

What's Going On?

Issue 6

July 2021

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Colour Online

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Self Isolation Help is still available to anyone who needs it.

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

Angus Oliver

25th September 1930-6th April 2021



An obituary by daughter June Coombes

WHEN I came to write a eulogy for my Dad, I called it 'Angus Oliver, Where Do You Start?' because honestly ... he was always making mischief, making friends, making you laugh or making the kind of family history which appears in raggle taggle stories told down the generations.

He was 90 when he died. A day earlier he had taken Easter Communion at St Andrew's and retired to his back garden to host the BBQ lunch which saw him reunited with his grandchildren following the lifting of Lockdown.

I would later ask my brother, David, what Dad had done after we had all left. "Opened another bottle of Rioja...", he said. So I

(Continued on page 2)

think it's fair to say that his last day on earth was a happy one, reunited with his dear friends at Church, followed by a jolly lunch in the Suffolk sun and lots of love.

Dad was born in Tyneside and arrived in the Stour Valley literally by sticking a pin in a map, more of which later.

He was the son of a shipbuilder, but his beautiful singing voice earned him a place as a Newcastle Cathedral chorister and then a scholarship to the private school where his mother worked as a caretaker. This unexpected education enabled him to become the first member of his family to go to university.

He went to Durham where he read mining engineering and played a ferocious game of Northern Counties rugby despite being only 5ft 4 ins tall. (Even at 90 he could still withstand a tackle by his grandsons.)

He supported his university years by working in the pits of the Northumberland and Durham coalfields. Conditions in the post war years were hard: he had a sliver of coal embedded in his left forearm where he'd only just escaped a tunnel collapse.

Dad's degree, or more precisely the need to have his dissertation typed up, led to him meeting the love of his life, our mother, Meg.

She was six years older than him and making ends meet by taking in typing, having been widowed with an 18 month old baby, David. (Her first husband Stuart was an RAF pilot and war hero, killed in a terrible peacetime flying accident.)

Dad pursued Mum for five years. On their first date he said he'd take her for a night out in Newcastle upon Tyne. She dressed for the theatre. He took her to the Hoppins, the annual funfair on the Town Moor. So she knew from the start she'd never be bored.

After they married in 1960 they emigrated to the Gold Coast of Ghana where Dad had the chance to trade coal mining for gold mining. It was, briefly, an end of Empire kind of life of 'Gin and It' and starched whites and snakes in the car. They only came home because malaria got the better of Dad but it gave him a taste for adventure which would come to have devastating consequences.

I was born, a tremendous surprise and a month early, seven years after their 1960 wedding. Also surprising to Dad was the message from the hospital which said that since Mum was in her mid 40's she was at higher risk of complications. Eh? She had calmly knocked several years off her age. Half a century later he was still ribbing her about that.

Then, in the early Seventies, Dad decided on another expedition. This one was to Spain, the Costa Brava, to invest in the booming tourist trade fuelled by the new era of package holidays. He had a degree in mining, no head for business and a 'Hail Fellow, Well Met' attitude to everyone who, he assumed, was as honest and decent as he was. In addition he spoke no Spanish, hated beaches and had never learned to swim.

What could possibly go wrong? A lot, as it turned out.

While Mum, Dad and I headed off for our new start in the sun near Barcelona, their life savings stayed in the UK, spent by fraudsters on, as he later said, 'fast women and slow horses.' They lost everything and when we limped home, one Christmas Eve, it was in a tiny 500cc Fiat, with just a sack of oranges and a jerry can of wine to show for it.

Dad got back into mining with a job in the High Northern Pennines where British Steel dug fluorspar from beneath bleak moors covered in heather and grouse. It snowed so much there was a ski station in the village, Allenheads, and it was not unusual to see snow on Meg's birthday in May.

It was wild and beautiful and lonely in a way which is impossible to convey 40 years later and 250 miles south. It looked, and felt, like another country, and is the place Dad felt most at home.

Despite this, as far as Dad was concerned, there was time for one last adventure.

And that's how they came to Sudbury, choosing to be closer to us, their children, who had forged careers in London.

They found it, as I said, by sticking a pin in a map. There were no roots, no friends, no previous ties. It was, to them, their last great roll of life's dice and they brought with them their

eternal optimism, a new kitten, some gooseberry clippings and a sack of my Dad's best seed potatoes.

That was 1996 and they were blissfully happy here, forging a new life in an old market town and settling into the community at St Andrew's. Mum did yoga, Dad took an allotment for those gooseberries and his spuds - and began bowling.

A few years later, David moved to Sudbury too, and in 2006, I followed. Since then we have all lived within 10 minutes of each other, creating a new Suffolk history for a family descended, on my Dad's side, from the wildest of the North, the gypsy families of Kirk Yetholm on Scottish Borders.

