

What's Going On?

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e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc

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HM Government NHS

WASH HANDS **COVER FACE** **MAKE SPACE**

Keep on protecting each other

Lockdown help is still available to anyone who needs it.

Turn to the back page for a list of your village volunteers

Iron Age and early Roman Finds from Bulmer

Over the past few years Stour Valley Community Archaeology (SVCA), have been carrying out excavations at a site near Bulmer that has produced a large amount of Iron Age and early Roman finds. Even though the site has only partially been excavated, we have ended up with 240 bags of pottery and 36 bags of bones which have now been sent off to Cambridge for further analysis – with more bags of other finds to go!

Here is a selection of some of our finds:
Decorated rim of a bowl from early Roman period (1st or 2nd century).



This site, like many archaeological sites, was littered with oyster shells. We think of oysters as a luxury food but in times past, it was food for poor people with barrels of oysters being brought inland from the Colne estuary.



Bronze brooch – broken, there should be a pin on the runner which would have been a little longer than the brooch diameter. In Iron Age times, brooches were about the only way of securing garments. Cloth was pulled through the ring, fixed on the pin and pulled back to secure the garment.



Loom weight. In Iron Age times, cloth was produced by hanging the warp threads from a frame and which were held tight by loom weights whilst the weft threads were added



Base of Roman pot of a high status material known as Samian ware and characterised by a glossy red surface



VILLAGE MUTTERINGS



Well is there any good news, other than thankfully I'm still here and Christmas and a New Year approaches. Let's hope it is much better than 2020.

As I wander around the village I notice our dog poo bins are being emptied again for those who use them. I have to say not all dog walkers clear up after their pooches

have left their calling card on pavements and footpaths, please think of others and use the bins provided.

Some other news at long last the hyperfast broadband is now up and running, making internet use much improved, and I understand we have two providers of this service, County Broadband and Gigaclear. Well worth the investment.

Whilst on my travels I notice that all the allotments in Park Lane appear to be cultivated, I believe it is some years since this has occurred, is this due to the current climate or is the thought of fresh air and vegetables the attraction, I wonder.

Also I noticed several new residents have moved into Bulmer over recent weeks, so may take this opportunity to welcome you all to Bulmer in this lovely tranquil corner of Essex.

Take care and hopefully everyone in the village keeps safe during this third lockdown now we are in Tier 4.

A village wandering mutterer.

Sling shot – probably used for protecting livestock from predators.



Fragment of Iron Age pottery – it is noticeably cruder than the Roman examples shown above. “Iron Age” really describes the style rather than the age – pottery like this would have continued to be made well into the Roman occupation period.



So what was the site? There's a joke amongst archaeologists: when you don't understand what is happening on a site – say “It's ritual”. Well in this case, it's difficult to think of an alternative answer. We have excavated three areas, all of them covered with flints which seem to have been deliberately laid down and rich with finds, mainly bone and pottery; the bone is badly degraded so it is difficult to identify but appears to be animal – our Cambridge analysis should give us a better answer. One area included a pig's skull mounted on a large flint boulder; a totem perhaps? Most intriguingly is a curved area about 2metres wide which has been particularly rich in finds, often pottery and bone being found in little mounds of flint and clay. We have excavated about 30m without finding any end; does this form part of a circle? We don't know yet, but it is thought that iron age religious sites included a ceremonial walk way.

We have now got a professional archaeologist, formerly from Cambridge university, to review our finds and site plans and to prepare a proper archaeological site report which we hope will be ready next year.

‘History on Your Doorstep’ – Volunteer Hosts Needed

Our plan is to research the village's history by carrying out test pit excavations in the spring of next year. This would be carried out over a weekend with test pit back filled and, as necessary, re-turfed at the end of the weekend. Experienced members of SVCA would be on hand to help with finds identification; the event will comply with whatever Covid-19 restrictions are in force at the time.

If you would be prepared to host one of our test pits please contact me for more information: David Orrell, SVCA Chairman. 07702 543028 djorrell@hotmail.co.uk

I have HYPER-FAST BROAD-BAND!

Well, Its finally arrived! I am now enjoying 100mbps of glorious fibre broadband. In November County broadband finally called to arrange an installation, but there were a few more obstacles to deal with first. The installation could only be done to the front of the house, but I am a mid terrace and all of the entertainment devices that I want to plug in are at the back of my house in the living room. So I need the cable to go up and over the house or through the loft. The installer could not do it. I had to wait for another installation team consisting of two men and a ladder. They arrived a week later and after much sucking of teeth and telling me it can't be done, they got on and did it!

Once the cable was installed I was told It doesn't work because there is too much light in the cable! So now I've gone from not enough internets to far too much internets pouring into my home! Don't worry they said, it will be fixed today...so I waited...and waited. Three weeks passed with me calling the service department daily and explaining the issue daily to a different customer advisor. Anyway to cut a long story short (too late) someone somewhere dialled down the brightness of the future and the internet began to work.

