



What's Going On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer – December 2019

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

View in colour at www.essexinfo.net/bulmervillage

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We held another very successful Quiz Night in November and it was so nice to see so many of you from the Village filling the 14 tables. As usual there were a few friendly "arguments" and much laughter. Through our Quizzers generosity we were able to give a generous donation to our beautiful Church. It is so rewarding to help others in the Village as well as providing funds towards the Hall.

We are very relieved that we have survived all the rain without any leaks from the roof into the main Hall. There are always problems with an older building such as ours but we hope we are on top of them. We will be replacing the car park lights in the near future as the existing ones are old and past their best.

The Committee will be meeting in the New Year to plan various events. The most important one will be a celebration of V.E. day in May. We will be working with the Church and the Parish Council so watch out for more information through flyers, on all notice boards and the websites.

May we, as a Committee, thank all of you who have supported us throughout the past year. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a bright and peaceful New Year

BULMER SKYLARKS

We are all looking forward to our visit to St. Andrews School for our Christmas lunch. It is so enjoyable celebrating the spirit of Christmas with the staff and pupils and we cannot thank them enough for allowing us to do so.

Autumn saw us welcoming various speakers and our AGM was again very short on "business" and big on fun. We have welcomed Hannah from Perriwood Garden Centre who told us how the business started and their plans for the future here in Sudbury.

We had an enthralling meeting in November when Jean Johnson demonstrated her flower arranging skills. Her beautiful arrangements were put in a raffle and there were some very happy winners leaving the Hall that afternoon.

We now look forward to 2020 and will be welcoming new speakers and perhaps new members. On 28th January "Look who I bumped into" will be the subject of Chris Tannar's talk and on 25th February Alan Burbidge will be with us with the history of Ickworth. We will be welcoming Linda Cook from the R.N.L.I on 24th March. Hopefully, a varied programme with other activities in between.

If you would like to know more about us please come along to a meeting or ring Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas from all of us

BULMER LITTER PICKERS

After many years of keeping parts of our precious village free of litter, two stalwarts namely Barbara Rawlins and Peter Rowe have decided to hand in their pickers as they are no longer in a position to carry out this task.

The Parish Council would like express their sincere thanks to them for carrying out the role for many years, on a very busy approach to our village. Your efforts have been an inspiration for many other volunteers who we are sure must put yourselves at risk in clearing rubbish left by those who are too lazy or careless to take their litter home. We know many residents have appreciated your efforts to keep the village clear of litter for others to enjoy.

We are pleased to say other residents have stepped forward to carry on this excellent voluntary work.

Bulmer Parish Council

BULMER STITCH AND SEW CLUB

Everyone welcome – we meet on the first Monday in the month from 2 – 4pm. If it falls on a Bank Holiday it is on the 2nd Monday. We pay £1 per session this helps to pay for the hire of the hall and refreshments. If anyone else would like to join us (men as well) please ring Marilyn Cicconi on 01787 466030 for further information.

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.

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. It is a vital fundraiser for your village hall. Are you a member? The more members the more funds for the village Hall and bigger prizes.

Please support your village hall and contact Dawn at the Post Office (01787 376676) if you would like to join the village lottery.

Month	First	Second	Third
October	Mrs H Simpson	Mrs H Simpson	Mr & Mrs G Rooney
November	Mr & Mrs P Rowe	Mrs L Fulcher	Mr D Smith
December	Mrs T Bowler	C Massey & S Davies	Mr R Buchanan

VILLAGE MUTTERINGS

Well what have you learnt since the last mutter? I hear the decision on the 7 houses in Church Road is still not decided, and someone said the developer has lodged an appeal on the basis of no decision by BDC. I wonder what the outcome will be.

A number of residents have commented on the state of the recreation ground, which is looking very neglected now after over 15 years since opening and I have to agree. I am told that before the next council meeting in January there is to be an open discussion on its future, so it seems a good time for everyone to have their say.

I noticed the other day the first signs of fibre broadband being installed underground by County Broadband in Hedingham Road and understand installation is to be finished in January. At long last, fingers crossed!

My sources tell me we now have 3 vacancies for councillors and a new clerk is needed. Maybe you should throw your hat into the ring and help out. I intend to give it some serious thought over the season's festivities.

Thanks for reading and a very Happy Seasons greetings and a healthy New Year to you all. - The Villager Whisperer

ST ANDREWS PARISH CHURCH

Ken Mills is standing down as Treasurer for St. Andrew's Church so the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is seeking a replacement for this post.

