

Coe's Meadow Management Committee (CMMC) Meeting Minutes



6pm, Wednesday 10th September 2025 at Blackbirds House, Bulmer.

Minutes taken by Laura Little.

Present: Cllr Antonia Crawshay, Emma Hamilton-Russell, Jenny Kenson, Laura Little, Cllr Sam Rowe.

1. **Apologies for absence:** none.
2. **Approval of Notes from meeting held 6th July 2025:** approved.
3. **Matters arising from the last minutes:** None.
4. **Committee member update:** Beth and Paul Paxton have resigned. Their efforts with Coe's Meadow were noted.
Jenny Kenson resigned as Treasurer and Antonia Crawshay to be Treasurer instead. Jenny to be Events Coordinator. Agreed by CMMC.
It was discussed that the CMMC needs to reach out for new committee members.
5. **Update on Finances:** update of Finances to August 2025 was shared and reviewed. Paypal has sent through cheques for funds raised through Go Fund Me which are to be banked by Parish Council Clerk Kevin Money.
6. **Update on progressing treeworks:** approval of Bulmer Parish Council grant is awaited. This will fund pollarding of Lime Avenue Trees. It was agreed that the Laurel hedge will be cut back and reduced in height by a working party in October once birds have stopped nesting. The apple tree was cut back by the working party that took place on 7th September. It was noted that the working party was very positive with the clearance around the pond and back of Vicar's Orchard.
It was discussed whether the apple trees should be kept as the apples drop into neighbouring gardens. No decision was made on this.
Sam Rowe intends to ask Peter Rowe if he has any history on the rare moth that was seen that prevents maintenance between the path and paddock behind Vicars Orchard. When was it spotted and what was it?
The CMMC agreed to lower the roadside hedge between the noticeboard and carpark (behind the playground) to make the park more visible, subject to agreement from neighbours opposite. Sam Rowe offered to do this once neighbours consulted.
7. **Chris Leigh - Memorial Tree:** Sam Rowe will ask Hillier if they would donate a Betula Utilis Jacquemontii West Himalayan Birch Tree and also whether they would consider supplying a slow-release watering bag and/or deer tree guard.
8. **Pond restoration and funding** – this discussion has been deferred to our next meeting.
9. **Playground and ROSPA Inspection update** – ROSPA inspection is scheduled for September (no specific date). Quotes for playground equipment are currently being obtained from Kompan and Sutcliffe Play. CMMC discussed a few options for playground replacement ranging from a replacement of equipment in immediate need (£65,000) to a full playground replacement (£140,000+) which will eventually be needed in coming years. Laura Little will contact Braintree Council and Essex County Council to explore whether funding opportunities exist, as well as looking into other grants available.

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- 10. Application for Grants:** we are currently awaiting approval of the grant from Bulmer Parish Council. With this and the help of working parties, there is not a need for extra funds for anything that would be funded by Essex Community Foundation.
- 11. Policies - Equality and Safeguarding:** approved by CMMC and to be passed to Bulmer Parish Council for approval. These policies will be required if any grants are applied for with Essex Community Foundation.
- 12. Storage of Items used for CMMC Fundraising Events:** Emma Hamilton-Smith kindly offered to store any large items.
- 13. Working party/Stour Valley volunteer dates:** A further working party is planned for 14th September to work on area around carpark, gates and village signs.
The meadow cutting will be done by Stour Valley on 22nd September and the Stour Valley Volunteer Group will be working on Coe's Meadow on the 24th September. Jenny Kenson will check that church toilets may be used by the group.
- 14. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 8th October 2025.
- 15.** The CMMC had a brief chat about being approached by the Parish Council regards the proposition of a social centre being built on Coe's Meadow (subject to funding and planning approval). The CMMC feel it would benefit the village but had concerns about carparking and the time to progress such a project.
- 16.** The CMMC discussed the potential of an event on Coe's Meadow on 5th November. Details need to be discussed further at the next meeting if to go ahead.