It was Dad who suggested Edmund, in honour of East Anglia's King Edmund, as the middle name for one of his grandsons. Of course we agreed.

Dad's life changed when Mum died in 2016. He had previously been wholly undomesticated (he considered putting milk on Cornflakes to be cooking) but he had stunned us all with his gentle, compassionate nursing as she became frail. He was bereft without her - even as she celebrated her 90th birthday, she remained, to him, the foxy redhead he'd always adored.

He carried on for five years without her, still growing his asparagus and going church, listening to Radio 4 and watching TV favourites such as New Tricks. He remained politically engaged with big opinions on Boris, Brexit, Trump, Bitcoin, Elon Musk, Prince Harry and the State of the World, especially The Murdoch Empire, in general. If you came to his dinner table you had to bring two things, a home made pudding and point of view.

About 18 months ago the energy which saw him still cutting his own hedges and walking his dogs across the Water Meadows started to falter. We put it down to old age but in retrospect it was the beginning of the slow moving bone marrow cancer which was diagnosed at Christmas.

On Easter Monday it caught up with him. An everyday bug proved too much for his body's weakened immune system and he was gone within a matter of hours. It was awful - and it

was also wonderful. A dramatic exit would have appealed to Dad's theatrical nature, he loved an audience and he would have loved to leave an audience wanting more. Which we did.

We go on without him, bearing his standard of rebelliousness, fun, love, loyalty and curiosity. My Dad was, to borrow a phrase from one of his favourite writers Damon Runyon, "the finest kind". Lucky, lucky us.

Would YOU like to write for your village newsletter?

June Coombes is a regular contributor to this newsletter and we appreciate the time she puts into her articles.

There is always room in this newsletter for more articles from local residents.

Do you have a hobby, a collection, or an interesting past time that you would like to share with your neighbours?

Perhaps you write poetry or short stories and would like to let the village enjoy them.

Do you have a point of view about a local issue that you would like to share, we all love to hear a moan!

Are you a keen painter or photographer with some work to show off?

Have you been on any adventures or planning one when lock down ends that you want to tell everyone about?

Could you tell us about any tales of local history to add colour to the places we all know so well?

Any submissions are welcome, and we do not need to include your name if you want to stay behind the curtain.

Submissions can be made by email to **whatsonbulmer@gmail.com**

I look forward to seeing your work...

Editor

VILLAGE MUTTERINGS



As I write this, having enjoyed a wonderful Wimbledon with just fantastic players and the sadness of us losing EURO 2020. Like most of you, I am now looking forward to the eventual end of restrictions on the 19th July and we can resume some sort of normality. The village hall is now open again and I'm told our next council meeting will be held in the hall once again and not using Zoom.

Some of you may have heard from a recent meeting held on our recreation ground (otherwise more commonly known as Coe's Meadow), that the piece of woodland fronting Church Road at the end of the meadow is available for the Parish to purchase after the unsuccessful planning application for 7 houses, from the executors of Laurence Coes will. This would mean if purchased, the land being preserved as natural woodland and protecting the wildlife that

live there for the foreseeable future.

This prospect has reminded me of a poem written by Laurence Coe's niece;

A village wanderer

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

I haven't travelled many miles
Cross the land and sea,
But there's one place in the World
I know,
That means so much to me.

It is my own old English Home
And the village where in it lies,
The meadows green and the
ploughed fields brown
And above all these - blue skies.

The old fashion Church
With God's garden around,
The old fashioned porch - quite
bare,
Birds singing all day are the only
sound,
So it seems so peaceful there.

Down to The Avenue now I'll walk
Under the Lime trees tall,
And across the meadow I can see
The grey stoned vicarage wall.

Go further a field and there I find,
Nestling in the old village street,
Altered now, but once was a pub
Where the menfolk chose to meet.

At the top of the road I have my
choice
Which way I would like to wander,
The views around are quiet and
calm,
On these for a while, I ponder.

Now all this to you may not seem
much,
But now I cannot roam,
It is the truth what's in the song
There is no place like home.

© Ruby Rowe 2003

POEM CORNER

My name is Angela, I am a pensioner living in Smeetham Hall Lane. I really love our little village and enjoy many walks, but just recently I noticed that the litter is increasing. Hubby and I often take bags when on walks to collect as much as we can but after our last outing, this poem came to mind.

I walked down lanes long
and narrow,
beside fields and meadows
of green,
as the wind whispered soft
on my brow -
cloudless, bright, and serene.
Glitter I spied in hedgerows,
baubles dangling from trees
-
with utter despair – I wondered there -
who on earth would leave
all of these?
I ventured further my query.
I wandered into the unknown.
I wondered why on earth in
this world -
people do not take their own
litter home.
So next time you walk without
care -
Tis here I beg your pardon -
for when you arrive home
uncluttered
would you allow others to
litter your garden?