If you feel you would like to volunteer for Treasurer here is a little more information:

There is no formal requirement to attend church services. There are usually 6 meetings a year (bi-monthly) where you would be required to attend just to give a report on the current financial situation (you will not be required to attend the full meeting). A Financial Statement for each year ending 31st December will be required to be prepared and presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting annually usually in April. Although the position reports to the PCC there is no requirement to be a member of the PCC. Being aware of the activities of the church facilitates the meaningful report on its finances.

It may be appropriate for a possible candidate to shadow Ken for a period of time and to have Diocesan Training etc. if needed.

To establish what the job entails please contact Ken Mills on 269377.

BULMER ALLOTMENTS

For a short while this year for several years every plot had been rented, but recently one that is ready for next year's planting has become available for a small rent of less than £20 per year. Have your own grown organic vegetables or fruit when you want them. If you are interested in viewing the plot before deciding please contact Mike Crome by email at cllrmike.crome@gmail.com or the Parish Clerk at bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com.

NATURE DIARY

I doubt if anyone can remember a wetter autumn than we have been "blessed" with this year. Up until about mid-September, the ground water levels were getting worryingly low. We certainly had several months of below average rainfall. But then having had some much welcome rain, it just didn't know when to stop and by mid-October a lot of fields were waterlogged. As a result many farms haven't managed to get the seed their winter sown crops into the ground. By now (end Nov) with the rain still threatening and the ground unlikely to dry out enough, the sowing may have to wait till the spring. One puzzling thing is that the water levels at the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Cornard Mere nature reserve, are well *below* normal for this time of the year. The water there is still below the level of the overflow ditch, which drains into the Stour. Where is the water going? Presumably it's draining through the peaty soil and topping up the underground aquafer, which suggests that despite the saturated topsoil, the lower subsoil is still absorbing more water.

One result of all this rain, mixed with some warmer days, was an incredible flush of fungi of all species which suddenly sprouted up. The parasols were particularly prominent, looking just as their name suggests with some caps approaching a foot across, on a tall slender stem. They seemed to pop up everywhere. Excellent to eat, we put a particularly large one on top of a pizza, it sealed the rest of the topping in nicely! Field mushrooms were similarly plentiful, especially on the wide conservation headlands which have been sown with grass and wildflower mixes. In one location they came up so thickly that they literally made a mound of caps, with the more recently sprouted mushrooms pushing up underneath those that had emerged a couple of days or so earlier. They often grow close, but I can honestly say that I have never seen them in such heaps before.



COMMON PARASOLS



**ARTISTS FUNGI IN
THE AVENUE**

There is one little group of bracket fungi that I'm sure many people from Bulmer Street will have noticed. At the base of the fourth lime tree on the right at the bottom of the avenue leading up to the church, are several Artists Fungi - not a good omen for the tree. These fungi are brackets that can last for years and get their name from their underside, which is white. It can literally be used to produce works of art. When its surface is rubbed or scratched it changes from its light colour to dark brown, meaning that lines, shading and all manner of illustrations can be etched upon the fungus itself and is permanent. The fungi season has stretched well into November and about the middle of the month we visited Groton Wood, with members of the Sudbury Watch Group, the junior section of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

After having woefully low numbers of children attending our meetings of late, we were much heartened when no fewer than sixteen turned up, plus parents. Children just love being set the challenge of searching for things, and in no time their baskets and plastic containers were holding an almost bewildering array of all shapes and sizes of various fungi. Those which we identified included clouded agaric, penny bun, sulphur tuft, blewits, parasols and funnel caps. We thought that one youngster had found a real rarity, a zoned rosette. But alas, it proved after consulting with Neil Mahler the Suffolk Fungi recorder, that it was the commonly found Turkey Tail, growing in an unusual rosette formation, which none of us had seen before.



**TURKEY TAIL GROWING IN UNUSUAL
ROSETTE FORMATION**



A great spotted woodpecker was on our runner beans. I could see that it was reaching over and was pecking at something. After it had gone, I found that it had been getting at the beans in a dried out pod. A few weeks later it was breaking off hazel nuts from our nut stub, then taking them to our apple tree. Here it wedged them into the bark to hold them firm, before opening them with its powerful dagger like beak, right.



