

What's Going On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer March 2025

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

VIEW IN COLOUR AT E-VOICE.ORG.UK/BULMERVILLAGE

SKYLARKS

It was very rewarding to welcome so many members to our first meeting of the New Year. We won't deny we had a few problems, cake that wouldn't cut in slices (only crumbs) projector wasn't available and the guiz turned into a usual hilarious mix up. What wonderful members we have as they saw the funny side of everything. We had ended last year with our Christmas party with Lucy Lewis giving a brilliant and very funny talk on her life as a bomb disposal officer. She held everyone's attention from start to finish. We now look forward to the year ahead and will be welcoming Sonia from Lads need Dads on 25th March. This is a Charity that supports boys without a father figure to learn basic skills and hopefully help to stop some of the awful things that are happening in this country today. All run by volunteer Dads who give up their time to help. On the 22nd April Chris Stevens will be speaking on Bees, Flowers and Honey. Chris is a great conservationist and bee keeper so we are hoping that he will bring some honey with him. We



will be having a musical interlude at our meeting on the **27th May** with other amusements and we will follow that with our summer party on **24th June**. On 6th May we will be having a visit from East Anglian Air Ambulance. At a recent talk by one of their members it was suggested that they came along to demonstrate and teach CPR and defibrillator use. Most of our members requested this so we have been able to book this session. It is naturally for Skylarks members but if there are any free spaces we might be able to accommodate "non Skylarks" If you want to now more about us why not come along to one of our meetings, you will be made very welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL YOUR COUNCILLORS

Rosemary Raymond	rosebpc@yahoo.com	
(Chairperson)		
Antonia	alc.bulmerpc@gmail.com	
Crawshay		
Rebecca Burke	rebeccambpc@gmail.com	
Dominick Burke	dominickburkebpc@gmail.com	
Sam Rowe	samprowe@hotmail.co.uk	
Paul Paxton	ppaxtonbpc@gmail.com	
Vacancy		

Locum Clerk: Kevin B Money -Telephone: 07810 781509 bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com

DATES OF FUTURE PARISH MEETINGS

All meetings are bi-monthly, agendas are posted on the noticeboards & online at www.e-voice.org.uk/bulmervillage in the

Village Hall at 7:15pm

24 th March	22 nd May TBC
28 th July	22n d Sept.

All residents are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for questions from the floor, however in order to receive a response notification of any question should be given to the Clerk at least 7 days before the meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES

of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 27th. January 2025 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs R. Raymond (Chair), P. Paxton, S. Rowe, ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr D. Holland and Kevin B. Money (Locum Clerk to Parish Council). There were also 2 members of the public present

001/2025 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A. Crawshav,

D. Burke and R. Burke. Cllr J. Morris sent his apologies but has subsequently resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments with immediate effect.

002/2025 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests:

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda

Cllr S. Rowe declared an interest in planning application number 25/00117/FUL

003/2025 Minutes of previous meeting:

To approve the minutes of the meetings held 25th. November 2024 **All Agreed.** attendance may ask the Parish Council a question. No questions were asked

005/2025 Report from the Essex County Councillor

Devolution is Government led not County led. ECC, Thurrock and Southend are leading the devolution for Essex. Local elections will now be held in 2026 and the May '25 election are postponed. The time-line is very tight to undertake this devolution process. In the future there will be only 1 Councillor from either Essex or Braintree. The same services will be delivered more effectively for better costs. ECC Cllr P. Schwier hopes to see better efficiency in rural areas.

Cllr R. Raymond asked if Bulmer Parish Council can join the Grass cutting SLA Contract. ECC Cllr P. Schweir asked the Clerk to send him the emails sent to Shirley Anglin at ECC. Also to copy in BDC Cllr D. Holland.

Footpaths need to cut more regularly by ECC so that the footpaths can remain open.