Now I seem to have joined the County broadband tariff lottery, where the price I pay may differ from everyone around me and may double after 6 months, and I may or may not be locked into an 18 month contract. I don't know, but at least I can enjoy Bridgerton on Netflix in glorious, smooth , no buffering HD.

Village Hall Lottery Results

	Oct	Nov	Dec
1st	Mr D Leach	S. & N. Boreham	Mr and Mrs B. Smiles
2nd	Mr A. Skipper	Mr A Morley	Mrs M Williamson
3rd	Mr S. Carpenter	Mr and Mrs Cooper	Mrs E. Cook

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.

Garden Gazing

Here we are in lockdown 2. I'm sitting in the November sun admiring the Autumn colours, thinking how fortunate I am to be able to do this. After so much rain, it's good to have the grass cut again - it got so long because the weather is still mild.

The garlic, onions and broad beans have been sown and are showing shoots already. Bulbs and wallflowers have been planted, so I'm looking forward to Spring colour.

The apple tree, which flowered so profusely in April, produced such an abundance of apples, that we were able to juice 20 - 30 litres of them. Had to buy another freezer to store it all!

The beginning of December brought a thick snowfall, which made the garden look magical. We delayed planting the new rose bushes until the snow melted. The beech hedge has its beautiful golden coppery leafage, so we wait until Spring for the new buds to unfurl. The winter cyclamen have beautiful colours and look cheerful amongst the grey.

Now we are in January and our third lockdown. Many spring bulbs are showing green shoots, so we look forward to new colour. Buds on the shrubs are swelling. Hopefully, when they open, we'll be able to go outside and see what else is growing in the area.

Bulmer Village Hall News

Once again we have had to close the Village Hall due to us now being in tier 4. We did manage to open for a few months and two small clubs were able to meet following all covid safety guidelines. We are always advised by our Village Halls advisor from the Rural Community Council for Essex. She has been a great help over many months keeping us informed of all regulations etc and we have always listened and followed her advice. We are very grateful for all her help. We have followed our insurers stipulations on closing the Hall and it is checked daily to ensure the building is safe. A full check on the electrics will be carried out early January but unfortunately any other planned work cannot be done until we are fully open and money raised to cover the costs. We would like to thank all of you who joined the lottery this year. Thank you for your support as not only does it help to raise funds for us but it swells the amount we give out in prize money. It is the time of the year for Lottery membership to be renewed so we hope you will support us by joining again for 2021. The lottery has been our main source of income over the past year so it helped a great

deal towards the payment of the many bills which still have to be paid. We are very grateful to all of you. May we wish you all a very Happy New Year and we hope that 2021 will see us back to a more normal life, covid free and all able to meet up again.

Bulmer Village Hall

Available for private Hire

A lovely venue to host an event such as

Wedding Receptions Parties and Meetings.

To find out more or to keep up to date with latest events

Find us on Facebook or call Nicola on 01787 827723 (or text 07971048455)

Joke Corner Rides again

How did the farmer mend his pants?

With cabbage patches!

Who does everyone listen to, but no one believes?

**The weather reporter
What did one wall say to the other wall**

I'll meet you at the corner.



NATURE DIARY

Peter
Rowe



What's on Dec 2020

We have had a noticeable absence of berry eating birds from our garden this autumn. One look at our rowan trees will confirm this. Whereas in some years I have known the berries to be stripped by thrushes and blackbirds as soon as they have reddened in early September, this year in the middle of December they still hang in

ever Ashley Cooper told me that a sizeable flock of fieldfares were feeding on hawthorn berries on some of his field hedges. He also mentioned that he had seen golden plovers out on one of his fields, which I was pleased to hear. The first Fieldfares I saw visit our rowan was on the 7th December and they spent more time squabbling amongst themselves than they did consuming the berries!



thick clusters on the branches. Although I have seen a few fieldfares and redwings fly over, none have been attracted to our garden's offering. Most years a quick scan around the fields behind us would usually reveal a few fieldfares feeding on one or more of the fields, often accompanied by the odd redwing, I haven't seen any so far this year. How-

There are many phrases and sayings involving birds and animals..... wise as an owl, blind as a bat, sly as a fox and I suppose, "pecking order" I saw a really practical illustration of the latter recently. There were half a dozen carrion crows gathered together at the bottom of the field out the back of us. Looking again I noticed a white blob amongst them. Getting out the 'scope, I found that the blob was the white head and breast of a lesser black backed gull.