CARRION CROW AND KITE

In early October I spotted a red kite over "Missinmere" (the name of the field behind Bulmer Street). As I watched, a carrion crow dived towards it, intent on giving it a warm welcome. Although much bigger than the crow, the kite totally outmanoeuvred its attacker. It then turned the tables and harried the crow, making two of three close passes, it's long wings practically brushing the crow. I couldn't help thinking that the big bird of prey was really relishing this chance to show off its superior aerial skills. No bones were broken in that encounter, but there was real menace in an incident that I saw a couple of weeks later beside the Stour Estuary at Mistley :-



Lots of birds were feeding out on the exposed mud, redshank, black tailed godwit, dunlin and shelduck among them. But there were also gulls, closer in, which I'm afraid to admit I don't always pay as much attention to as I should. By luck, I was filming the general scene when I was aware that there was a commotion amongst the gulls closer to me. Two gulls were having something of a struggle. One, a large bird in juvenile plumage, had got hold of a much smaller gull by the wing and was trying to force it down. The struggle continued for a minute or more before the smaller gull managed to escape, had it not, murder would have been committed that sunny afternoon! Thanks to a more gull savvy birdwatcher who also saw the assault, I learned that the attacker was a greater black backed gull, the biggest of our gulls which are notorious killers. It was in third year plumage (it's 4 years before they get full adult plumage) and that its intent was definitely to make a meal of the adult black headed gull that it had grabbed.

To end the year on a happier and more seasonal note, double snowdrops at Upper Houses. The original bulbs, planted by my grandmother about 140 years ago when a young girl.



The season's greetings to everyone

Peter Rowe

BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

YOUR COUNCILLORS	
Rosemary Raymond - Chairman	07813 205743
Amanda Lyes – Vice Chairman	
Mike Crome	
Eileen Penn	

Shelley Boydell - Locum Clerk
Tel: 07983 455211 or
Email: bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com

All meetings are bi-monthly, normally held on the third Monday of the month in the Village Hall at 7:45pm except the AGM which starts at 7:15pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for statements/questions from the floor.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
20 January 2020
16 March 2020
18 May 2020 - AGM

**Draft Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 18th.November 2019 at Bulmer Village Hall at 7.45pm**

Present: Cllr R. Raymond (Chairman), Cllr A. Lyes, Cllr M. Crome, Cllr E. Penn, Cllr D. Finch & BDC Cllr W. Scattergood, Shelley Boydell (Clerk). Also, present were approx. 15 members of the Public

089/2019 Chairman Welcome – Introduces new locum clerk following previous clerk's resignation.

090/2019 Apologies for Absence – none

091/2019 Declaration of Interest
Declaration of interest received from Cllr. M Crome regarding item's 100 & 101.

092/2019 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Bulmer Parish Council

Parish Council meeting minutes 15th July 2019 – approved and signed

Planning meeting minutes 27th August 2019 – approved and signed

Cllr A. Lyes proposed and Cllr M. Crome seconded that both sets of minutes are a true and accurate record of the meetings. All Agreed

093/2019 Public Participation Session

Queries regarding allotment agreements Cllr. M Crome to investigate allotment agreements.

Road closure signs not collected Cllr. R Raymond suggests to chase ECC Highways. Cllr. Finch confirmed he would remove the signs if emailed the locations (PC to email locations).

Street lights remaining on – discussion followed but to no conclusion.

Loss of habitat regarding development – Cllr. W Scattergood explained that with a large development a study of habitat would be carried out. Cllr. D Finch confirms that any changes to habitat would be in a planning application and agreed or refused at the time.

Public request to note previous clerk was an asset to the PC – general agreement.

County Broadband – PC to approve location of poles – discussed in item 101.

Telephone Box removed, why? – PC did receive information regarding phone box removal but not regarding this specific phone box. Cllr. W Scattergood notified BT this phonebox needed to remain until better phone signal was available in the area and requested that a decision to removal was not made without agreement from the PC. Suggestion to ask BT to reinstate phone box to enable in relation to defibrillator. PC will write to BT.

094/2019 Strategic Lorry Route

Cllr. E Penn explained the current HGV route passes residents in Halstead (Head st.) close to their front doors, then goes towards Cross Street Sudbury via Bulmer causing a danger on route. Consideration of changing the strategic lorry route to come off further up the A12. Halstead Town Clerk would like to meet with BPC and Sudbury Town Council to discuss matters further. Cllr. E Penn proposed to take this meeting, PC unanimously agreed.

- Cllr. D Finch will request police to perform a speed check on A131 by Bulmer Fox.

095/2019 V/E Commemoration 8/10th May 2020

The village hall and the church are both commemorating this event and BPC proposes the possibility of working together. Cllr. E Penn will discuss and report back as is a member of the village hall committee.