Village Hall Lottery Results

Bulmer Village Hall News

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)

	Apr	May	Jun
1st	Mr and Mrs D. Armstrong	Mr and Mrs T. Dickin-son	Ms S Charlton
2nd	Mr and Mrs S. Carpenter	Mrs C. Bennet	Mrs P. Whillock
3rd	Mrs R. Barrell	Mrs. J Tomlin-son	Mr and Mrs R. Hayto

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.

None of us thought that when we had to close in April 2020, due to Covid, that we would have to remain closed for so long. We did have a short respite in the summer of that year but restrictions were so tight that only small groups could meet. We have been open for several weeks now but again under strict guidelines. This has enabled a few of the smaller clubs to meet regularly and it is lovely to see them back.

We are all eagerly awaiting the promised date when all restrictions are lifted and the Hall can welcome everyone back as normal. It has been a long time coming.

We haven't been idle during lockdown. The electrics throughout the building have had the big required 5 yearly check and we are pleased to report all was well. The floor has been stripped and waxed and it gives a welcoming shine on entry. Due to a new method of treating the floor we now have no need for the buffing machine. If you know of anyone who is in need of one

please get in touch with us and make us an offer!

We have been very cautious about spending too much during lockdown. All utilities bills had to be paid. We did have a few urgent repairs to carry out. However we have managed to obtain a grant to give the building a face lift.

The first thing to be done is to attend to the exterior of the building. This will be repainted and any repairs done. The inside will follow with most of the rooms being decorated. We apologise that this will happen once we open but funds would not let us fulfil our goals whilst we were closed. We apologise if this causes any inconvenience and will endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum.

If restrictions are lifted we hope we can organise a "good to be back" party working with other groups in the Village. This will be a non fund raising event, just a big get together for us all. This will be advertised once we can safely organise it.

Thank you for your support to the lottery

and hope some of you have had a surprise win over the last year. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Joke Corner Ad Astra

How do aliens keep their trousers up?

With an asteroid belt.

What meal do astronauts eat after breakfast?

Launch...

What do Martians serve their dinner on?

Flying Saucers.

What do you call an alien who has six eyes?

An aliiiiiiien.



NATURE DIARY

Peter Rowe



Our plant group carried out a survey in Parsons Wood this (so called) spring by arrangement with the owner Peter O'Brien, who is managing the wood for woodland products, including firewood. By opening up the floor of the wood he has really breathed fresh life and variety into it, with several coppiced areas at different stages of development. The air was full of birdsong and there were good patches of wood anemone and primroses scattered throughout the wood. A section of the wood called Poor Acre, was thick with bluebells. Tradition has it that Poor Acre was where the poor of Bulmer of long gone times were allowed to collect firewood. Parsons (more correctly Parson-

age) Wood, is what is classed as ancient woodland. To qualify to earn this venerable title, a wood must have been in existence since 1600 or earlier, possibly even going back to the original wildwood which clothed our country before our early ancestors began eating their way into it to clear land for their first crops. Although ancient maps are one sure way of establishing whether a wood can be classed as ancient or not, just as reliable a pointer is to study what tree and plant species are growing there. There is a list of what are known as indicator species of trees and more importantly smaller plants growing within the wood, which varies with geographical area and soil type. In our area trees such as Midland

hawthorn and small leaved lime are among the trees, both occur in Parsons Wood, where oak is the predominant tree. Of the indicator flowers and plants, wood anemone, early purple orchid, wood sorrel, pignut and a few others can be found in the wood. Rarer indicator species such as greater butterfly orchid, fly orchid and a weird looking plant, herb Paris all occur in other woods in the Sudbury area. Herb Paris was recorded from Goldingham Hall Wood which was grubbed out in the mid-1940s. This wood stood between the road from Bulmer Street to Gestingthorpe, and New Barn (the old barn in the middle of the fields).