It was feeding on a piece of carrion, most likely the remains of a dead rabbit. As it was continually being approached by one or another of the crows, which were trying to muscle in on its meal. Although they were mobbed, It was quite clear that the crows were no match for the somewhat larger gull. Despite their superiority in numbers, for the most part the crows found themselves mere spectators and the gull must have regarded them as an irritation rather than a threat. As they tried to edge in, one threatening flash of

the gulls murderous bill was enough to send them into retreat. I Didn't see the end of this piece of action, but 10 minutes later the crows were spread across the field and the gull nowhere to be seen, it had probably flown off with what remained of the rabbit. Several years ago I was witness to another similar happening, again in the middle of a field. On that occasion two carrion crows were intent on depriving a sparrow hawk of its wood-pigeon prey. This time the crows had the upper hand, although the hawk did succeed in devouring some of its kill, it was several times bundled off the carcass. As the crows attacks grew bolder, the sparrow hawk was





February and September and can have up to four litters of young in one year. A litter may contain between two and four young, which are born fully furred and with their eyes open. The female comes to suckle them once a day and after a month they are capable of supporting themselves. The young suffer a high mortality rate, often being picked off by predators, especially foxes.

forced to relinquish its prize I occasionally spot a brown hare sitting or laying out on one of the distant fields. Now that the fields have greened up with the beginning of next years corn crop they are easier to pick out against the background when the fields still had stubble on them, or were freshly cultivated. The unexpected blanket of snow which greeted us all on the 4th Dec. made an ideal backdrop for spotting anything out in the fields, but I couldn't believe the number of hares I managed to locate on the two fields in front of Heaven Wood. There were no less than fourteen in one close knit group on Broom Hill and another group of six on the Nearer Broad Field, with another couple further off. It seems that the snow encouraged them out into the open, as the next day when the snow had completely disappeared, despite searching hard I only found two and the corn is not high enough to hide them yet and indeed, I have seen very few since the snow. One can only assume that, for whatever reason, it was the snow that brought them all out, but goodness knows why. You would have thought that they would have been more likely to seek shelter than go out in the open. Unlike rabbits they don't make burrows, simply making "forms", slight depressions in the ground out in the

fields. I looked up some facts about brown hares on the Mammal Society web site. Whilst normally solitary animals, they will sometimes group up when feeding. They breed between

I mentioned a couple of field names above, these were all come from "Bulmer Then and Now" published in 1979 and now available on the Bulmer web site.



The Season's Greetings to One and All



Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council

<https://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer>

Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Monday 16th November 2020 Via Zoom Video Conferencing at 7.45pm

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

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Crome, Kershaw, Nichols, Raymond, Street.

In the Chair: Cllr Raymond

Clerk: Claire Waters

Also Present: Cllr David Finch ECC between 093/2020 and 094/2020, Cllr Wendy Scattergood BDC from 093/2020 to 101/2020

083/2020 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr R Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

084/2020 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence. Cllrs Finch & Scattergood apologised for late arrival due to attendance at other online Parish Council meetings

085/2020 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crome declared a non-pecuniary Interest relating to item 093/2020 Allotments, as an allotment holder.

086/2020 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Bulmer Parish Council

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2020 were approved as a correct record of events. Remote arrangements will be made for them to be signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

In answer to a question from Cllr Nichols, the clerk explained that the public were excluded from item 082/2020 Personnel Committee when the decision was made on recruitment of a new clerk. It is permitted for confidential employment matters to be discussed "in camera" i.e. in the absence of members of the public.

087/2020 Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present.

088/2020 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR: Update on current vacancy

The clerk reported that no applications for the current Councillor vacancy had been received.

089/2020 Essex County Councillors report – Cllr D. Finch

Cllr Finch arrived at item 093/2020 and gave his report, leaving before item 094/2020

- a) **Local Government Reform:** Plans to move towards more Unitary Authorities with a mayor of Essex have been put on hold due to Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. The earliest it will be reviewed is June/July 2021 after the May elections, which are still scheduled to take place.
- b) **Tier 2 Covid:** The decision to apply was based on the director of Public Health Essex, Dr Mike Gogarty, observing doubling of infection numbers in the midlands and north of England. The number of cases in Essex compares well with nearby authorities e.g. Thurrock & Southend and it is expected that the numbers will drop and the curve is flattening.
- c) **Budget for 2021/2022:** There has been pressure on the budget as people are dropping out of paying Council Tax, this is 80% of ECC budget and over £40 million income lost. With government funding the gap has been reduced to £13 million. £7.6 million funding is being allocated for green initiatives, particularly cycling lanes. £3.8 million winter grant fund is being allocated for disadvantaged residents.
- d) **Highways:** Policy areas are being refined – currently houses on both sides of the road are required to justify a 30mph limit, with 40mph for roads with houses on one side. Suffolk are introducing more 30mph limits, and 20mph in some areas. Essex will be conducting surveys to consider following a similar policy and residents are encouraged to express their views when the consultations are open.
- e) **Track & trace:** As part of Essex County Council involvement in the NHS programme, 2 pubs have been closed for breaching regulations and warning notices have been issued for other businesses. 150 million Covid tests are being administered for an indefinite period, and although there are no firm plans yet to roll out vaccines, Cllr Finch will keep Parish Councils informed of developments.

