



What's On?

The Newsletter of Bulmer - June 2013

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

View in colour at www.bulmeressex.co.uk

A Surprise Visitor Drops in on Coe's Meadow

An explanation from David R. Rawlings the pilot, of how he came to land in Bulmer

I am a private Balloon Pilot with my own Hot Air Balloon, having my first experience of Ballooning back in 1989 when I helped crew for some friends with their balloon in India, from then the Ballooning Bug bit me.

Firstly some stats' the size or capacity of the balloon is 90,000ft³ and is an aircraft registered with the CAA G-BYOX, any time it's inflated it's hours are

listed in a Flight and Maintenance Log as are all my flying hours in my Pilots Log book, the complete kit is made up of an Envelope, a Basket, 4 fuel tanks (LPG) and two burners, all this kit is checked annually by a registered Inspector for its airworthiness.

We generally fly early morning or evening time due to no thermals, and as we are totally dependent on weather conditions for flight we do watch it very closely during the flying season, we can launch from most green area's with the owner's permission, and fly with the wind's speed and direction, the launch site is planned with consideration to the winds at ground level and at various heights up to normally 5,000ft and the four fuel tanks carry enough LPG for between about 1 3/4 - 2 1/2 hrs of flight, as regards to a landing site a lot of consideration is taken 1) Animals in the same field or adjacent field, 2) Electric wires, 3) Crops, 4) Public, 5) Obstacles i.e. Trees, hedges, lamp post etc etc, 6) Space, not forgetting the passengers and the aircraft itself.

As we cannot control direction or speed we have to carefully control the temperature of the air inside the envelope to control our ascent and descent allowing us to fly at heights from ground to up to about 12,000ft without oxygen assistance, normally after about 3/4 of hr in flight we're looking for landing possibilities ahead of us, taking into account the above issues, and your Village green was the perfect opportunity for a safe landing with a flight line between the newly planted trees and the edge of the green, so the landing was planned, and we completed a flight time of 1hr 10mins from our launch site in the village of Sturmer.

David R. Rawlings - Haverhill PC Bureau www.hpcb.co.uk



Another successful and well attended Fun Day on Coe's Meadow



St. Andrew's School pupils sang & played



Face painting, painted by Irene Dickinson



A new seesaw obtained from Braintree DC S106 fund, contributed to by the developer of houses in Bulmer St.



A well deserved gift to Chris. Leigh, chairperson Coe's Meadow committee, for organising the Fun days

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A big thank you to all who exhibited or attended our Bygones and Collectors display in June. The day was a great success and we welcomed visitors from many corners of East Anglia. The display coincided with the Open Gardens afternoon so our visitors were able to enjoy both events.

The change in the weather enabled us to have the outside of the Village Hall redecorated and over the next few weeks we will be giving the interior of the building a spring clean. If anyone is feeling energetic we will welcome you with open arms to help with this work!

The next event to be held in the Village Hall will be the ever-popular **Barn Dance on 13th September** with caller Ron Coxall. Tickets will be on sale from the middle of August so to avoid disappointment ring Maggie on 374758 to book.

There are still a few tables left for the **Christmas Fayre on 30th November** but these are selling

quickly. If you wish to book a table please ring Ann on 373451.

BULMER SKYLARKS

Once again we were very lucky with the weather when we held our spring trip to the coast in May. We all spent a very enjoyable 4 hours in Southwold enjoying the sea air, the fish and chips and a visit to the shops. A few of our hardy members even enjoyed a "paddle" in the sea! We returned home via Woodbridge Garden Centre for afternoon tea, thankful that it was undercover as the rain then decided to fall. Our **summer party is being held on 25th June** when hopefully our members will be enjoying a summer meal followed by a surprise entertainer.



The programme for the next few months will consist of **Lindsay Warden showing us the Versatility of Lavender on 23rd July, Ruth Millar will be with us on 27th August speaking on "Foundlings"** and we will be holding our **A.G.M. on September 24th** followed by a quiz.