The flowers of some of the ancient woodland indicators mentioned above



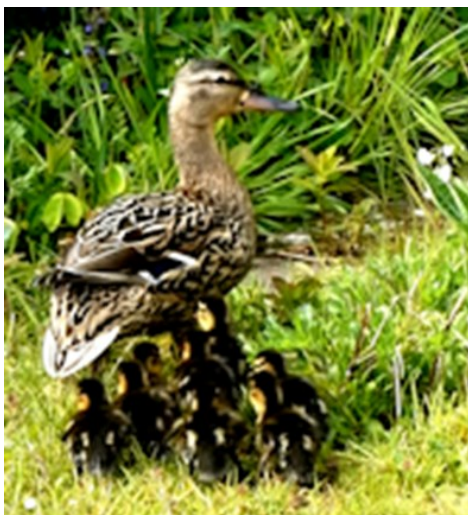
nest in the top of one of hollow brick piers of the garden wall, of all places! In the first week of may she hatched off the little brood of ducklings. One unexpected side of this extra thorough pond clean, was that, in effect, it created a new pond, with a big area of water unobstructed by plant growth. This meant that it wasn't attractive to many dragon fly species..... except one, a very handsome creature , the broad bodied chaser. The male shown

It has been another good spring for blackthorn blossom and coming as it did when we were subjected to the very cold, if dry April, It certainly lived up to the old name of "blackthorn winter"! Some of the hedges behind Bulmer Street were white with myriads of their simple little flowers. However, whether or not they will be able to produce any sloes is doubtful, given that there were some quite severe frosts when the flowers were out. Our Victoria plum suffered badly from the frost and is bearing only a handful of embryo plums.

I have been fortunate in spotting quite a variety of birds of prey over the last couple of months. Going back a few years, you

could only reckon on seeing sparrow hawk and kestrel, now on a regular basis you can add buzzard and red kite, but I added two more in the third week of May, Hobby and marsh harrier. I have occasionally seen a hobby over the years, but the marsh harrier came as a surprise, it flew out of the Belchamp valley to disappear in the Gestingthorpe direction. They are birds which only normally occur

here is quite stunning , with an electric blue abdomen with yellow marginal spots. These particular dragonflies are attracted to new ponds and we had them for the first couple of years that



occur in coastal areas, where they frequent reed beds. You may have seen them on "Spring Watch" recently , when they had a camera on a nest. Our garden pond got so overwhelmed with various aquatic plants last winter, we had a big clear out. A little too good as it turned out because although I left some plants in, they we treated as fodder by a couple of mallards, which left the pond totally bare. Later on the duck made a

we had the pond, but thereafter only very rarely. Robin Ford, who has a great knowledge of dragonflies and their like, had suggested, after I told him of our denuded pond, that we would probably get broad bodied chasers back, and he was spot on!



COE,S MEADOW A BRIEF HISTORY



Lawrence Coe on his wedding day

The meadow at the bottom of Church Road adjoining The Street formerly belonged to local farmer and contractor Lawrence & Gertie Coe, who lived in Brickwall Cottages. Lawrence was a Parish Councillor and bequeathed the land to the Parish in his will as a ground for sports and recreation. The will was contested being finally resolved in 2002 in Bulmer Parish Councils favour. Approximately 75% of the field is now owned by the Parish of Bulmer under a charitable trust.

A Management Committee (details can be found below) was set up to maintain and promote Coe's Meadow in accordance with the wishes of Lawrence Coe, and is managed by them for the benefit

of **all** sectors of the community, for sports, games and as a public open space to be enjoyed at leisure.

The remaining 25% remained the property of Laurence Coe's executors, and was recently the subject of a recent unsuccessful planning application. An opportunity has now risen for this 25% to be purchased by Bulmer Parish Council, as an asset for Bulmer.

The committee is looking for volunteers to carry out maintenance & tidy-up jobs on the site. If you would like to help, please contact a Committee Member.

Committee Members

Cl Laurence Nichols -
uncletoms2019@outlook.com

Cl Antonia Crawshay -
alc.bulmerpc@gmail.com

Cl Christine Street -
councillorchriss@gmail.com
or 01787 827428

David Orrell -
djourrell@hotmail.co.uk or
07702 543028

Jess Soper -
jesscoesmeadowatgmaildotcom

News from Coe's Meadow Committee

It's been wonderful to see how well used Coe's Meadow has been during this past year. The area has been full of families, dog walkers, nature lovers and many local residents, as well as those from further afield. It's been a treasured space for many of us during lockdown.

Your committee has been busy updating the play equipment which was in need of some repairs. It was installed in 2002 so it has had almost 20 years of use but some elements needed replacing and repairing. All play equipment has to be repaired by an official supplier for insurance reasons, so it can be quite costly. Some of you may have noticed the basketball court is also in need of repair. We are hoping to raise funds for this in the coming months. We have access to funding for new projects but unfortunately not for repairs of existing equipment.

The trees on Lime avenue were recently pruned, trees around the pond and the willow also lopped.

Stour Valley Volunteer Group are kindly advising us on how best to manage the area over the next few months. Their expertise will help us keep the area as a place that's a haven for both us humans and the wildlife that inhabits it too. A lot of the conservation in the area relies on volunteers so if you're keen to help out, even if it's just the odd hour here and there, we'd love to hear from you.