For the benefit of the new clerk, Cllr Finch and Parish Councillors explained the current situation at Batt Hall, which has a 60mph limit and where speeding vehicles are of concern to residents. Essex Highways has renewed slow markings and white lines. It may be possible to reduce the speed limit if new Highways policies are introduced. A speed watch can be successful in slowing traffic speed. In answer to a question from Cllr Crome, Cllr Finch confirmed that there is no longer a charge from the police to Parish Councils for conducting a speed watch as the current Chief Constable BJ Harrington is very keen on speed reduction. Cllr Finch is happy to raise any issues with the Chief Constable on behalf of the Parish

Please note: Until further notice these will be virtual meetings via ZOOM.

Should you wish to join the meeting and speak during the

Public participation section, details of how to engage are

published with the Agenda on notice boards and the website

www.e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc

Council.

Cllr Finch left the meeting.

90/2020 District Councillors report – Cllr W. Scattergood

Cllr Scattergood arrived at item 093/2020 and gave her report, leaving before item 101/2020

Cllr Scattergood did not wish to duplicate the weekly information emails from BDC which the clerk will be circulating to Councillors. In light of the discussion about speeding vehicles, she mentioned that Bures had recently completed a very successful speed watch.

- a) **Planning:** remote meetings continue, and site visits carried out using discretion for safety.
- b) **Councillors Community Grant:** £1,500 grant funding is available, and her preference is to use it for projects assisting vulnerable residents or to enable enjoyment of the outdoors.
- c) **Missed refuse collections:** in correspondence with Cllr Crome, she had chased up missed dog waste collections in the parish and these bins have now been emptied.

Since it was important for Cllr Scattergood to be involved in discussion about notice recently received for a planned mobile phone mast at the parish boundary, item 099/2020 Planning was brought forward.

091/2020 Chairman's report and any update since the last meeting

Cllr Raymond reported that hedge cutting is due at the verges and allotments. More areas of the parish are now supplied with fibre broadband via County Broadband or Gigaclear, although some including Cllr Raymond are still waiting.

092/2020 Clerks Report

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

093/2020 Representative reports / Parish Upkeep

Village Green – Cllr Raymond reported that it is too wet to do much to the green at the moment. Allotments – Cllr Crome provided a written report. Water bills were low due to estimated readings, the meter has now been read and charges will be invoiced in 2021. All plots are being worked and there is no longer a waiting list. A survey re-measuring the plots has been completed, minor adjustments will be made to invoices in 2021. Rents were last increased in 2018, and a decision was needed about when to next review. The clerk recommended as good practice an annual review, even if 0% increase is decided.

RESOLVED: To review allotment rents annually starting in July 2021.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond **Seconded:** Cllr Street Agreed unanimously

The small gate needs repairing and allotment holders have been advised to use the other gate for the time being until the repair is complete.

Consideration of increasing the number of plots by using the grass area around the perimeter. Cllr Crome recommended with no waiting list and to avoid parking nuisance to neighbours, as well as UKPN cable laying planned, this should be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

RESOLVED: no additional allotment plots will be created at this time

Proposed: Cllr Street **Seconded:** Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously

Cllr Crome and the clerk attended a National Allotment Society webinar on Tenancy Agreements and Policies. Bulmer agreements and policies are broadly in line with NAS standards. Areas to be considered for the future are:

- a) Issuing a summary reminder of the rules to be signed with the annual rent invoice
- b) Introduction of announced inspection of the allotments to confirm rules are being followed
- c) Introduction of a deposit to cover clear up costs when a tenancy is terminated
- d) Joining the National Allotment Society: Annual fee £55.00

Cllr Finch & Cllr Scattergood arrived.

Website Update – Cllr Crome reported the website is up to date and reminded everyone that you can register to receive email notification of updates.

Covid-19 support Cllr Street reported that the volunteers group is working well with telephone and WhatsApp contact. The new restrictions do not appear to have caused an increase in volunteer support needed by residents. Cllr Kershaw suggested a new Bulmer village Face book page would help people of all ages feel more connected, this would not be an official Parish Council page **RESOLVED:** Cllr Kershaw will create and administer a new Face book page for Bulmer village

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

094/2020 COE'S MEADOW

- a) Cllr Kershaw as Chair of the Coe' Meadow Management Committee shared a visual report of damaged and worn play equipment which demonstrated the extent of repairs needed. Cllr Nichols, a member of CMMC, described maintenance and improvement plans for consideration including tree and hedge cutting, play equipment, goal posts and safety surfaces. Plans are being prepared to consult with residents including primary school pupils about what they would like at Coe's Meadow. It is recognised that improvements are needed but the annual RoSPA play safety reports equipment is still safe to use

Action: Clerk to clarify reserves available for Coe's Meadow repairs, upkeep and new purchases

Action: Clerk to forward to Councillors the latest Open Spaces Action Plan, which specifies uses for S106 funds claimed from BDC towards open spaces projects.

