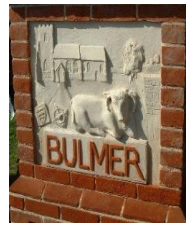




Bulmer Parish Council



Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Monday 21st September 2020. The meeting opened at 7.45pm

Please note that during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic, Bulmer Parish Council held the meeting online using the Zoom video conferencing facilities and that no physical face to face meetings will be taking place until further notice.

Present: Cllr R Raymond, Cllr M Crome, Cllr C Street, Cllr A Crawshay and Cllr S Kershaw

Also Present – ECC Councillor David Finch, BDC Councillor Wendy Scattergood, Matt Drewry from UKPN and Miss Ann C Wood (Locum Clerk).

058/2020 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr R Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Cllr David Finch and Cllr Wendy Scattergood.

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of taking minutes and that the recording will be deleted after the next meeting when the minutes have been agreed.

059/2020 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

060/2020 Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Crome declared a non-pecuniary Interest relating to item 068/2020 Allotments, as he is an allotment holder.

061/2020 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Bulmer Parish Council

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th July 2020 were received and agreed. Proposed by Cllr M Crome, seconded by Cllr S Kershaw and agreed unanimously

7.47pm – Cllr A Crawshay entered the meeting

062/2020 Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present.

063/2020 UKPN Proposals and wayleaves

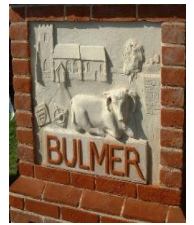
The UKPN representative Matt Drewry outlined the new proposals. A new site for the sub station has been found near The Fox PH, so UKPN now only needs a wayleave to install cables. Cllr M Crome asked if the hedge is to be removed to allow the cable to run alongside and Mr Drewry confirmed that the hedge will not be removed. Cllr S Kershaw asked if the cable will affect the allotments and Cllr M Crome said it will not. Cllr D Finch asked if the ECC Highways have been consulted about the proposal and Mr Drewry said that negotiations will start with the Highways, once the wayleaves are in place.

Cllr M Crome asked about the payments to be made and Mr Drewry said that the payments would be very small, only in the order of a couple of pounds. Cllr M Crome highlighted the section about poles and stay-wires and Mr Drewry confirmed that a stay-wire will be required for a low voltage pole. Discussion ensued about the problems that a stay-wire could cause, not least of which would be problems relating to cutting the hedge. It was suggested that the stay-wire could possibly be put into the small piece of waste ground.

It was proposed by Cllr M Crome and seconded by Cllr S Kershaw that the wayleave should be granted. The vote was 4 for and 1 abstention. The proposal was carried.



Bulmer Parish Council



Mr Drewry said that he would investigate the possibility of moving the stay-wire and would check on the payments. He then left the meeting.

064/2020

Essex County Councillors report – Cllr D. Finch

Cllr Finch reported on the following:

- a) Some areas in the country are moving towards local lockdowns but East Anglia is not an area for concern at the moment. There is a low level of infections in Essex at the moment, with outbreaks only in Epping Forest, Harlow and Colchester. Two notices have been issued to pubs in Harlow and Colchester for not adhering to social distancing.
- b) On the matter of Local Government Reform, it seems that HM Government's ambition has waned somewhat. The plans for Essex may have included 2-4 unitary authorities with an overseeing body. The process may have been slowed by the Planning reform White Paper.
- c) Essex County Council has been considering its budget for 2021/2022. It is close to balancing the figures but it will need to wait and see what happens after the end of the furlough scheme. There were 193,000 people in Essex that were furloughed. An announcement will be made in February 2021.
- d) Ideas have been permeating out of the Climate Commission. There are an increased number of cycleways in Chelmsford and Colchester and additional solar farms. Green Hydrogen is also being investigated.

Cllr M Crome thanked Cllr Finch for getting the work done to the gateways at Batt Hall and asked about the advisory speed signs/40 mph. Cllr Finch replied that unless there is enforcement in place, it has been found that people will still speed.

Cllr M Crome asked about the Potholes Scheme. Cllr Finch explained this but said that the potholes should be reported to him as well.

Cllr M Crome said that there are some largish potholes in Finch Hill/Sudbury Road. Cllr Finch said that the potholes at the side of roads are a priority because of the increased number of cyclists.