We also have a monthly email letter that will keep you up to date with projects and events on Coes Meadow. If you'd like to be added to the email list please see the noticeboard in Coes Meadow for committee members' contact details, or see the list opposite.

BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

Your Councillors

Rosemary Raymond-Chairperson	07813 205743	rosepc@yahoo.com
Mike Crome	01787 378155	cllr mike.crome@gmail.com
Chris Street	01787 827428	councillorchriss@gmail.com
Laurence Nichols	01787 464600	UNCLETOMS2019@outlook.com
Antonia Crawshay	07977 225890	alc.bulmerpc@gmail.com
Sarah Kershaw	07956 534905	sarahkershaw71@gmail.com
Cathey Ponty		catheybpc@outlook.com
Claire Waters - Parish Clerk	07845 056597	bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com

5.3 To confirm the Parish Council's eligibility and resolve to use the General Power of Competence

RESOLVED: With a majority of elected Councillors and a qualified clerk, the Parish Council is eligible and resolves to use the General Power of Competence until the next meeting after ordinary elections.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond
mously

Seconded: Cllr Crome

Agreed unani-

6. PUBLIC FORUM

Batt Hall traffic speed: A resident attended to express concerns about the 60mph speed limit being too fast in this residential area. A planned Essex Highways speed survey has not yet taken place, and residents consider 40mph unsafe.

Cllr Finch said there may be a move in Essex to reduce speed limits to 20 or 30mph based on public opinion rather than following current government guidance. This already happens in Suffolk and may become policy in Essex but not before 2022.

Action: Cllr Finch will chase up the speed survey which should have happened by now

Action: Cllr Finch also suggested residents put together a petition to Essex County Council, with signatures and addresses, asking for a reduction from 60mph to 30mph for the sake of public safety including children.

Action: Community Speedwatch activity where possible is proven to have an effect in slowing traffic, although this is restricted to 30mph and 40mph limited areas.

Church Road drains A resident reported these had been inspected on 1st April and ditches have been cleared but drains have not been touched and are solid to the top. A further drain near the Church is also blocked

Ryes Lane drains Ditches need to be cleared by landowners and there may also problems caused by residents dumping garden waste in drainage ditches. Cllr Finch will ask for a letter to be written to landowners. Cllr Raymond will provide farmers' addresses.

Batt Hall drains are blocked at the top of the hill, causing debris to be washed down the road and flooding the ditch at the bottom. Residents have paid for it to be dug out to the brook but need Essex Highways assistance

Batt Hall footpath to Sudbury has barriers and signs asking for it not to be used. This is dangerous for pedestrians including children walking to school

Cllr Finch offered to follow all these issues up with Essex Highways before his final working day on 10th May.

7. PROGRESS CHECK

Bus shelters: The clerk reported that after checking the asset register and insurance, bus shelter licence applications had been submitted to Essex Highways

Coes Meadow, land adjacent: The clerk had been unable to contact landowners to discuss a possible purchase for the community. Cllr Raymond will try to find an alternative contact number.

8. HIGHWAYS

Most Highways issues were discussed in the public forum, item 6

SID sign Cllr Crome reported that the SID (Speed indicator device) sign at Bulmer Street appears not to be working. Other Councillors had noticed it working, so it may be that the battery needs replacing.

Action: Councillors will check and forward information to the clerk, who will look into a new battery.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch. Weekly police reports had been forwarded to Councillors

9.2 Essex CC report: Cllr Finch gave his report after item 6 and before item 7 as he had to leave for another meeting. Essex remains one of the top 10 performing Councils in the country.

ECC Finance: a small surplus of £4million is reported at the end of the financial year, despite people being unable to pay rates due to Covid-19 income losses. A drop of £28m in Council Tax receipts was offset by redesign and re-engineering of systems that was already underway before lockdown. At the February meeting, £2million was committed to economic recovery including manufacturing and climate sensitive industries

Local Highways Panels: Funding is increased by £200,000 over the coming 2 years.

Covid-19 response: An engagement board met fortnightly including the Director of Public Health in Essex. Infection rates did not spread uniformly across the County so tailored messages were vital, with a high degree of collaboration between County and District Councils and the NHS

Climate Commission Report: Plans are ambitious, aiming for the County to be carbon neutral by 2030. Cycleways, solar panels on school buildings and any extensions, use of carbon neutral materials are all planned. ECC's own house building company are using heat pumps to reduce energy use. Solar panels are increasingly being used through the Green Grant Scheme, and solar tiles are being investigated for use in older properties and conservation areas. 4 Councils are being sought for £125,000 grant each to carry out climate reduction exercises. Electric car infrastructure is also being expanded.