Cllr P. Schweir is looking at using less harmful chemicals to keep the footpaths open. However, ECC and BDC sub-contract the works to outside contractors but the contractor will apply their own cutting schedule which ECC and BDC cannot over-rule. Footpaths, for 2025-2026, there will be 2 cuts in the village.

ECC Council tax up 3.75% for 2025-2026 (including an increase in Social Care of 1.5%)

006/2025 Report from Braintree District Councillor

Devolution – The Government published a White Paper on 16th December on devolution and local government reorganisation in 2 tier areas (i.e. areas with county and district councils). Devolution would see powers in areas such as transport, skills, housing and economic growth given to local authorities. Local Government reorganisation would see the abolition of District and County Councils which would be replaced by unitary authorities and a mayor. At an extraordinary Council meeting on Friday 10th January, Essex County Council decided to submit an expression of interest to the Government in the Devolution Priority Programme and to commit to a reorganisation of local government in Essex. ECC also included a request to postpone the ECC elections due to take place this May.

Waste – Legislative changes have come into force requiring Councils to collect more recyclable material at the kerbside. Essex County Council have also introduced a new waste strategy with a tiered approach aimed at increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to

landfill. This strategy has been adopted by Braintree District Council. As a result of these changes, Braintree District Council has been conducting a review of our waste collection. There have been three areas of focus; aspiration to increase recycling (our current recycling rate has flat lined and compares poorly with other councils), impact on BDC Council finances and ease of use for residents. The review has looked at a number of options and has resulted in a preferred option. The most significant changes in the preferred option are that the grey bin will be collected every 3 weeks and the recycling sacks will be replaced by two bins, one for paper and card and one for other recycling including bottles which will be collected on an alternate 2-week cycle. A consultation on the proposal has now launched and ends on 2nd March. I would be grateful for your help in publicising this consultation. No decisions have been made and we are keen to hear the views of residents on the proposal. The consultation can be found on the main Council website. If any resident dumps grass waste in the hedges, BDC can not identify the culprit, but unfortunately it is a local issue. Any oil waste disposal along the verges Must be reported to BDC who will attend and remove the issue very quickly.

Medium term financial strategy (a 4-year **period)** – This was considered by the Scrutiny committee (of which I am a member) and the Cabinet at meeting in the beginning of December. The Council is facing a budget gap of £731k for 2025/26 and a cumulative gap over the 4-year period of just over £3m. This is subject to clarification on government funding. The MTFS is made up of many items of expenditure and income. The Councillor Community Grants Scheme is proposed to continue for 25/26 and there will be no increase in charges for garden waste. The Council has already instigated a transformation programme to address the budget gap over the medium term based on 4 work streams; agile and flexible working, service reviews, asset management reviews and shared service and partnerships to look at reducing cost and increasing income.

Local Plan – The Council has started the process of review its Local Plan up to 2041. Under government changes to how housing targets are calculated, the housing target for Braintree has increased to 1115 houses per year, an increase of 35% over the current target. The call for sites has already taken place and various evidence base documents have been produced. A document on Issues and Options was considered by the Local Plan subcommittee (of which I am a member) in December. A consultation on the document will commence on 20th January which

will enable the public and other consulates to raise issues they want to be considered in the local plan and to comment on the vision and objectives of the plan. There will be a series of weekly meetings of the Local Plan subcommittee in May and June to allocate sites. I must stress that far more sites than are needed have been put forward in the call for sites.

Affordable housing — We are on track to meet our affordable housing target of 250 per year. Healthcare — Additional capacity for patients at the Elizabeth Courtauld surgery in Halstead will be provided at the Halstead hospital part funded by s106 contributions. Work is due to start early in the new year.

