



Bulmer Parish Council



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

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Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 29th. May 2025 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs R. Raymond (Chair), R. Burke, A. Crawshay, P. Paxton, and Kevin B. Money (Locum Clerk to Parish Council). There were also 6 members of the public present

1. Apologies for absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, BDC Cllr D. Holland and D. Burke

2. Minutes of 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 5th. May 2024. **All Agreed**

3. Chairman's Address:

The Chairman of the Parish Council will give an address detailing the work of the Council over the last year. Thank you everyone for coming

Firstly, I would like to say how much I like the way the village is starting to work together. Coes Meadow is making a good effort at fundraising and maintenance with a brilliant VE Day morning and followed by the lighting of the beacon, plant sale and a tack sale are coming up.

Skylarks are still going strong thanks to Maggie and the village hall is doing a good job of providing us all with a place to meet

At long last, we have had a footpath from Bulmer to Sudbury cleared but it needs spraying

We have a sign post that needs some TLC that are just not getting done

We had to find a new Clerk half-way through the year and we should look for a new Clerk of our own as Kevin is only locum and I am worried he might leave us.

The Aubries have been helping with cutting of the verges and Sam Rowe has done a brilliant job of Coes Meadow hedge this is still one of our main expenses

We had a village tidying up and am hoping to have one again this year

Dumping of garden waste still is a problem in the village

4. Guest Speakers:

Mike Crome: Allotments – updates and future plans

- Allotments are looking good with UKPower Networks finishing the project.
- The fencing has been replaced
- Only 1 allotment is not let however, some allotments are not being used. Another letter to be send to plot holders
- The standpipe has been laid by UKPower and can the pipe be connected?

Maggie Skipper: Village Hall & Skylarks updates and future plans

- Village Hall is trying to be kept in good repair
- Many clubs are using the hall
- The Church has also used the hall
- Break in last August with the kitchen being badly damaged but the police were not interested. Token meters have been installed at additional cost
- More fund-raising is need for this and future years.
- Young residents are needed to serve on the committee

Skylarks

- Various speakers and quiz afternoons
- CPR and resuscitation were organised
- Speakers are difficult to find and to fund their costs
- Skylarks party on 7th. December
- Members interacting with children is fantastic



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The Federation of St Giles' and St Andrew's Primary Schools – Helen Padgett School Governor

St Andrew's received a two day visit by OFSTED in October 2024 which resulted in 'Good' gradings in all areas. 'St Andrew's is a 'happy place to be' and children 'relish coming to school here'.' Please see the school's website for the full report.

While budgets are extremely tight and costs increasing, the federation has helped considerably with savings. The school continues to have four classes and has 61 children on roll with 12 starting in Reception in September 2025. The school has 12 children attending from Bulmer.

The federation continues to provide opportunities for the children from the three schools to work together on shared experiences. This has included learning, sport and trips out for all three schools. The three schools had a panto visit to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds at Christmas. Other visits have included Boydells Farm, Cambridge Mosque and Botanical Gardens, Firstsite, Colchester, Colchester Castle, and Colchester Zoo. St Andrew's has hosted a visit from the Exotic Animal Workshop, Young Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Planetarium. The school continues to provide sports coaches and St Andrew's was host to a Football Festival as well as attending the Cross Country at Hedingham School. There is a dedicated music specialist working across the three schools. The emphasis, as always, is on delivering a broad and balanced curriculum experience.

The school has now leased a minibus which has meant that there can be more visits between schools and has reduced the costs considerably for local visits.

Pebbles pre-school continues to work well with the school and has school lunches provided by St Andrew's. Forest School continues with all classes going over to Baker's Wood during the school year.

Please see the school's website for more information and regular news. Sab.sgasa.uk

5. Open Public Forum:

Members of the public will be invited to raise any concerns, issues or ideas for the village that they would like to see put into place.

- Footpath along A131 is difficult to walk pass from Jenkins Farm. Cllr R. Raymond to liaise with PROW Office
- Defibrillator training was well attended. Defibrillators and batteries are checked on a monthly basis.
- Speeding in the village is still causing concern. Pedestrian Crossing, Cycleway and speed survey should be looked into.

6. Closure of the meeting

The Chair then closed the meeting at 7.50pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

R. Raymond - Chair