In answer to a question from Cllr Crome, Cllr Finch confirmed that improvement of the Freeport roundabout at the A120 is dependent on land purchase and legal discussions are in progress.

9.3 Braintree DC report - Cllr W Scattergood reported:

After a difficult year, thanks are due to all volunteers who supported their communities during lockdown. Braintree District Council staff have been excellent including many transferred to the finance department to help with distribution of government funding.

BDC Planning Meeting 11th May will see a return to face-to-face meetings. Cllr Scattergood chairs the Planning Committee and has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Local Plan committee

National Grid proposals: Cllr Scattergood has been responding to the frightening proposals on behalf of not only Braintree District Council but also the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Partnership, and the detailed response has taken many hours. The substation proposals affect Bulmer and huge pylons are planned across the area. Cllr Scattergood encourages everyone to respond to the consultation.

Return to physical meetings: In answer to a question from Cllr Crome, Cllr Scattergood confirmed that BDC is not challenging the government decision to end remote meetings. She has had to go to Causeway House to take part in remote meetings as her signal at home is so poor, and she feels some planning applicants have felt excluded from remote meetings.

10. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

10.1 Allotments report. Cllr Crome reported that a water tap had seized and has been replaced. He also had an additional 3 allotment access keys cut. A plot holder wishes to cut the overgrown internal hedge by their plots but will need help removing the spoil, estimated to be around 8 bulk bags full.

Action: Clerk will ask BDC Refuse if they can assist. Cllr Crome will investigate other sources of help.

Action: Clerk to ask contractor to complete the cutting of the exterior hedge which was left due to parked cars

RESOLVED: To uphold the terms of the tenancy agreement and refuse permission for a glass greenhouse with a protective film, instead of toughened or laminated glass. Allotment holders are reminded that written permission is needed for the erection of allotment buildings and only glass substitutes are permitted.

Proposed: Cllr Raymond

Seconded: Cllr Street

Agreed unanimously

10.2 Coes Meadow Management Committee report. Arrangements were noted for the new Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust bank account, which is linked to the Bulmer Parish Council account as required in the Trust Deed. A Coes Meadow Management Committee meeting planned for May 6th had been postponed due to the rescheduling of Parish Council Annual meetings. This may now take place on May 20th, to be confirmed.

11. PLANNING

Applications received:

21/00093/LBC & 21/00092/HH Replacement windows at the rear of existing cottage

Mulberry Tree Cottage Bulmer Street CO10 7EP

Decision ratified: No objections

21/00847/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 1 no. residential dwellings

Smeetham Hall Barn, Smeetham Hall Lane

Decision ratified: No objections

21/01075/TPO Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order 12/82 - Reduce lower branches on 1 Oak (A) tree by 10-12ft, remove deadwood, lift sub lateral weeping branches to the height of lower branch level (lifting crown) and Remove/shorten to broaden large limb on Oak (B) (Low)

Polrudden, Finch Hill

Decision ratified: No objections

Applications received:

21/00809/FUL Construction of 2 No. detached 4 bedroom dwellings with off road parking and divided detached garage space with home office facilities

Land Adjacent Back House Croft, Bulmer Street

Objection by majority vote Outside village development boundary. Dangerous access at blind bend.

Applications determined:

20/01962/HH Conversion of garage to include new roof to create new hobby room and storage area above with a round window on the front gable end

Polrudden Finch Hill CO10 7EX

Application PERMITTED

21/00161/HH Retrospective application for a proposed carport

Meadowside Bulmer Tye CO10 7ED

Application PERMITTED

20/02229/LBC To repair damaged Lynx statue which sits on right pillar of the gated entrance of Auber-ies. Also to repair corner of pillar cap.

Auber-ies Church Road CO10 7DY

Application PERMITTED

21/00667/LBC Removal and replacement of brick plinth in living room on a like-for-like basis, due to struc-tural damage.

2 Upper Houses, CO10 7ET

Application PERMITTED

12. FINANCE

12.1 The monthly payments were approved for authorisation by two Councillors. The monthly bank rec-onciliations were checked by Cllr Street.

Action: As requested by Cllr Crome, the clerk will provide a budget report at every Parish Council meet-ing.

BULMER PARISH COUNCIL

May-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
Item 12.5	Came & Company	Hiscox Insurance, 3 year term agreement	£1,079.90

May-21	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		

LAURENCE COE RECREATIONAL TRUST ACCOUNT

May-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
05-May	Graham Nicholl	Tree surgery, Limes Laurel and Willows	£875.00

Accounts balances at 5th May 2021

Bulmer Parish Council

Unity Trust Current account	£11,089.28
Barclays Deposit account	£37,141.03 at 30th Sept 2020
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	£30,704.67 at 31st March 2021
	£78,934.98

Laurence Coe Recreational Trust

Unity Trust Current account	£4,057.16
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It was noted that due to delays in changing the bank mandate with the Barclays Deposit account, no statements have been received since September 2020. This matter is being addressed with Barclays Bank.