Cllr R Raymond reported that there are problems with parking by the new houses at Batt Hall. Cllr Finch said that this area is in Suffolk and that he would report it to the Suffolk Highways Authority. Cllr R Raymond asked about the checking on the grants that were issued to small businesses. Cllr Finch said he couldn't answer the question but assured that checks will be carried out. Cllr W Scattergood from Braintree District Council said that the issue of the grants had been handled by the District/Borough/City Councils.

Cllr Finch was thanked by the Chairman for attending the meeting and his report. He then left the meeting.

065/2020

District Councillors report – Cllr W. Scattergood

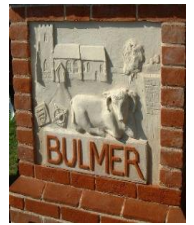
Cllr Scattergood reported on the following:

- a) The planning and enforcement officers are working flat out to try and catch up with issues that were delayed due to the pandemic.
- b) She hoped that there would be discussion on the Planning Reform White Paper. She said that in the Braintree District Local Plan (which goes up to 2033), 716 dwellings a year are to be built. The ONS says that this should only be 357 per year. She also told the meeting that permissions for building are given but then are not started. She suggested that if a permission is given, it should have to be started.
- c) With regard to the small business loan scheme, the one in the Colchester area involved a lot of red tape and work to complete. She will make enquiries about how this was handled in the Braintree District.

Cllr C Street asked about the time limits for starting developments and it was confirmed that these must be started within 3 years. Cllr Scattergood confirmed that this doesn't affect the permissions.



Bulmer Parish Council



Cllr S Kershaw asked if developers get three years to start and this was confirmed. Cllr Scattergood said that developers get outline permissions only and then they come back to get them extended. Some examples show that they get the permissions and bank the land and then sometimes sell it.

Cllr M Crome asked about the appeal on the agenda, APP/Z1510/W/20/3251873 - Planning Application Ref: 19/02254/VAR - Land Adjacent Back House Croft Bulmer Street Bulmer Essex and whether it will be defended. Cllr Scattergood said she did not have that information to hand but confirmed that it was an officer decision and so it probably will be defended.

Cllr Scattergood was thanked by the Council for attending the meeting and for her report.

066/2020 **Chairman's report and any update since the last meeting**

Cllr R Raymond said that there was not a lot to report.

However, she did report that she had been approached by residents about the lack of Face-to-Face meetings. The Clerk said that the laws relating to remote meetings had been put in place by HM Government and that the Parish Council was doing its best to comply with the law and to inform residents. It was also confirmed that holding remote meetings was still the recommended course of action from the NALC. It was confirmed that the minutes are published and if people do not have computers/electronic devices, they can always telephone the Clerk and copies of agendas, minutes etc. will be posted to them. Cllr S Kershaw said that she would go to people's houses to bring them up to date, if that was what they required.

067/2020 **Clerks Report**

There were no matters to report, that are not already on the agenda

068/2020 **Representative reports / Parish Upkeep**

Village Green – Cllr R Raymond reported that the grass has been cut and that she has weeded the war memorial a couple of times.

Allotments - Cllr M Crome reported that there are three people on the waiting list but there may be an allotment falling free, that could be divided into two. He mentioned that he needed the water bills in order to complete the invoices and the Clerk said that she would contact Wave in the morning.

Cllr R Raymond asked whether the pathway round the outside can be opened up and Cllr M Crome said that he would investigate whether there is enough space and whether the tree and water pipe might be in the way.

Cllr M Crome also said that he was considering doing a survey because the allotments have not been measured for some time. He also said that an increase in the rents should be considered in January 2021.

Website Update – Cllr M Crome said that he had circulated the updated Accessibility Statement and asked that this should be approved by the Council. This was proposed by Cllr C Street and seconded by Cllr R Raymond. The vote was 4 for and 1 abstention. The proposal was carried.