Action: Clerk and CMMC members to look for grant funding available and consider fund raising

- b) It was noted that playgrounds remain open during the latest increased Covid-19 restrictions.

Action: Covid-19 safety notices will be updated for the notice boards

c) A written report was prepared by the clerk to assist with managing CMMC meetings and decisions

Action: Coe's Meadow Management Committee members will be asked permission to publicise contact details on notice boards and the website. **Action:** CMMC to forward regular written reports of planned work and spending for the clerk.

Action: Public meetings of CMMC to be scheduled in advance of Parish Council meetings to enable timely reporting to the Parish Council

094/2020 Finance

To note income received by the Council

SEPTEMBER	
Whittingdale	£40.00
Coombes	£13.75
Raymond Grazing	£956.70
S Buchanan	£75.40
RWhite	£32.50
Brett Grazing	£492.00
BDC 2nd Instalment of	£5,122.00
TOTAL in month	£6,732.35

OCTOBER	
Allotment Rent plot 18C&19	£39.48
Allotment Rent plot 7 & 9	£65.20
Allotment Rent plot 14 & 15 (for	£45.64
Allotment Rent plot 12A&B	£27.28
Allotment Rent plot 111	£37.24
Allotment Rent plot 13, 18, 18A	£55.70
Allotment Rent plot 20	£16.00
Allotment Rent plot 8	£10.30
Allotment Rent plot 17&17B	£23.04
Allotment Rent plot 1 & 1A	£63.02
Reeve T Allotment Key	£10.00
Clapps Farm plot 2	£123.50
Shaw D Allotment Key	£10.00
Hynd E	£6.88
TOTAL in month	£533.28

To ratify payments made since the last meeting: OCTOBER		
DD	Anglian Water (Allotments)	£94.53
101547	Miss A C Wood - Zoom subscription	£143.88
101548	Playsafety	£191.40
101549	EALC NAS Allotment training M Crome & Clerk	£72.00
101550	JPB Landscapes Ltd - Grass Cutting	£472.80
101551	Miss A C Wood - Locum Clerk (August 2020)	£512.56
101551	Miss A C Wood - Locum Clerk (September 2020)	£448.26
101552	Little Duck Bear Swing seats Coe's Meadow	£197.80
	TOTAL in month	£2,133.23

To agree payments to be made:

Earthworks Scythe mowing Coe's Meadow £54.00

EALC Councillor Training Days 1&2, AC SK LN £648.00

Proposed: Cllr Crome Seconded: Cllr Crawshay
Agreed Unanimously

Bank balances as at 31st October 2020

Barclays Current A/C £16,713.46

Barclays Business Savings A/C £37,141.03

CCLA PSDF £30,697.69

Update on the Bank Account – The Unity Trust online bank account is open but funds not yet transferred from Barclays. The clerk has tried to find out the reason for the delay and will call again to speak to the NewAccounts team. The clerk is the named key contact, authorised signatories are Cllrs R Raymond, M Crome, A Crawshay, L Nichols.

Update on the CCLA Investment Account – Change of key contact forms have been submitted to the CCLA administrators which will enable the new clerk to progress this item.

FINANCE: To decide on donation to Stour Valley Volunteers for Coe's Meadow clearance **RESOLVED:** To donate £100 from BPC funds and £100 from CMMC funds to Stour Valley Volunteers.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond **Seconded:** Cllr Kershaw Agreed unanimously

096/2020 FINANCE: To review tenders received and decide on grass cutting contractor for 3 year term

RESOLVED: To retain JPB Landscapes for the 3 year contract as the most competitive quote.

Proposed: Cllr Nichols **Seconded:** Cllr Crome Agreed unanimously

097/2020 : To review tenders received and decide on hedge cutting contractor for 3 year term

RESOLVED: To retain Livertons Ltd for the 3 year contract as the most competitive quote. **Proposed:** Cllr Raymond **Seconded:** Cllr Crome Agreed unanimously

098/2020 PLANNING: applications received for comment – Item brought forward, before 094/2020 **20/01673/HH** Erection of Cart Lodge Laundry Cottage Church Road CO10 7EL *No objections* **20/01679/HH** Erection of single bay cart lodge with open lean to Inglefield Bulmer Street CO10 7EW *No objections* **20/01744/HH** Proposed single storey side extension, roof alterations and balcony. Oakview Finch Hill CO10 7EX *No objections* For the planning applications at Bulmer Street and Finch Hill, it will be requested that consideration is given to roadside parking causing difficulties at both sites. Cllr Scattergood confirmed that Planning when approving an application can only make an informative request to take reasonable care when parking.