Payments ratified since March meeting

Apr-21		Payments in month	
	DD	ICO Annual Fee	£35.00
13-Apr-21	B/P	Mortimers Contracts Ltd Rocker Repair	£1,440.00
13-Apr-21	B/P	EALC/NALC Affiliation fees	£215.28
13-Apr-21	B/P	DM Payroll Services 2021-2022	£120.00
13-Apr-21	B/P	JPB Landscapes Grass Cutting	£273.60
15-Apr-21	B/P	Mortimers Contracts Ltd Seesaw/Tractor repairs	£510.00
26-Apr-21	B/P	Mr M Crome Noticeboard Keys cut	£27.00
		TOTAL in month	£2,620.88

26-Apr-21	Bank	To: Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust New Unity Trust Current linked	£4,075.16
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NB: This bank transfer includes the £2000 grant for 2021-2022 from Bulmer Parish Council

Apr-21		Receipts in month	
09-Apr-21		Arbuthnot Allotment key deposit	£10.00
29-Apr-21		BDC Precept 1st instalment	£5,208.00
29-Apr-21		BDC Collection Surplus	£143.00
		TOTAL in month	£5,361.00

12.2 The Annual Governance Statement was reviewed and approved

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

12.3 The Annual Accounts and Accounting Statements were reviewed and approved:

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

12.4 The Certificate of Exemption from external audit – AGAR 2021/21 Part 2 was approved

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

Remote arrangements were made for the documents to be signed.

12.5 To review asset register and decide on insurance arrangements for 2021-2022

RESOLVED: The asset register was approved, and the insurance quotation from Hiscox through Came & Company was agreed for the 2021-2022 at a cost of £1079.90 for a 3 year term agreement

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

12.6 Completion of Street Cleaning Agreement with BDC for 2021-2022 and claim of grant

Action: Clerk to contact the leader of the street litter picking volunteers for assistance with the report

RESOLVED: At 9.10 pm it was resolved to extend the meeting by an additional 30 minutes in order to complete the items on the agenda

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

13. NATIONAL GRID BRAMFORD TO TWINSTEAD TEE NETWORK REINFORCEMENT

A response was agreed to the non-statutory pre-consultation about planned works following a meeting of Councillors with National Grid in March. Councillors were disappointed that the presentation was not tailored to the geographical location with the substation planned in Bulmer and no details of exact size or design. All the work including supersized pylons was described as “critical” which suggested National Grid plans were already decided and the consultation is more of a public relations exercise. The clerk will respond by May 6th.

<https://bramford-twinstead.nationalgrid.com/consultation/have-your-say/>

14. COMMUNITY AWARENESS EVENT for Bulmer

Arrangements are underway in liaison with the Village Hall secretary for this drop-in event during the day time where people can come and talk to members of Braintree District Council and the Police about any concerns they may have about coming out of lockdown or any other local issues. It is planned to include other agencies that might be able to offer local support or signposting and arrangements are being made for it to be held outside at the Village Hall. Details to be publicised when a confirmed date is available

15. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

One application had been received for the vacant Councillor seat, from previous Councillor Catherine Ponty

15.1 RESOLVED: To waive the normal co-option procedure in light of there being an experienced applicant

15.2 RESOLVED: To co-opt Catherine Ponty to the Parish Council

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

16. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

16.1 EALC Web Accessibility training. Cllr Crome and the clerk attended: *Agenda item July*

16.2 EALC Dementia Awareness training. Cllrs Crome and Crawshay will attend on 20th May 2021

16.3 EALC Youth Engagement Conference: Clerk attended: *Agenda item July*

17. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Agenda items to be notified to the clerk at the latest by 9am on Friday 9th July please

18. MEETING DATES 2021 – Remote meetings are no longer permitted after 7th May 2021

19th July 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Bulmer Village Hall
20th September 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Bulmer Village Hall
15th November 2021	Ordinary Parish Council	Bulmer Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed.....
Cllr Rosemary Raymond

DRAFT Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 23rd June 2021 at 6.00pm at Coes Meadow

Present: Cllrs Crawshay, Crome, Kershaw, Nichols, Raymond, Street
In the Chair: Cllr Raymond
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: 22 parishioners

Cllr Rosemary Raymond as Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the Parish Councillors and the clerk to the parishioners present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were no apologies for absence