069/2020 **Finance**

• **To note income received by the Council**

Braintree District Council Street Cleaning Agreement – £815.01

Allotment Key Deposit L Seaman- £10.00

PSDF Dividend Reinvested July 2020 - £7.60

PSDF Dividend Reinvested August 2020 - £5.02

• **To ratify payments made since the last meeting**

Cheque 101541 – ICO Registration (£40.00)

Cheque 101542 – JPB Landscapes – Grass Cutting (£724.80)

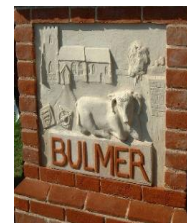
Cheque 101543 – R J Alston Construction – Grazing Drainage and Noticeboard (£2352.00)

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Cheque 101544 – JPB Landscapes – Grass Cutting (£451.20)
Cheque 101545 - Miss A C Wood – Locum Clerk Services July 2020 (£492.64)
Cheque 101546 – M Crome – Allotment Key Deposits (£20.00)

- **To agree payment to be made**

Cheque 101547 – Miss A C Wood for upgraded Zoom Account (£143.88)

The above items were all proposed by Cllr M Crome, seconded by Cllr R Raymond and agreed unanimously.

- **Bank balances as at 31st August 2020**

Barclays Current A/C £14076.64

Barclays Business Savings A/C £37135.89

CCLA PSDF £30690.79

The above balances were noted.

- **Update on the Bank Account** – The forms have been completed and signed and additional information received. The Locum Clerk will contact Unity Trust Bank about submission, although this may have to be delayed for a week or two to allow for the Precept payment from Braintree District Council and allotment tenants/grazing lessees paying into the Barclays A/C. There was discussion about whether the Barclays Account should be closed and the Locum Clerk said that she will telephone Unity Trust Bank.

- **Update on the CCLA Investment Account** – The Locum Clerk has been unable to speak to the CCLA because she is not a named person on the account. In view of the impending appointment of a permanent Clerk, the Council would be best advised to wait until the new person is in post to progress this item

070/2020

Member-led Pothole Repair Programme 2020

Following discussion, it was agreed that there are no priority pothole repairs to submit to the Essex County Council member for consideration for repair. Cllr R Raymond raised the matter of the pavement at Batt Hall, where there is a pothole.

071/2020

Co-option

It was noted that Braintree District Council has informed the Parish Council that a poll for the recently advertised casual vacancy has not been requested and that the Council is free to co-opt. A poster will be sent to Cllr R Raymond to advertise the co-option on the noticeboards and a notice will also be placed on the website by Cllr M Crome.

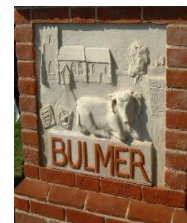
072/2020

Coe's Meadow

- To receive a report from the Coe's Meadow Committee
Cllr C Street said that she had sown some foxglove seeds. She and Cllr A Crawshay will be meeting the RoSPA Inspector tomorrow. She and Cllr A Crawshay had met with the Stour Valley Project people and Cllr Crawshay will be getting a quote for work to the diseased Ash trees that had been identified. Volunteers are also needed to help clear the Willow area. Cllr M Crome asked for confirmation that there are two non-council members on the committee. Cllr C Street confirmed this is the case but that she has had no communication from them. Cllr Street had tried to organise a meeting of the Committee before the Council meeting but it had not been possible. Cllr C Street also reported that PPE was needed for the volunteer litter picker and the Locum Clerk said that he should contact her.
- To note the re-opening of the Play Area
Cllr C Street asked if the cleaning of the equipment had been carried out and the Locum Clerk said that she would check this. It was noted that officially, the play equipment is not open for use yet but that people are still using the equipment and notices needed to be put up. Cllr W Scattergood said she was surprised that the equipment was still officially closed and the Locum Clerk said that the Parish Council had needed extra time to complete required the Risk Assessment. The swing seats were discussed but no decision was made.



Bulmer Parish Council



073/2020

Planning Applications – To ratify comments already submitted

20/01112/FUL – Proposed New Access - Land South Of Hedingham Road Bulmer Essex
Bulmer Parish Council does have concerns about Highways safety issues near the site, which includes but is not limited to large vehicles turning.

The Parish Council supports the application, providing that if the access is granted, the following condition is put in place –

That the existing access will be taken out, which will help to reduce problems on this stretch of road by taking the access away from the corner to a straighter part of the road.