There is of course much going on across the whole of the district but I have tried to focus this report on matters which might be of relevance to you. Please get in touch if you have any questions on the report or anything else. BDC budget for 2025-2026 increase a band D property by 11p per week. £5.72p p.a. ECC Cllr P. Schwier and BDC Cllr D. Holland left the meeting

007/2025 VE Day 80 - 8th May 2025. No events have been organised as yet

008/2025 Tye Green - What to do about trees and overhanging bushes

Cllr R. Raymond has spoken to the PROW officer but the PROW officer will be spoken to the landowner

The Parish Council to wait for a response from the PROW. Cllr S. Rowe to contact the landowner directly to see if the overhanging trees and hedges could be cut back.

009/2025 Deer accidents on road and removal of dead animals

Contact BDC Enforcement department to have the animal removed.

010/2025 The opening of the footpath Finch Hill to Kitchen Farm

This was discussed about a year ago regarding opening footpaths which are on the definitive maps.

This footpath may not be opened as it is down to Essex Highways to agree the opening.

011/2025 Defibrillator training. No further training has taken place. Air Ambulance is conducting training with a donation being sent to cover their costs. Put an article in WhatsOn or The SkyLarks to promote this training course

012/2025 EALC Councillor Training:

Councillor with EALC Training.

Cllr P. Paxton has enrolled on the 2-day Advanced Councillor training course and Village Hall course

Councillors have been sent all the training courses from EALC

013/2025 Coe's meadow – update on Committee meeting

Cllr P. Paxton has repaired play equipment. Further equipment will require repair / replacement in the future with good quality paint. This equipment is maintained by The Coe's Meadow Committee.

The committee will be contacting the original play equipment suppliers to replace the beams.

014/2025 Village Tidy – update The planned litter pick has been cancelled. No further planned litter pick dates have been arranged **015/2025 Allotment Standpine:** Clr P

015/2025 Allotment Standpipe: Cllr R Raymond to provide an update.

There has been no progress since November meeting with the additional standpipe A contractor is difficult to find to connect the new standpipe to the original water system. However, Cllr S. Rowe to contact local contractors.

016/2025 Allotment update from M. Crome

There is one small plot available on the site that has been cleared and ready for the new season. It has been advertised on the village Facebook, WhatsApp and website. So far, no interest has been forthcoming.

I assume the previous tenant has had their deposits returned.

There has been no progress since November meeting with the additional standpipe or UKPN sub-station.

As no correction has been issued regarding the notice to increase the allotment rents that stated it was being increased to the same rate as the current rate, it is understood there will be no increase now until 2026 - 2027.

017/2025 Planning Application/s 24/02551/LBC - Griggs Farm Bulmer Street
Bulmer Removal of external hardstanding and
pump above well, lowering external ground levels
and construction of hardstanding formed of
Hoggin with 20mm Flint Gravel rolled in and 6mm
steel edging and soft red brick headwall above
well.

RESOLVED: Bulmer Parish Council has No objections to this planning application **24/02746/NMA -** 3 Park Lane Bulmer CO10 7EQ

Non-Material Amendment to permission 21/02222/REM granted 10.09.2021 for: Application for approval of Reserved Matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline approval 19/01901/OUT for: Erection of 1 No. detached dwelling. Amendment would allow the change of brick to render, alteration to the window sizes and replacement of boarded section on garage roof projection with a fixed glazed obscure glass panel

In respect to the above application, BDC write to inform you that they have received an application for a Non-Material Amendment to a previously approved application. Details of the application are displayed on the BDC's website. Please note that this is for information only and due to the type of application BDC don't seek BPC's comments

25/00101/TPOCON - Stables Cottage

Smeetham Hall Lane Bulmer

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - 1No. Eucalyptus tree. Works will include reducing a limb that spans over into the Guernsey House boundary towards the main house and over the top of the summer house.

RESOLVED: Bulmer Parish Council leaves the recommendation to the Tree officer and Conservation officer

25/00117/FUL - The Piggeries Hedingham Road Bulmer

Erection of 2no. dwellings following demolition of existing outbuildings with permission for conversion.