PROPOSED SHARED MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS RADIO EQUIPMENT

Greenfield, behind Ryes Lane, CO10 7DZ

A letter dated 12th November from EE and Hutchison 3G (H3G) proposes replacing a mobile phone mast at Doves House Farm, Great Henny with a new installation on greenfield land behind Ryes Lane. Initial responses are asked for within 14 days of the letter. Some Ryes Lane residents have been informed by Councillors verbally and by email, and all residents affected are encouraged to contact the clerk at bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com by 24th November so the Parish Council response can reflect their views. The mast will be tall and visible from the main road. It is also recognised that poor mobile signal is a problem for some people in the local area, including farmers.

PLANNING: applications determined - Item brought forward, before 094/2020

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 Ln Application REFUSED

101/2020 BRAINTREE PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Ratified: Bulmer Parish Council response to consultation on a revised scheme of delegation, the set of rules which determines whether a planning application will be decided by the Planning Committee or by planning officers under the delegated powers given by the Council.

Bulmer Parish Council asks that residents remain involved from the earliest stages and encouraged to express views. The introduction of “forums” and ways of speeding up the planning process is welcomed, and the Parish Council requests greater autonomy for on deciding what can be included in the Open Spaces Action Plan and therefore greater influence on S106 agreements.

102/2020 CONSULTATIONS

STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is carrying out a landscape review of the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct. Decision on Parish Council contribution to NALC response, deadline 4th December. Individuals can respond to the government consultation at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/standards-matter-2-public-consultation-and-public-sector-survey>, deadline 18th December

2020

RESOLVED: The clerk will respond with the Parish Council view that standards (the 7 Nolan Principles of Public Life) are generally upheld at Parish Council level where the Councillor role is voluntary, but need better enforcement in higher tiers of government where power and financial gain are greater.

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

103/2020 To Ratify actions from the Previous Meeting

1. Ratified Submission of updated Parish Emergency Plan to Braintree District Council
2. Ratified Submission of Response to Pavement Parking Consultation

104/2020 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Any issues to be advised by Councillors by Monday 11th January 2021

DRAFT - Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Full Council meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.15pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

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

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Crome, Kershaw, Nichols, Raymond, Street **In the Chair:** Cllr Raymond **Clerk:** Claire Waters **Also Present:** Cllr Wendy Scattergood BDC from 106/2020 to 115/2020

106/2020 Chairman's Welcome

107/2020 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

108/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Crome declared an interest in item 117/2020 as an allotment holder. Cllr Raymond declared an interest in a planning application at item 122/2020 for a neighbouring property to her own.

109/2020 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2020 were approved as a correct record of events. Remote arrangements will be made for them to be signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

110/2020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

111/2020 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR: Update on current vacancy

No applications for the current Councillor vacancy had been received.

112/2020 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr D. Finch

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Finch.

113/2020 HIGHWAYS: Speedwatch

Areas of priority concern including Batt Hall, Sudbury Road to Smeetham Hall Lane were considered. Cllr Crome suggested that speed watch needs at least 3 volunteers and can only be carried out in areas with an existing 30 or 40mph speed limit. Sudbury Road at that location has a 60mph speed limit.

Action: The clerk will investigate the options for speed watch with Cllr Finch and the Chief Constable, and also the possibility of an Essex Highways speed survey at Batt Hall

114/2020 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr W. Scattergood

Cllr Scattergood reported that many officers at BDC are ill with Covid-19 or isolating due to contact with colleagues who have the virus. Planning, enforcement and finance are particularly affected. In order to catch up with work backlogs, when the situation improves operational meetings will resume once a week instead of once a fortnight.

Refuse department staff are less depleted but coping with including fewer operatives in the cabs, so services may be slower but still meeting collection dates in most cases.

BDC Covid-19 updates are sent by email daily to the clerk and forwarded to Councillors In answer to a question from Cllr Crome about the proposed mobile phone mast near Ryes Lane, Cllr Scattergood confirmed that a formal planning application had not yet been submitted

Cllr Scattergood also confirmed that the planning application for a new entrance at Hedingham Road (application 20/01112/FUL Proposed new access item 122/2020) is on the agenda for the Braintree Planning Committee meeting on 19th January. The meeting can be viewed online.

Cllr Scattergood left the meeting

115/2020 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT and any update since the last meeting

Blocked drains at Ryes Lane had been cleared, but Cllr Raymond asked all Councillors to keep an eye on problem locations in the village in case flooding recurs.

Hedge trimmings cut and left at the roadside and in ditches by a utilities company, possibly BT, in various locations seem to have been mostly cleared away by residents.

Parish Council and Coes Meadow files stored at the Village Hall have not been accessible as the building is locked. Cllr Raymond has made arrangements to visit the Village Hall to find some necessary documentation for Coes Meadow Man-

agement Committee and will report back.

116/2020 CLERKS REPORT: North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) who are responsible for parking enforcement in the district have re-started face to face “surgeries” via video conferencing. Cllr Crome has booked a meeting for 19th January to ask for advice about dangerous parking at the bend at Church Road.

