. Dixey also left the meeting under the 'declaration of interest' as he is a relative to Mr. W. Dixey. Following correspondence with Mr. W. Dixey's solicitor in which it was stated that Mr. Dixey felt the valuation of £25,000 was too high, the Parish Council came to a *general agreement* to reduce the sum to no less than £20,000 with an overage agreement of not less than 50% of an enhanced valuation should the land be sold on for development. The Clerk was asked to proceed with the matter.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2007

13th July 2007

14th September 2007

9th November 2007

All meetings are 'open meetings' i.e. the Public can attend and there is time allotted for questions from the Public, but notice must be given in writing to the Parish Clerk at least ONE WEEK prior to the meeting.

Meetings commence at 7.45pm – in the Village Hall

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2006 -2007

This past year has been another active year for the Parish Council in many areas.

Coe's Meadow

The development phase has been completed. The village now has a recreation area of which we can all be proud. Its quality has been recognised, by the award of a certificate of merit from the Essex Environment Trust, one of the funding bodies. During the year the basketball area has been given an impact-absorbing surface to help reduce the ball bouncing noise and the post moved to a better position. A service of blessing was held in January to give thanks for Lawrence Coe's gift and all the work done by the Coe's Meadow Management Committee and other volunteers.

The very wide variation of the level of the water in the pond has caused concern, and ways are being investigated to help maintain a reasonable depth. The CMMC are to be congratulated along with other volunteers on all their hard work coming to fruition.

Roads

The Parish Council continues to try to make our roads safer. A speed indicator device has been purchased and the sites, selected for it, are presently being prepared, by Highways in the Street, in Church Road and at Haven Ground. A Community Speed Watch Team of seven volunteers has been trained to use a speed gun, and to collect information on speeding vehicles to give to the police. They have found that 3 - 4 % of vehicles offend, but the presence of the volunteers in reflective jackets tends to slow the traffic.

An article in the EADT has triggered, many enquiries, from a wide area, from others wanting, to set up a similar scheme.

Unfortunately, many accidents, due mainly to speed, continue to occur on the A131 at Bulmer Tye. A recent advisory 30mph speed sign has been placed exactly where the accidents happen and efforts are continuing to have it moved to a more helpful position.

The bus shelter wrecked by a speeding motorist last year has been replaced with a smart, new model.

Planning

The most contentious application was for a Narrow Broadband mast at the School. The Council was given assurances that it would pose no danger, as it was unidirectional without a spread of field. All planning applications are carefully examined and relevant comments sent to the Braintree planning office.

Allotments

Two sections of Clapps Farm Piece have been sold; both of these areas had been used for non-allotment purposes for very many years. There has been an increase in the number of allotment holders including some from Sudbury. Peter Rowe has continued to manage the allotments, recently with the help of Steve Puddiphat.

Footpaths

Paths continue to be well-used and monthly walks enthusiastically supported. A moonlight walk in December attracted large numbers. A permissive path parallel to Church Road between the Village Hall and the School is about to be opened by kind permission of Nigel Burke. Peter Rowe and other volunteers have helped with cutting up-growth and other path work.

Communications

Mike Crome is to be congratulated on "What's On" receiving a commendation as best small council newsletter. Our excellent team of distributors ensures that all are kept in touch with village affairs. The computer literate can also keep up to date via the website, managed by Mike, which was recently short-listed in a countywide competition.

Litter

The village is indebted to its team of voluntary litter wardens and to Braintree District Council's rapid response to reports of fly tipping in the parish. The Council endeavours to identify the few irresponsible dog owners who allow their animals to foul public paths and areas.

Little Dean Spinney

Peter Rowe and his hard working team continue to care for this beautiful peaceful village asset. We are fortunate in the variety of public open space we have in Bulmer.

Other matters

The Council has continued to support calls to keep Sudbury Hospital open, and the action to prevent expansion of Stansted Airport.

We have had the support of our District Councillor Nigel Harley and County Councillor David Finch on a number of matters. Both attend some of our meetings.

The Council

I must thank my fellow councillors for their hard work and support throughout the year. Thanks too for the enthusiastic work for the Council from the two co-opted members Jeff Wright and Chris Leigh, who are now retired. I am sure they will continue to serve the village in other ways.

Our greatest loss will be the years of experience and local knowledge of John Dixey - a Councillor for 46 years and Chairman for 26 years. Those of us here are unlikely to break that record.

In conclusion, we must all give Barbara, our Parish Clerk, our grateful thanks for her hard work ensuring the smooth running of the Council business throughout the past year.

Margaret Mills
Chairman Bulmer Parish Council

THREE Ps

Bulmer Parish Council is a member of the Parish Paths Partnership - a scheme run by Essex Highways. Volunteers' work to keep paths open and easy to use thereby encourages their use. New volunteers would be most welcome. A wide variety of work is carried out including cutting up-growth, way-marking, reporting problems, and litter picking. The Council is very grateful to those residents who cut up-growth on paths adjacent to their gardens. It is especially helpful this year as the grass is growing rather vigorously. If you would like to help in any way please contact **Margaret Mills 269377**.

PARISH PATHS WALKS



Why not join one of the monthly walks for a bit of healthy exercise and to learn more about the countryside around us. Strong footwear is advisable. Children accompanied by adults are welcome as are dogs on fixed leads. Details from Margaret Mills 269377.

Sunday 29th July at 2.30pm

SUDBURY WATER MEADOWS AND BRUNDON

Meet at the Finch Hill end of Smeetham Hall Lane for a 5-mile walk into Suffolk.

Bank Holiday Monday 27th August at 2.30pm

VISIT FOUR NEIGHBOURS

Meet on Plough green to walk through parts of the parishes of Little and Great Henny, Twinstead, and Wickham St. Paul. Approx. 5 miles.

Saturday 29th September at 2.30pm

GESTINGTHORPE TO CASTLE HEDINGHAM

A 7 mile loop from Gestingthorpe Church to Castle Hedingham and back.

MOBILE LIBRARY



From the 3rd July the library will now call only once a fortnight on a Tuesday at the following times :-

Location	Arrive	Depart
School Bus Stop	8.50	9.15
Street	11.55	12.10
Finch Hill	12.15	12.30

Dates of Visits 2007 - Fortnightly		
3 rd July	11 th Sept.	20 th Nov.
17 th July	25 th Sept.	4 th Dec.
31 st July	9 th Oct.	18 th Dec.
14 th Aug.	23 rd Oct.	
28 th Aug.	6 th Nov.	

The next edition of **Whats On** will be published in **October 2007**. Could I please have all your articles, photographs, and future events etc. by the 15th September. Either by email mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk or by post to 6 Vicars Orchard

Should you wish to read this Newsletter again but are unable to find your copy, it is now available in colour on the Parish Council website at www.essexinfo.net/bulmer/what-s-on/