RESOLVED: Bulmer Parish Council has no comment to make on this application except that a concern is they are not keeping to the footprint of the farm buildings that they got this on and they will go back for an extension at a later date

018/2025 Planning Decision/s. No planning decisions have been made by BDC **010/2025 Councillor Training** Society

019/2025 Councillor Training. See item 012/2025

020/2025 Finance

a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 31st. December 2024

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 31st. December 2024

b) To receive the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2024/2025 Councillors noted the comparison of Actual against Budget for 2024/2025

c) To approve the payment of Accounts for December 2024 and January 2025 and to agree a transfer

of funds to meet the Parish Council financial arrangements. **All Agreed**

021/2025 Budget 2025-2026 Councillors to finalise the budget for 2025-2026 Cllr R. Raymond proposed an expenditure of £15,793 for 2025-2026 resulting in a Precept demand from BDC of £11,491. Using the BDC Tax base figure of 272.74 produced a Band D property figure of £42.13p (an increase of £1.05p or 2.5%). Cllr P. Paxton seconded. **All Agreed**

022/2025 Councillor's Reports. No reports given

023/2025 Items for next agenda The future of a new village hall project

024/2025 Date of next meeting: Monday 24th. March 2025 at 7.15pm in Bulmer village hall

025/2025 Councillors to note 2025 meeting dates <u>TBC THURSDAY 22nd. MAY</u>:

28.07: 22.09: 24.11.25

026/2025 Closure of the meeting

To close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 9.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

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Village Hall News We must thank all our hirers for accepting the new increase in rent charges without a single complaint. We had tried to keep the increase as small as possible and everyone accepted it, **THANK YOU.** It is so nice that there are now several clubs and activities using the Hall. There is a very successful Pilates class running Monday and Tuesday mornings, and a yoga class Monday evenings. Our lovely clubs who have been using the Hall for many years are still running and well supported. There is a Stitch and Sew club which meets on the first Monday of each month, the Folk Dance club meets on the second Monday of each month and Skylarks meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The carpet bowls club meets every Thursday and is always well attended. We will be holding the much requested Quiz Night on Friday 2nd May starting at 7.30. Dave and Becky will be our guiz masters as usual and supper will be served. To book a table of 6 maximum please ring Maggie on 374758. We strongly advise you to book early to avoid disappointment. We must thank all of you who renewed your lottery subscriptions. This helps us to meet some of our utilities bills but it also gives 3 lucky winners a cash prize monthly. Grateful thanks to all of you.

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VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

If you are new to the Village and would like to support the Village Hall why not join the Lottery. You can join for as little as 50p per number and can hold up to 4 numbers. If you would like to know more ring Dawn at the Post Office on 376676 or Maggie on 374758.

Month	First	Second	Third
Dec	Mr & Mrs M Raymond	Sue and Nic Boreham	Mrs V Owen
Jan.	Mrs H. Simpson	Mrs J. Baker	Mrs J. Edmeades

NOTICE OF VACANCY ON BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a vacancy has occurred in the office of Parish Councillor for the above Parish.

The vacancy will be filled by the Parish Council co-opting member of the public onto the Parish Council as soon as practicable possible.

If anyone is interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council, then please register your interest by firstly contacting the Parish Clerk by email on bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com by

10am on Friday 14th. March 2025 who will then supply the interest parties with the relevant forms

Dated this 20th. February 2025

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Coe's Meadow was entrusted to the local Bulmer community by the Coe family and the children's play area and

equipment was created over 20 years ago. The Coe's Meadow Management Committee is now being presented with large bills to fund the park maintenance, tree works (coppicing and pollarding) and also repairs to the play equipment to ensure complete safety for the children using it. Therefore, funds need to be raised urgently, and the committee will be planning several events this year to be held at either the village hall or church.