117/2020 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS/ PARISH UPKEEP

Covid-19 Support - Update on use of social media to communicate with residents. Cllr Kershaw had investigated village Face book pages and the Bulmer Village Hall Face book page is active and covers various subjects of village importance, so she felt that with permission from the administrator, this is a better forum for social media communication than setting up a separate page for the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Street will contact the Face book page administrator to discuss this option.

Allotment report Update from Cllr Crome – There are 2 residents on the allotment waiting list with no plots available, but this may change in the spring as allotment holders review plans. The allotment gate at Turnpike Piece has again been repaired by Peter Fulcher, but will be looked at again when the weather is drier as a major repair or replacement gate may be needed.

118/2020 COES MEADOW: To decide on Bulmer Parish Council actions arising from the Coes Meadow Management Committee Public Meeting of 14th January 2020

Contact details All Committee members had sent their preferred contact details for access by members of the public to Cllr Crome and the clerk, so contact lists and the website can be updated

Tree work: In addition to a quote from the tree surgeon of £225 to fell two willows and cut down the willow arch, also considered was a previous quote of £375 to lift crowns of the Lime avenue to approx 8 - 9ft and cut back base growth, and £225 to trim tops of laurel hedge and facing sides with hedge cutters. The tree surgeon can work at Bulmer on Wednesday 20th January

RESOLVED: Due to budget constraints, to authorise work on the Lime avenue as the current priority, and plan other tree work for later in the year or use volunteer help.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond **Seconded:** Cllr Crome Agreed unanimously

119/2020 OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN

To agree updates to the Open Spaces Action plan for the 2021 edition. The OSAP determines how Bulmer Parish Council can spend S106 money which is held by Braintree District Council as a contribution to open spaces from housing development previously approved in the parish.

Coes Meadow: Improvements to car park surface, gates, goalposts and net, basketball surface, benches, signage and general play equipment. New climbing equipment and boules pit

Allotments Turnpike Piece – add “installation of new gate”

Action: The clerk will amend the OSAP update form and circulate to Councillors for final approval before submitting to BDC by the deadline of 1st February. Cllr Raymond agreed that due to lockdown restrictions, in place of the required Chairman’s signature the clerk will sign the update form as Proper Officer of the Parish Council.

120/2020 Finance

Dec-20	
NONE	
Jan-21	
Mr Eyup Baz Allotment plot 10	£22.60

To ratify payments since the last meeting:

Dec-20	
JPB Landscapes Ltd - Grass Cutting October	£309.60
Earthworks Scythe mowing Coe's Meadow	£54.00
EALC Councillor Training Days 1&2, AC SK LN November	£648.00
EALC Councillor Training Days 1&2, CS January	£216.00
Suffolk County Council Dedham Vale AONB	£200.00
Clerk pay Oct to Dec 2020	£1,060.19
HMRC PAYE Oct to Dec 2020	£156.00
DM Payroll Services Payroll 2020-2021	£120.00
Wave Water - Allotments	£94.14
Unity Trust Service Charge	£18.00

To agree payments to be made:

Proposed: Cllr Crome Seconded : Cllr Nichols Unanimously Agreed

Jan-21	
Lyster & Assoc - Newsletter Printing October	£66.00
Cllr R Raymond. Flowers, bereavement gift for ex Cllr	£43.97

Bank balances as at 11th January 2021

Barclays Current A/C	CLOSED
Unity Trust Current A/C	£11,945.14 To be confirmed
Barclays Business Savings A/C	£30,701.60
CCLA PSDF	

Action: Clerk to chase change of contact details with Barclays, requested in November

Unity Trust Bank Account – The new online bank account is now fully open. The clerk is the named key contact, authorised signatories are Cllrs R Raymond, M Crome, A Crawshay, L Nichols.

121/2020 FINANCE

To agree the Bulmer Parish Council budget for the financial year 2021-2022

The proposed expenditure budget was presented by the clerk with an explanation of items including employment costs which are estimated. Other items can be predicted more accurately. More accurate expenditure predictions will be calculated at the 2020-2021 financial year end. **RESOLVED:** To approve the proposed expenditure budget for 2021-2022

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

To agree the Bulmer Parish Council precept request to BDC for 2021-2022

The Parish precept is used to support and maintain the fabric of Bulmer. Parish Councillors are unpaid elected volunteers and are not entitled to any income other than essential expenses. In deciding the 2021-2022 precept request, Councillors considered economic pressures for residents during the difficult circumstances in 2020-2021. Other factors taken into account included reduction in government grants to Parish Councils since 2015 (now zero since 2019) and the possibility that government may introduce “referendum principles” to Parish Councils in future years preventing a precept increase of over 2% without a local referendum. A referendum would add unwanted cost and increase the precept by an even higher percentage. **RESOLVED:** To request an increase on the precept of 2%,

which means the annual cost to a Band D property will be £38.34 next year. This represents an increase of 75p per year for the average household. The cost to Bands A to C properties will be less than this.