Naturally all these events and speakers do cost money, which means that we must fund raise. We will therefore once again be holding a **Fashion Show at Edinburgh Woollen Mills on September 18th**. This is a fun evening and several of our brave members volunteer to be models. Do come along and support us if you can, there will be an opportunity to purchase clothes at a reduced price following the show. If you wish to know more about Skylarks please come along on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm or ring Barbara on 370845 or Maggie on 374758

~~~~~

### **BULMER NATURE DIARIES**

"If the oak before the ash then we will only have a splash, if the ash before the oak we will surely have a soak." I have always debunked this old saying, not because of its forecasting accuracy, but because in my experience, the oak leaves always appear before the ash! This year however I am having to eat my words, as many ash trees did beat the oaks into leaf, mainly because the oaks were held back by the abnormally cold Spring.

Despite the cold start, the wildflowers of our woods and roadsides have really excelled themselves this year. Celandines showed themselves particularly well, positively shining out from many road verges, for once not hidden by the normally taller grass, the cold having retarded its growth. Primroses, cowslips and bluebells put on equally fine displays. Blackthorn bushes have been white with blossom, as have all the garden fruit trees. Maybe the unending rain of last year boosted this year's blossom, a little consolation for what we had put up with last year. All of our Spring flowers have appeared much later than usual, in many cases by a month or more. Not surprising, in what has been the coldest spring for well over thirty years. I also expected the arrival of our migrant birds would be equally late, some were, but surprisingly others actually appeared a little earlier. Dates of my first sightings are as follows, *last years dates in brackets*. : - Chiffchaff 14th April (11th March), Swallow 14th April (19th April), House Martin 18th April (10<sup>th</sup> May), Blackcap 22nd April (22nd April) Whitethroat 28th April, (early May), Cuckoo 29th April (3rd May) Swift 9th May (27<sup>th</sup> April) From here in Bulmer Street, we have heard a Cuckoo calling far more often than we have for several years, which is encouraging.

We were surprised to see a stoat running around the garden in April, a first for us. It was clearly on the hunt, as we do occasionally get the odd rabbit finding its way through our fence from the field, where the rabbit population appears to be flourishing. Another predator we were watching in, or rather over, the garden, was a kestrel. It was hovering practically motionless above us, as if suspended by

an invisible string, but suddenly folded its wings and dived earthwards at tremendous speed. It had seen a greenfinch and clearly had designs on adding it to the menu. The greenfinch had other ideas, dodging off to escape by the narrowest of margins.



The greenfinch was luckier than a chaffinch, which was caught by a male sparrow-hawk, when the snow was on the ground in late March. My picture shows the hawk with its victim's feathers scattered around it. That's all it did leave, there was not a scrap left of the chaffinch except those few feathers. Like most birds of prey, the indigestible parts of the hawk's meal did not pass right through its digestive system, but were coughed up in little pellets. Analysis of these makes it possible to see what species of bird they have been feeding on.

In April, Eve Wenborne told me that they often saw a barn owl, hunting over the fields at the end of Bulmer Street, towards Upper Houses. On one occasion they saw two, hopefully a pair. However, after what was one of the most successful breeding years ever last year, barn owls appear to be having a really rough time of it this year, with many being found dead along the Stour valley. The hard and prolonged winter is being blamed for a shortage of their prey, or the owl's ability to find it in very unfavourable conditions.

Alan Dixey told me of a Jay, which has been joining the other birds where they put out food, just outside their window and becoming quite a regular. Alan had noticed that it was a bit unsteady when on the ground. He saw it trying to hold down a crust to get a better stab at it, when it almost fell over. It wasn't till then that he could see that it only had one leg! Jays, like magpies, are usually very wary birds. We did once have a young one in the garden, which allowed me to get close enough to get a couple of pictures, but was obviously ignoring parental advice about the dangers of humans and hadn't yet learnt the hard way. This has put me in mind of another member of the crow family, a tame Magpie that resided in Bulmer Street back in the late 1940s. It was owned (if owned was the right word) by Lawrence and Gertie Coe. Like many tame birds of

it's kind, this semi free flying bird had learnt to imitate human speech. It was famed for sitting on it's perch in the garden and calling out greetings to anyone passing, allegedly causing an unsuspecting cyclist to come a cropper in their surprise! Alas, it got it's comeuppance, it was probably trying to drink from the rain water butt, where it was found drowned.

Last year we were taken by surprise when a Partridge reared a dozen or so chicks right under our noses, without our suspecting them of even being there.



On 17th April, a loud quacking emanating from our front hedge, revealed a mallard duck, enticing a few downy little ducklings from the nest, where she had patiently incubated them, within a few feet of our drive. So nature has hoodwinked us yet again! We didn't see the disappearance of the mother duck and her little brood, but they ended up on the pond just up the road, hiding in the reeds. However, a mallard's nest in the garden of Jenkins Farm caused Margaret and Ken Mills to wonder what was going on, it contained two duck eggs and two pheasant eggs! A while after this, on BBC Spring Watch, a viewer told of bit of a contretemps between a hen pheasant and a mallard over the duck's nest. The pheasant was repelled, but then laid an egg alongside and disappeared! Even stranger, the duck then manoeuvred the egg into it's own clutch, most peculiar. Could this have been what happened at Jenkins? Unfortunately, Ken told me later that their nest was robbed, probably by a crow.

*Peter Rowe*