Our first event will be a **Plant and Gardening Sale at Bulmer's St Andrews Church on Saturday 7th June 11am – 3 pm**

We would be very grateful for any donations of plants, vegetables, plant pots, home-made jams, usable tools, bee or bird boxes, unwanted/second hand gardening books... mostly anything garden related. Plus home made cakes that we would be able to sell at the event with teas and coffees.

Posters will appear on Notice boards, information will be added to Village WhatsApp Group and Facebook page in due course. We have replaced many old, weathered bird boxes with nine new ones donated (by Jenny & Dario) to Coe's Meadow. Hoping many song birds find new homes this spring.

CMMC



BULMER HISTORY GROUP

With Griggs Farm House currently under renervation this article is from the <u>Suffolk</u> and <u>Essex Free Press</u> on 3rd October 1940 Sale at Griggs Farm for Albert Rowe and

SALE OF THRESHING MACHINERY AT BULMER

Messrs Lacy Scott and Sons, of Bury St. Edmund's, on Thursday held a sale of threshing machinery at Griggs' Parm, Bulmer, for Mr. Albert Rowe. Prices included: Traction engine by Garrett and Sons, £100; 4ft., 6in. threshing drum by Ransomes, £195; elevator by Ward, £38; 6 h.p.: expansion traction engine by Wallis Stevens, £100; Clayton's 4ft. self-feed drum. £155: elevator by Ward, £42; another drum by Rancover. somes. £160; drum elevator by Ward, £52 10s.; chaff cutters by Maynard, £70 and 262 10s.; seed buller by Ruston and Proctor, £80; straw baler by Powell, £290: circular saw bench. There was a good attendance at including bidders the sale. Surrey, and one entire Norfolk taken tackle was sale of After the machinery an auction on behalf of the Village Spitfire fund was conducted by Mr. "Barney" Wyartt as an "unofficial" auctioneer which he best humorous carried out in his The lots comprised two manner. small store pigs and a few lots of poultry, whch realised the highly satisfactory figure of nearly in aid of the Bulmer Spitfire fund. Collection for the Bulmer Spitfire Fund.

This is a most significant day in Bulmer's History. The sale of a considerable amount of Albert Rowe's threshing tackle. It is especially noteworthy, as Bulmer was known for its threshing contractors, and they played such an important role in local farming. It is slightly mysterious however. For it was not Albert Rowe's final dispersal sale—or the end of his threshing business in Bulmer—as Peter Rowe remembers it continuing for another decade or so. One wonders if it was a clear out of some older machinery, as Albert moved towards using a tractor to drive the threshing machine?

Clearly however, it was a very significant sale, with attendees coming from as far away as Surrey to bid for the threshing and baling equipment, together with the two traction engines.

It is also interesting to see the reference to Barney Wyatt, a real character and livestock dealer from the mid-Suffolk / Hadleigh area. In addition to having a 'larger than life personality', he also had an enormous pocket watch. The latter was included in a photograph in a national newspaper, of a farmer's protest march in London, in the 1930's.

Perhaps the most interesting snippet, is the reference to the Bulmer Spitfire Fund.

The following is an extract from Ashley Cooper's book 'Heart of Our History.'**
"As the war continued a new challenge emerged. It was the raising of funds. By October 1940 a collection had been started in many villages towards the cost of buying a Spitfire. Similarly, in 1941, "neighbouring Gestingthorpe formed a sub-committee, to co-operate in the national `War Weapons Week'."

Every village was similarly involved. In 1942 Sudbury and Melford District designated February 21st-28th as 'WARSHIPS WEEK'

A target of SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS was set—being the amount required for the warship Scarab.