20/01224/HH - Retention of fence to side and rear of property - Ridgcroft, Smeetham Hall Lane, Bulmer

Bulmer Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

20/01249/FUL - Demolition of existing garages and erection of two dwellings, garages access and landscaping and restoration of existing pump station - Pump House Adjacent Ashbourne Cottage, Smeetham Hall Lane, Bulmer

Although this development is outside the village envelope it will provide significant improvement to this location, by removing unsightly old garages. There is a local bus service to the nearby towns of Sudbury & Halstead 6 days a week, within walking distance of the site, thereby potentially alleviating the use of private vehicles, in this rural area.

The house design is a sympathetic design with the nearby Ashbourne Cottage using red bricks to match, and of similar construction.

Restoring the Pump house to a much-improved structure will enhance this small hamlet of Bulmer.

Both of the new houses will have at least spaces for 2 vehicles to be parked off road, which should avoid parking on the grass verge.

Bulmer Parish Council therefore supports this application.

The above application comments were all noted and agreed.

074/2020

Planning Appeal

APP/Z1510/W/20/3251873 - Planning Application Ref: 19/02254/VAR - Land Adjacent Back House Croft Bulmer Street Bulmer Essex

Description of Development: Variation of Condition 2 'Approved Plans' of permission 17/01638/FUL 17/01/2019 for: Erection of 3 no. detached dwelling houses with detached garages comprising 2 no. 3 bedroom dwellings and 1 no. 4 bedroom dwelling. Variation would allow: the creation of a new access.

There are no further comments to be made on the appeal, as the Parish Council had no objections to the original application.

075/2020

Local Plan Consultation

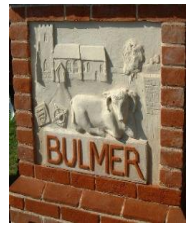
1. To agree any further comments to be submitted by the Parish Council on the modifications to the Braintree Local Plan. It was proposed by Cllr M Crome and seconded by Cllr R Raymond that the two Garden Villages should be removed from the Local Plan. This was agreed unanimously.
2. To agree comments to be submitted on the 2018-based household projections and their implications for the soundness of the housing requirement figures in the Local Plan. Cllr W Scattergood told the meeting that this was what had been mentioned earlier and was basically whether the Parish Council agreed with the government housing figure or the revised ONS figure. It was proposed by Cllr M Crome and seconded by Cllr R Raymond that the ONS figure of 357 should be used. This was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that a comment about starting work on conditions within six months on planning applications that have been granted permission should be added.

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076/2020

Consultations

1. HM Government's Planning for the Future White Paper – The Parish Council has no comments to be submitted regarding the proposals in the White Paper, at the current time.
2. HM Government's Local Government Reform White Paper – The White Paper has not yet been published and is now due in October/November 2020.
3. Highway Code – Changes to the status of Pavement Parking – It was noted that the consultation has been received. It was proposed by Cllr R Raymond, seconded by Cllr C Street and agreed unanimously that Cllr M Crome will complete the questions and then circulate to the Council for comment, before submission.

077/2020

Update in emergency plan

It was agreed that Cllr M Crome will update the Parish Council's part of the emergency plan and circulate to the Council for comments, before return to Braintree District Council

078/2020

Committees

There was discussion about a member of the Council to be on the Village Hall Committee, to take the place of Eileen Penn. Cllr C Street said that she would like to take a smaller part on the Coe's Meadow Committee and also be on the Village Hall Committee. This was proposed by Cllr R Raymond, seconded by Cllr S Kershaw and agreed unanimously.

079/2020

Meeting Dates for 2021

The meetings dates for Bulmer Parish Council for 2021 were agreed as:

18th January 2021, 15th March 2021, 17th May 2021, 19th July 2021, 20th September 2021 and 15th November 2021

Proposed by Cllr M Crome, seconded by Cllr A Crawshay and agreed unanimously.

080/2020

Items for Next Agendas:

Co-option

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

081/2020

To resolve to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting under The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1(2) It was proposed by Cllr R Raymond and seconded by Cllr C Street that the meeting should be closed to the Press and Public. This was agreed unanimously.

082/2020

Personnel Committee

Cllr C Street told the meeting that she had chaired the interview panel and that it had been agreed to offer the position of Clerk of the Council/RFO to Claire Waters, to start in early/mid October 2020. The Chairman thanked the Locum Clerk for her help during the last six months and this was echoed by all those present.

Proposed Dates of future meetings:

Parish Council Meeting 16th November 2020

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.56pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Signed..... 16th November 2020

Cllr Rosemary Raymond

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