~~~~~  
VILLAGE LOTTERY WINNERS

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 the bigger the prizes!

Month	First	Second	Third
Mar.	Mr J Battersby	Mr I Hepburn	Mr K Hill
Apr.	Mr M Crome	Mr & Mrs C Bennett	Mrs T Bowler
May	Mrs K Macaree	Mr J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Mrs T Kelson

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

~~~~~

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**  
**COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE IS LAUNCHED**

In order to encourage interaction with the council, councillors have agreed to trial the use of Facebook for anyone to communicate with the council and its councillors. The site will be monitored and any abusive messages removed. However, if you prefer you can continue to communicate in person, writing or by telephoning the Clerk (details below).



To locate the site you simply need to enter **bulmer facebook** into your Internet browser, or copy the following address into your Internet browser **http://on.fb.me/11X5aOT**

Links are also provided by clicking on the Facebook logo (see above) on the Parish Council website [www.essexinfo.net/bulmer](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer) and the village website [www.bulmeressex.co.uk](http://www.bulmeressex.co.uk)

You may wish to put questions to the council, clerk or a councilor, or just make a comment about an issue that affects the Parish. Your feedback on this facility would be appreciated.

**YOUR COUNCILLORS**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Mike Crome (Chairman)         | - 01787 378155 |
| Peter Fulcher (Vice Chairman) | - 01787 269935 |
| Stephen Morgan                | - 07973 341048 |
| Chris. Leigh                  | - 01787 378133 |
| Bethan Cook                   | - 01787 370435 |
| Rose Raymond                  | - 07813 205743 |
| Ken Hill                      | - 01787 464651 |

Hannah Fraser (Parish Clerk) - 01787 374310 or email [hannah.fraser@sky.com](mailto:hannah.fraser@sky.com)

**DATES OF FUTURE PARISH MEETINGS**

All meetings are bi-monthly, normally held on the second Friday of the month in the Village Hall at 7:45pm

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> July      |                          |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> September | 8 <sup>th</sup> November |

All parishioners are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for questions from the floor.

**DRAFT** Minutes of the

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL (AGM)**

held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Village Hall, at 7.30pm  
**Present:** Cllrs. Crome, Morgan, Cook, Raymond, Leigh, Hill (late); DCllr. Swift, CCllr. Finch; Mrs H Fraser (clerk); 2 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all those present. He presented a training course certificate to Cllr. Cook.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Fulcher.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) held on Friday 11th May 2012**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Leigh; the vote was unanimously in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the chairman.

**3. Chairman's Report**

My second year as chairman began with a full complement of councillors but early on, one

councillor decided he could no-longer stand and resigned. I am pleased to say Ken Hill, a new resident to Bulmer, was quickly co-opted on to the council filling the vacancy. The work of the council continues to grow with new and changing procedures bringing challenges to us all, including our hard working Clerk who provides us all with tremendous support. The following are some of the areas addressed during the past 12 months.

**Parish Council Tax:** This was particularly difficult to deal with this year due to government changes to the procedure of grants to District Councils resulting in a shorter deadline in making our decision on the level of Parish Band D tax. All areas of the budget were examined and reductions where possible were made. The eventual decision was again for the 9<sup>th</sup> year in succession to hold it at the same level (£17.22 per household) and draw down a further £15 per household (£4,000, the cost of grass cutting) from assets. At some point we will have to start to make inroads to this difference.