Yet, incredibly, "by Wednesday February 25th," reported *The Suffolk Free Press*, "**the indicator outside the Town Hall had moved up to... £142,537 14s. 0d.**" Of this:

£49,788 4s 0d
£3,151 6s 0d
£3,81718s 0d
£3,225 7s 0d
£2,380 4s 6d
£2,219 5s 0d
£19,528 7s 6d
£10,579 11s 6d
£2,313 1s 6d
£3,284 5s 0d
£3,906 13s 0d
£3,678 16s 0d
£2,515 9s 6d
£6,954 13s 0d
£10,141 7s 0d

The totals raised in Bulmer during the War, are currently unknown. If you would like to research this fascinating subject or have any further details please contact Bulmer History Group at info.bulmerhistory@qmail.com

**Heart of our History can be obtained at The Tourist Information Bureau, in Sudbury.

Mike Crome

BULMER & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP

Join us in Bulmer Village Hall on Fri 7th March at 8pm A talk by Ashley Cooper

SUDBURY IN THE 1960'S

A fun, entertaining and informative talk about the town, it's characters and life in the 1960's

*Using numerous old photographs of the town as it was *

Entry is free, but please buy a raffle ticket

Seasonal, Locally Grown Flowers in Our Village!

I'm Taryn, a former nurse turned flower grower and I'm growing beautiful, sustainable flowers in our local community. My love for growing all started when I moved to the village 8 years ago.



Last year I sold my flowers to florists who used them in wedding bouquets but this spring I'm opening a flower stall outside my home in Bulmer Tye. The stall will offer fresh, seasonal, farmers' market-style bunches straight from my flower garden.

The open date of the flower stall will depend on mother nature and when the flowers bloom. To be the first to know when flowers are available and to find out more information, please visit my website **www.bulmertyeflowers.co.uk** and subscribe to my emails. I can't wait to share the flowers with you all!

St Andrew's Church Bulmer Churchyard Maintenance

This year the grass cutting prices have gone up, from £300 to £360 per cut, and as a small rural parish we are struggling to meet these ongoing charges. If you would like to help with the costs of churchyard grass cutting costs then please contact Peter on 01787 269935.

Many thanks for all that you do to keep our churchyard a beautiful, calm and peaceful place where people can come to contemplate and cherish memories.

Two dates for your Diary Easter Saturday 19th April a free Easter Egg Hunt at 10.30am in the churchyard for children aged 11 and under. Tea/coffee/ squash and hot cross buns will be available in the church from 10am. **Saturday 21**st **June a Musical Evening** will be held in the church at 6pm finishing at 7pm. No tickets are required there will be a retiring collection towards the running costs of the church. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS LEIGH



It is with great sadness that Chris. Leigh passed away in February. Chris was chairperson of Coe's Meadow committee for many years

insuring it was in good order and safe to use receiving several awards from ROSPA. In addition to this, Chris was a Parish Councillor for several years giving her time freely for the future and enjoyment of the village.

Each year Chris with her husband Kevin and committee organised tirelessly a "Funday" on the meadow for everyone to enjoy, her aim was not to make a profit but provide an event that all ages could enjoy a fun afternoon. Also Chris would organise an event for the children of Bulmer School, a fun afternoon who presented her with a cake as seen in the photo below.





Chris and
Kevin were
unable to find
a suitable
bungalow and
land on which

build one in Bulmer, so moved to Lincolnshire where she passed away, but her last wishes were to return to Bulmer for her burial at St. Andrews. At the time of writing the date is not known.

Chris & Kevin also installed a Blue plaque for a previous resident of Langley cottage

namely John Pryke who was wounded at the Battle of Waterloo.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 th March	Bulmer History "Sudbury in the 60's"	8pm			
24 th March	Parish Council	7:15pm			
25 th March	Skylarks "Lads need Dads"	2pm			
7 th April	Stitch & Sew	2pm			
22 nd April	Skylarks "Bees, Flowers & Honey"	2pm			
5 th May	Stitch & Sew	2pm			
22 nd May	Parish Council	7:15pm			
27 th May	Skylarks "Musical interlude"	2pm			
7 th June	Plant & Gardening sale	11am - 3pm			

Should you have anything for publication in the next newsletter scheduled for June 2025, then please contact Mike Crome on 01787 378155 or by emailing bulmerwgo@gmail.com