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None

LAND ADJOINING COES MEADOW

Following an unsuccessful planning appeal, an area of land adjoining Coes Meadow and Church Road is available for the Parish Council to purchase on behalf of the community. This could be financed from Parish Council capital reserves, possibly with support from community fund raising and/or grant funding

Cllr Raymond explained that the purpose of this extraordinary meeting was to gauge residents’ views on the possible purchase of this piece of land by the Parish Council. A price of £20,000 had been suggested to the Parish Council. Including legal and professional fees this makes a very rough estimate of £25,000 cost to the parish. Many residents objected to a recent planning application for the land. The unsuccessful planning appeal gives temporary protection but there is no guarantee that this will provide long term protection from unwelcome or inappropriate development at the site. The landowners have been approached by another interested purchaser but they would like to give the Parish Council first refusal for the benefit of the village of Bulmer.

PUBLIC FORUM

Questions and comments from residents were noted by the clerk for further consideration and discussion by the Parish Council on behalf of the village. Issues and questions raised by residents included:

- What is the purpose for the village of buying the land? What would we do with it?
- If the Parish doesn’t buy the land, we may get something the village doesn’t like
- The benefit would be to make sure no-one else buys it for unwanted development or a travellers’ site

- What are the ongoing costs of maintenance? The whole site is in need of work
- If it's left as a woodland area could it not be managed by volunteers?
- Who is going to do the work? Coes Meadow is not being looked after as it is.
- Maintenance could be minimal if we leave it as a natural space. Roe deer currently play there.
- Many of the planning objections were on the basis of the flora and fauna at the site.
- Would the land need to be fenced off from the road for safety?
- Is there a proper business case from the Parish Council? We can't agree or disagree without a proper proposal.
- What would be the cost and where would the money come from?
- Why did some people not know about this meeting?

Councillors gave responses to some questions raised:

- The Parish Council wished to consult with residents before spending public money on preparation of a business case or developing full proposals. This is the purpose of this extraordinary meeting.
- The Parish Council currently holds £67,845.70 in capital reserves which can only be spent on capital (not revenue) projects.
- In answer to questions about increasing the parish precept to pay for the management of more land, it was clarified that the Parish Council currently claims a precept of £38.34 per year per household (based on a Band D property) which equals a cost of just under 74 pence per week per property.
- Coes Meadow is managed by volunteers including the Coes Meadow Management Committee which has recently been recruiting new members. The Stour Valley & Dedham Vale volunteer group carry out conservation work annually at Coes Meadow and receive a voluntary donation from Coes Meadow funds and the Parish Council. Any residents who wish to volunteer to help at Coes Meadow in any way are very welcome to contact the Parish Clerk or Coes Meadow Management Committee members.
- Parish Councillors are elected to act in the best interests of the village of Bulmer and so could make this decision without consulting with residents, but chooses to ask the opinion of residents in this case.
- The agenda for this extraordinary meeting was published on the parish noticeboards and on the Parish Council website giving over a week's notice. The information was also shared on social media and by word of mouth. This more than meets the statutory requirements for publicising the meeting, however there is a strong feeling among Councillors that no residents should be able to say they weren't asked their opinion. A leaflet drop to all village properties is therefore proposed if the feedback from this meeting suggests the Parish Council should take this land purchase to the next step.

RESOLVED: To move on and make a formal approach to the owners of the land, then let the Parish know the outcome and give them a time frame to respond with their views.

Proposed: Cllr Crome **Seconded:** Cllr Kershaw *Agreed by majority vote (6 in favour, 1 abstention)*

A show of hands from all residents present also showed majority approval for this decision. Practical considerations for managing a leaflet delivery to the whole village were discussed.

The meeting closed at 18.57pm

Notice Board



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

(and your dogs too)

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/bulmer pc



PLEASE CAN YOU HELP WITH DONATIONS OF FOOD FOR BRAINTREE FOOD BANK?

THE DONATION POINT FOR BULMER RESIDENTS IS IN ST ANDREWS CHURCH.

- TEA (40 BAGS IF POSSIBLE)
- CEREAL BARS
- PASTA SAUCE
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED TOMATOES
- TINNED SPAGHETTI
- TINNED SPONGE PUDDINGS
- SUGAR (500g please)
- COFFEE (small jars please)
- INSTANT MASH
- BREAKFAST CEREAL
- PACKET SOUPS
- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- RICE
- WARMED TINNED MEAT
- JAM
- TINNED COLD MEAT
- SQUASH
- PACKET CUSTARD
- DEODORANT
- SIZE 6 NAPPIES
- SHAMPOO
- TOOTHBRUSHES (SINGLES, MULTI AND CHILDRENS PLEASE)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE GO TO BRAINTREE AREA FOODBANK | HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS WEBSITE OR CONTACT CLLR. CHRIS STREET

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	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