**Development:** This past year has seen a reduction in the number of applications, potentially due to the current economic climate, the most significant application being the site of 'The Bungalow' in Bulmer Street, which will eventually provide three new family homes. My thanks to Cllr. Leigh for overseeing each application and providing the council with additional information.

**Coe's Meadow:** Considerable work on maintaining the recreation area by the committee and village volunteers has been achieved this year, for which the council is grateful. The committee led by Cllr. Leigh is also to be congratulated on its work in achieving a 4 star award from RoSPA, only missing out on 5 stars due to there not being any equipment for the disabled to use, which is being addressed. Our recreation ground is admired and used by Bulmer residents along with many from the surrounding villages.

**Allotments (Turnpike Piece):** The area continues to be well managed by Cllr. Morgan with administration assistance on a voluntary basis by Barbara Rawlins to whom the council is grateful. Work has been carried out by some allotment holders to resolve the drainage issue. We have considered the usage of water and its cost to all parishioners. The cost of water used will now be split from September 2013 equally between water key holders. In this time of austerity it was felt unfair that all parishioners are currently paying for the water, and that such a charge would mean more careful use of water.

**Roads and Traffic:** As indicated this time last year, a formal speed restriction of 50mph has finally been authorised by Essex Highways for the A131 from Ryes Lane to Hedingham Road. It is anticipated this will be in place by the end of the year. The council also submitted a proposal to The Local Highways Panel (LHP) for a speed restriction at Batt Hall, following requests from residents (in view of the parking narrowing the road to a single carriageway). The panel agreed with the council and a 40mph zone will be installed from the 30mph at the Essex/Suffolk

border to Kitchen Hill. It is anticipated this will also be installed this year.

A further submission is now likely to be made to the LHP to consider a restriction for Finch Hill, along with a 20mph zone near Bulmer School, following a discussion at the meeting following this AGM. The Speed Indicator Device (SID) is still being used throughout the Parish with the batteries being re-charged by a very dedicated resident. The statistics produced seem to show a constant 50% of drivers exceeding the speed limits. My thanks to Cllr. Raymond for providing the storage area again for the winter salt and delivering it to areas that it was needed. Residents should contact the Clerk if salt is required.

**Footpaths & Litter Pickers:** This past year has seen our many footpaths kept in order with the tremendous efforts of Cllr. Raymond. Not an easy task due to the dreadful weather. In order to hopefully lighten the workload a new and more efficient strimmer has been purchased. Our band of volunteer litter pickers led by Barbara Rawlins has again kept the verges in all areas of the Parish clean from the endless litter that continues to be left by inconsiderate people. Volunteers also help the council in reducing the cost of grass cutting. **A huge thank-you to all volunteers.** The issue with the footpath from the school to Plough Green has now been resolved by making the section from the school to the first house a bridleway, the remaining section as a restricted byway (meaning only residents with access to this section are able to use vehicles).

**Diamond Jubilee:** Our celebrations were somewhat altered by the weather conditions at the last minute, but it was with the tremendous help of many volunteers who worked together from the Council, Church, Village Hall and Coe's Meadow committees that meant the 'Big Lunch' was enjoyed by many villagers making it a great success. The Council also donated Commemorative Mugs to the children of the parish. It would be wonderful to see other events like this being arranged by joint committees.

**National Grid Pylons:** Cllr. Fulcher continues to represent the council on the local forums keeping a watchful eye on the process, in particular the potential siting of a sub-station on or near the borders of the Parish next to the A131. Strong opposition to the potential proposal has been submitted on the basis that it is not needed, if further undergrounding was considered for the 132kv line.

