



# Bulmer Parish Council



Locum Parish Clerk: Kevin B. Money 7 Roach Vale Colchester Essex CO4 3YN

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>. March 2025 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs A. Crawshay, P. Paxton, S. Rowe and Kevin B. Money (Locum Clerk to Parish Council).

There were also 3 members of the public present

Cllr P. Paxton acted as Chair for this meeting

**027/2025 Apologies for absence** were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr D. Holland, Cllr R. Raymond, Cllr D. Burke and Cllr R. Burke

### **028/2025 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda  
**None Declared**

### **029/2025 Minutes of previous meeting**

To approve the minutes of the meetings held 27<sup>th</sup>. January 2025. **All Agreed**

**030/2025 Public Questions:** 15 minutes time allowed for this item: Members of the public in attendance may ask the Parish Council a question.

Has the footpath been done on the A131 also a rut have been caused by a lorry. A farmer was contacted to get the rut filled in.

The trustees of Pebbles Preschool in Bulmer are working to secure a permanent home for the preschool. The current building on the St Andrews School site will soon not be fit for purpose and will be vacated by the preschool this year (October 2025 at latest). The preschool requires a permanent home, preferably in Bulmer and on the school site. We are currently trying to plan and fund a building to replace the existing preschool building sited behind St Andrew's School. We are also making plans for temporary accommodation as any new building will unlikely be ready for this timing. We also hope to find out this week whether there will be any local authority funding in next financial year that will make this more achievable. If not we will have to work with the funds we currently have saved and appeal to the public and local businesses for help.

Our primary option is to site the building where the existing building is. However, there is the possibility that this option may not work due to costs and siting issues. The school currently leases some land to the school for their forest school. Our question to the Parish Council is whether they would still consider the possibility of Pebbles Preschool siting a building on this land? This may not be a viable option but we would like to know whether it can be considered if our current plan does not work out. We understand that we'd need to assess the cost and practicalities of installing utilities.

This item to be deferred to the July meeting

**031/2025 Report from the County Councillor** No report was given

**032/2025 Report from District Councillor** Cllr D. Holland supplied a brief report prior to the meeting. It read

*Having been in contact with Bethan Paxton with respect to the funding of the proposed restoration of the play equipment, as I confirmed to her, I have put in a request to Braintree DC for support from newly allocated funds within the recently agreed Budget and await a response from them. As soon as I hear anything on this, I will be in touch with both Bethan and Bulmer PC via you.*

*Other than that, the only other matter to report is that Braintree DC debated Devolution and Local Government Reform two weeks ago, and I spoke at that meeting to make a case in keeping with my comments to Bulmer PC at their last meeting, raising the issue of potential democratic deficit once our communities are represented by far fewer councillors. I remain concerned by this issue and what I see as the potential for rural residents to become even more disadvantaged under a Unitary Authority, which will likely be urban thinking dominated.*



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- 033/2025**     **VE Day 80 - 8th May 2025** Coe's meadow are organising an event children's activities, cakes stalls etc.
- 034/2025**     **Defibrillator training** No further training has taken place.
- 035/2025**     **EALC Councillor Training** Councillors have received all training information from EALC Cllr P. Paxton is going on a village hall training course.
- 036/2025**     **Coe's meadow** – update on Committee meeting  
The committee are sorting out repairs on play equipment and grass cutting. A tree in memory of Chris Lee. Can the tree have protective fencing around the tree? A plant sale at the Church on 7<sup>th</sup>. June. Suggestion of an incorporation of a new village hall at Coe's meadow.
- 037/2025**     **s106 funding available for the Parish of Bulmer**
- 038/2025**     **Village Tidy** – No update
- 039/2025**     **Allotment Standpipe:** Cllr R Raymond to provide an update.  
A new standpipe and piping have been laid by UKNP. Minimal fittings are still need to get the standpipe connected to the water mains
- 040/2025**     **Allotment update** from M. Crome  
As compensation for all the damage and time taken to install the sub-station, UKNP have laid the water pipe extension to the top of the allotments. Covered the trench with topsoil and are to seed it. UKNP will not connect the pipe to the existing supply or install the new stand pipe, this has to be arranged by BPC. I understand all the fencing and posts will be made good and the area left tidy. Also, they have agreed to move the noticeboard to make the entrance clearer. My recommendation is for it to be relocated to the left of the post box, instructions must be given to UKPN for this to be carried out.  
I still await to hear if the owner of the plot 20 has been repaid their deposits following vacating her plot, and whether the tenant of plot 3 and 18c has been written to regarding the condition/termination of the plots. One small plot remains vacant, so I will have another attempt to advertise it.
- 041/2025**     **Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response**  
**25/00519/LBC** - Griggs Farm Bulmer Street Bulmer  
Removal of render and timber laths from the timber framed ground floor southwest elevation. Repairs to the timber frame. Fill all the voids with sheep's wool insulation. Cover with a breather membrane, timber laths, haired chalk lime render and painted with a limewash.  
**RESOLVED:** Bulmer Parish Council Supports this planning application
- 042/2025**     **Councillor vacancy** – update from the Clerk. No resident/s have applied for the Councillor vacancy
- 043/2025**     **Councillor's Reports**
- 044/2025**     **Finance**  
a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 28<sup>th</sup>. February 2025  
Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 28<sup>th</sup>. February 2025  
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 February & March 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial arrangements. **All agreed**
- 045/2025**     **Items for next agenda**
- 046/2025**     **Date of next meeting:** **THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup>. MAY 2025** at 7.15pm in Bulmer village hall (Back room)



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**047/2025 Councillors to note 2025 meeting dates** 28.07: 22.09: 24.11.25

**048/2025 Closure of the meeting**

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

Cllr P. Paxton then closed the meeting at 8.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*PPaxton*  
**Paul Paxton**

29<sup>th</sup>. May 2025