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Raymond Agreed unanimously

In answer to a question from Cllr Nichols, the clerk confirmed that a VAT reclaim is due and the reclaimed amount will be used as contingency in case of unforeseen expenditure e.g. an election.

122/2021 PLANNING: applications received for comment

RESOLVED: To ratify decisions on all Planning Applications *en bloc*, as they had previously been agreed by email and the Parish Council response submitted to Braintree Planning

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Nichols Agreed unanimously

20/01962/HH Conversion of garage to include new roof to create new hobby room and storage area above, including a Juliet balcony.

Polrudden Finch Hill CO10 7EX *Decision ratified: No objections*

20/00419/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 2 Willow trees (a), Coppice Willow arch (b), faceback overhanging branches (mixed hedge) (c) and cut down thorn thicket (d)

Coes Meadow Bulmer Street *Interest declared: No objections*

20/00437/TPO Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 12/82 - T4 - Trim back lower branches lift the crown over driveway control growth towards house and T2 - Remove overhanging low branches from neighbouring property Polrudden Finch Hill CO10 7EX. *Decision ratified: No objections*

20/02098/COUPA Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3), and for associated operational development - Change of use to 2no. residential dwellings

Smeetham Hall Barn Smeetham Hall Lane CO10 7EU *Decision ratified: No objections*

20/01112/FUL Proposed new access Land South Of Hedingham Road The application will be considered by the Planning Committee on 19 January at 7.15pm.

The Parish Council has sent a written statement to the Planning Committee requesting that if the new access is approved, the existing access at a dangerous location is closed.

Notification of Planning Appeal

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

Previous comments raising no objection have been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate

123/2020 PLANNING: applications determined

20/01679/HH Erection of single bay cart lodge with open lean to Inglefield Bulmer Street CO10 7EW

Application PERMITTED

20/01673/HH Erection of Cart Lodge

Laundry Cottage Church Road CO10 7EL *Application PERMITTED*

20/01744/HH Proposed single storey side extension, roof alterations and balcony.

Oakview Finch Hill CO10 7EX *Application PERMITTED*

124/2020 BRAINTREE PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION

BDC minutes 7th December detailing decision on revised scheme of delegation are available here:

125/2020 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Please advise the Parish Clerk by Monday 8th March 2021 of items for the March agenda

Coes Meadow Management Committee Decisions to be taken following planned public meeting of CMMC on **Thursday 4th March 2021** via Zoom video conferencing.

Coes Meadow Management Committee: Confirmation of appointment of secretary and treasurer

126/2020 MEETING DATES FOR 2021

All meetings will continue via Zoom video conferencing until further notice.

15th March 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	via Zoom video conferencing
17th May 2021	Annual Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
19th July 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
20th September 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
15th November 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Location to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 8.34pm

Notice Board



Please be a considerate dog walker and pick up your poo!

(and your dogs too)

HM Government

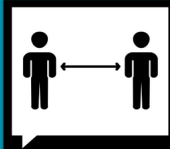
NHS



WASH HANDS



COVER FACE



MAKE SPACE

Keep on protecting each other

What's Going On is Published every three months.

Publishing costs are paid by the Bulmer Parish Council.

Distributed by Volunteers to 300 homes in Bulmer and the surrounding area.

All articles are written by volunteers, and any opinion expressed in the text is that of the author alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Bulmer Parish Council.

Edited by Paul Banks

Get in touch or submit an article at :

whatsonbulmer@gmail.com

View on line in colour at:

e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc

Bulmer Support Group

If you need any help if you are vulnerable, self-isolating or poorly please contact one of our volunteers below. We can help with shopping, dog-walking, collecting prescriptions, delivering post - or you tell us what support you need. Our volunteer list with telephone numbers:

Anna Grehan	No Number
Binnie Segrott	01787 828955/ 07779 590587
Chris Street	01787 827428
Denise Vicos	01787 311356
Emma Banks	01787 581665/07908 677776
Jude Johnson	01787 827428/07703 353259
Mary McIntosh	01787 371992/ 07443 474903
Mirabel Smith	07944 909688
Chris Massey	07464784284
Rev Gill Morgan	01787 584993

SMALL Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling (WEEE) COLLECTIONS

There will be a monthly SMALL Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling (WEEE) collection on the Village Hall car park every month. A small WEEE is an electrical item which is small enough to fit in a carrier bag. The items will go for either repair if possible or recycled safely.

Dates for the collections in the next 4 months will be on

17th February	17th March	14th April	12th May
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Between 08.30 - 10.00hrs.

Please don't leave items in the car park if the collection vehicle is not on site. Always observe Covid regulations and wash hands before and after your visit.

Please note this is not a Parish Council or Village Hall project so any queries should be made to Braintree District Council. You can find out more about the project by visiting

[www.braintree.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/electrical item](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/electrical%20item).