**County Broadband:** A survey is at last currently underway by village volunteers to establish if residents in the village receiving slow speeds are interested in a 'Wireless' service being installed. Full permission has now been obtained for installing the transmitter aerial at the top of the Church tower.

**Council Training:** The entire council attended a training evening given by Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC). This covered a large number of areas, which highlighted several matters and procedures that the council will be addressing in future meetings.

**Encouraging Residents Participation:** A number of ways to encourage residents to communicate with the Council are or will be considered in future

meetings. One of these is looking at having a 'Facebook' site for residents and councillors to communicate with each other.

As I said at the beginning of my report, the year has been challenging, but a significant number of issues have been resolved and progress has been achieved in making the council better equipped for the future. This has only been achieved by the support of all Councillors including Cllr. Finch & DCllr. Swift and *all* the village volunteers to whom I am grateful for their commitment and dedication. Finally, I must thank our Clerk Hannah, who keeps the Council and myself in order and on track. I wish her well in her studies for the CiLCA course; this will stand us in good stead in obtaining "Quality Council Status".

**Mike Crome**

**Chairman Bulmer Parish Council 2012 - 13**

#### **4. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Officers 2013-4**

Cllr. Crome was proposed as Chairman by Cllr. Leigh, this was seconded by Cllr. Morgan; there were no other nominations and the vote was unanimously in favour. Cllr. Crome was duly elected Chairman of Bulmer Parish Council 2013-14. Cllr. Fulcher was proposed as Vice-Chairman and Emergency Plan Officer by Cllr. Leigh, seconded by Cllr. Cook. Cllr. Crome had received his assent by telephone prior to the meeting; there were no other nominations and the vote was unanimously in favour. Cllr. Fulcher was duly elected to these posts. The following Officers volunteered and were agreed: *Allotments* – Cllr. Morgan; *BVHMC, CMMC & Planning* – Cllr. Leigh; *Footpaths (P3)* – Cllr. Hill; *Litter* – Barbara Rawlins; *Conservation Area & Tree Warden* – Peter Rowe. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AGM) closed at 7.45pm.

#### **THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWED at 7.46pm:**

**5. Declarations of interest** (existence and nature, with regard to items on this agenda) None.

#### **6. Approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Leigh and seconded by Cllr. Morgan, the vote was unanimously in favour. The minutes were signed by the chairman.

#### **7. Matters arising from the minutes**

There has been no progress on finding a site for a new salt bin. The clerk was asked to fill in the Salt Scheme survey by 12<sup>th</sup> May, and to resolve the matter of the dog signs on the permissive path.

#### **8a. David Finch, County Councillor**

Cllr. Finch was welcomed as ECC Leader Elect and congratulated. He then gave a report including the following points: Contact has been made with McDonalds to encourage a litter picking responsibility scheme and he will supply email address for us to write in support. Implementation of broadband may be earlier than thought, perhaps July. He will inform of implementation date for the 40mph and 50mph speed limits and the restricted byways. Essex County Council is the second largest authority in the country with a £2.269 billion budget. It has received several

awards this year, and is a very progressive and innovative council still looking to improve in the context of shrinking government budgets. A Local Authority Mortgage scheme is launching shortly to enable first-time buyers to get onto the property ladder. 55,000 potholes have been filled this year. Cllr. Finch then invited questions. Cllr. Leigh gave thanks for his support gaining the grant towards special needs equipment for Coe's Meadow. A member of the public gave thanks for Cllr. Finch's support in filling the potholes in Blacksmith's Lane. There was a discussion about straw lorries driving through the parish; a request was made for their speed to be sensible. The clerk was asked to email Cllr. Finch about the broken barriers on Kitchen Hill. Cllr. Cook asked how long the new mortgage scheme will run for: Cllr. Finch confirmed it would be several years. He also confirmed the Local Highways Panel will be continuing under a different chairman.