096/2019 Essex County Councillors report – Cllr D. Finch

ECC sits in the top 10 of 140 most productive councils in the country.

Children's services is the most outstanding in the county.

Adult social care service awarded outstanding in recent audit.

Environmental matters – reducing CO2 emissions, reducing plastic usage. Working with recycled materials for pot holes. Recycle 90% of materials from roads for use with filling pot holes. Investigating using warm tarmac instead of hot which will reduce CO2 emissions further. Protecting properties from

flooding. Looking at bus companies using more energy efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles.

Leaving verges for wild flowers and planting trees. 375,000 trees due to be planted in Essex, the first will be planted at Notley Discovery Centre. Set up an independent commission to explore new ideas and ways

of working to reduce CO2, including experts, public and various political parties – due to be in place by May 2020.

Highways – will speak to police re item 094 and speed check following discussion regarding speed limits and motorists not adhering.

097/2019 District Councillors report – Cllr W. Scattergood

18th October update on strategic investment projects –

Open spaces – all open spaces need to be identified, this is very important as is a list of priorities on how any money given would be spent.

January – 9 days of discussions on the Local Plan in Colchester.

£1,500 left to invest in local villages and suggests applications. Used for repairs, projects etc.

An application for 7 new houses has not appealed but has a number of objections.

Suggests to apply for defibrillator and repairs to children's playground.

098/2019 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

Resignation of clerk and locum clerk starting

Resignation of Cllr A Bott – PC accepted resignation. Clerk to notify BDC.

099/2019 Clerks Report

Clerk's resignation letter – accepted and last working day confirmed 31.11.2019

Chris & Kevin contribution at Coe's Meadow – Plaque / Bench / Seat – Cllr R. Raymond – to be reviewed as agenda item next meeting.

Village Green memorial – Cllr R. Raymond – to be reviewed as agenda item at next meeting.

RoSPA inspection report – to be reviewed as agenda item at next meeting.

Website replacing essexinfo.net – Cllr M Crome – quotes obtained and currently meeting with possible providers and looking at options, update at next meeting.

100/2019 Representative Reports

Allotments - Cllr M. Crome

Installation of UKPN Substation in the proposed location within the allotment area.

Cllr E. Penn proposes, Cllr A Lyes seconds, Cllr M Crome fully supports.

UKPN confirmed that any damage will be compensated for and the firm will cover all legal costs required.

Coes Meadow

The gate is being left unlocked and is a concern. Suggestion to close gate over Christmas period to avoid parking on the field, PC all agreed.

101/2019 County Broadband – Two Representatives from County Broadband

Cllr E Penn queried where the three discussed poles will be erected and asked if underground is an option, this will be considered. The current poles are electric and not BT and at this time these poles cannot be used. The maximum distance between any two poles is 67m. Poles are 9m in length and 7m above ground. The expectation to be connected was by Christmas but delays by Highways and road closures has impacted this and the new expectation to be connected is Feb/March 2020.

102/2019 Planning Applications

19/01842/11 – no objections

19/01901/OUT – no objections

103/2019 Decision/s made by BDC on planning applications

Permission for velux windows at 3 Church Road has been granted

BDC has visited the site and advised that planning is required for the 3 portacabin containers on Hedingham Road.

087/2019 Finance

Bank balances as at 31st October 2019 and 2019/20 budget account
Councillors discussed 2020/21 budget / precept and suggested 1, 2 or 3% increase
Decision regarding internet banking postponed to next PC meeting
Noted that a cheque is required for refund for allotment tenant.

088/2019 Items for Next Agenda – 20th January 2020

Village Green

Chris & Kevin contribution at Coe's Meadow – Plaque / Bench / Seat – Quotation

Councillors to agree the quotation to replace plywood and 3 signs on the noticeboard

Find in minutes - Garden Allotment 3 year lease

Full discussion on Coe's Meadow

Discussion of 75 years to the end of WW2

Essexinfo.net update

Discussions/decisions outside the meeting

Planning Councillor/sub. Committee

Date of Next Full Council meeting – 20th January 2020:

2020: 16.03.20: 20.04.20 Annual Electors meeting: 18.05.20 PC AGM: 20.07.20: 21.09.20: 16.11.20

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm and thanked everyone for attending.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE on <http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer> where you can find the latest information and useful links to other websites.

**The next edition will be published at the end of September
Please send your articles and pictures to Carole Bennett at
carolebennett@btinternet.com
by the **11 March 2020**.**