#### **8b. Julian Swift, District Councillor;**

DCllr. Finch congratulated Cllr. Finch on his new appointment. He made the following points about the District Council annual plan: the council will continue to invest in town centres, new affordable homes, leisure play areas; apprenticeships and training schemes. He gave the following budget update: there has been a 1% reduction in council tax, but no cuts in services. Support to parish councils is to double, and there will be additional investment into Citizens Advice Bureau and the village agent scheme. He invited questions. Cllr. Leigh queried the recent spraying on the fields blowing into back gardens (on behalf of a resident). Cllr. Swift confirmed this was liquid fertiliser which has no weather restrictions on application, and that often dust was the culprit. Cllrs. Finch and Swift left at this point.

#### **9. Coe's Meadow report**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The new seesaw arrives this week and the special swings next week, to be installed ready for the Fun Day. The disabled parking sign will be reinstated perhaps with a protective barrier.

#### **10. Allotments report**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. A car had been seen driving on to the allotments near the main road – one of the tenants with trailer of manure. Cllr. Morgan will speak to the tenant with regard to potential damage to drainage.

#### **11. Clerk's report**

A handout was given. The clerk confirmed that now the annual finances work was complete, the next priorities would be the Scottish Widows account and the Bakers Field lease.

#### **12. Planning - updates**

**Cedral House:** The parish had originally asked for the condition that during construction access should not be used. Cllr. Swift has looked at this on our behalf, BDC had the same condition but during occupancy: but BDC have no intention to enforce. The gatepost at this property has recently been hit. It was discussed whether this should be pursued any further. Cllr. Leigh proposed and Cllr. Crome seconded that the council write one last time to the Head of Planning in the light of this latest collision. The vote was 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

**The Bungalow:** The first house is progressing well.

**Stables Cottage:** The neighbours are happy with the planned removal of conifers to build a carport. The parish council supports the application.

**Flint Cottage:** The Tree Warden's report has been circulated. BDC have applied for a TPO on 3 trees.

**Toms Cottage:** The application is to replace the garage with a 2-storey extension for a granny flat. Neighbours are in favour. The plans are in circulation with councillors.

**Griggs Farm:** Acacia tree – the clerk has not received any notice of this, and will liaise with BDC.

**Bulmer Tye House:** There were no objections to this application.

Cllr. Leigh is to advise the Tree Warden that trees have recently come down behind Stables Cottage, outside the conservation area. She requested that planning envelopes are passed on **asap** to enable the clerk to respond by the deadlines set by BDC.

### 13. Finance

i) Audit: the Internal Auditors report, Balance of Accounts, Annual Return, Insurance Schedule, and Risk Assessment were discussed. Cllr. Leigh proposed and Cllr. Morgan seconded that they were all accepted and the vote was unanimously in favour. They were duly signed. The AON Insurance quote and the 3 year 5% discount offer was discussed. The clerk was asked to add the new strimmer and play equipment. Cllr. Raymond proposed and Cllr. Cook seconded that the 3-year option was taken. All were in favour. The manual for the strimmer is to be given to Cllr. Hill.

ii) Allotment rents: The rents figures had been circulated before the meeting. The clerk was asked to discuss with Mrs Rawlins whether this was an increase and to add the matter to the July agenda.

iii) Balance in hand: This had been circulated before the meeting. The clerk confirmed that VAT For 2012-13 would be claimed shortly.

| Balance in hand (£)             | May:                         | Mar:            |        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
|                                 | 107,263.04                   | 104,305.90      |        |
| <b>Debtors</b>                  |                              |                 |        |
| Vat Reimbursement 2012-13       |                              | 1,328.65        |        |
| Vat Reimbursement 2013-14       |                              | 267.12          |        |
| <b>Receipts</b>                 |                              |                 |        |
| BDC Precept and Localism Fund   |                              | 4,568.00        |        |
| <b>Total (£)</b>                |                              | <b>4,568.00</b> |        |
| <b>Payments</b>                 | <b>Chq No.</b>               |                 |        |
| Braintree Assoc. Local Councils | subs 2013/14                 | 123             | 18.00  |
| Essex Equals                    | CiLCA course (grant to come) | 124             | 390.00 |
| Chilton OS                      | Newsletter                   | 125             | 83.52  |
| R&R Lawnmowers                  | New Strimmer                 | 126             | 648.00 |
| EALC                            | Data/Information training    | 127             | 45.00  |

|                        |                                 |     |                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Communicorp            | Clerks & Councils subs (1 copy) | 128 | 12.00           |
| Essex Community Fund   | Wildflower meadow cutting       | 129 | 200.00          |
| Skylarks               | Annual grant                    | 130 | 100.00          |
| Bulmer PCC             | Annual churchyard grant         | 131 | 720.00          |
| Bulmer Village Hall MC | Annual grant                    | 132 | 1000.00         |
| Mortimers              | Grasscutting Mar, Apr, May      | 133 | 871.20 inc. VAT |
| RT Bookkeeping         | Annual audit                    | 134 | 54.00           |
| Mrs H L Fraser         | Salary Mar & Apr; stationery    | 135 | 591.43          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           |                                 |     | <b>4,733.15</b> |

iv) Review capital: The clerk confirmed that the Scottish Widow account transfer had been delayed till after end of financial year.

v) External Payroll: The clerk had requested that the council consider employing an external payroll company due to the frequent changes of HMRC and employee/threshold status. She had obtained a verbal quote of £20-50 per annum from RTB Bookkeeping. Cllr. Leigh proposed and Cllr. Morgan seconded that on receipt of a detailed quote that the clerk should go ahead. All were in favour.

### 14. Draft policies

i) Email policy: ii) Back-up procedures policy: iii) Year plan: Due to the late time, the clerk was asked to re-circulate these documents for councillors to annotate and to provide a second draft for the next meeting.

### 15. Speeding Issues

i) School 20mph zone: A zone running from the edges of the Haven Ground hamlet was discussed. Cllr. Crome is to draft an application for the Local Highways Panel and circulate for comment.

ii) Batt Hall: A letter had been received from a resident requesting yellow lines at the westerly end of Batt Hall, due to difficult sight lines and lack of stopping distance. It was noted that all houses at Batt Hall have space at the back via an unmade road. It was felt that more cars meant slower traffic, and that the council should wait and see what impact the 40mph zone has and then reassess.

iii) Finch Hill: A petition for a speed limit had been received from residents. At Finch Hill there are no pavements and the road narrows between houses, with lots of open drives/entrances. It was unanimously agreed that this should be pursued. Cllr. Crome will make the application.

### 16. Raising the profile and generating attendance

i) **Facebook page:** A draft page had been circulated. There were a few reservations. It was felt that it could be a useful channel for communication. It might encourage younger people to interact with the parish council. Currently Cllr. Crome and the clerk can monitor the page. Cllr. Raymond proposed and Cllr. Morgan seconded that the page was publicised. 5 voted in favour and there was one abstention. Cllr. Crome will launch it in the next *What's On*, and the

clerk will add it to the notice boards. It was also noted that the clerk would always be first 'port of call' by letter, phone or in person for those uncomfortable with computers.

ii) **Parish Meeting:** This is a meeting for parishioners in the format of an open forum to take place between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> May next year. DCllr. Swift and CClr. Finch could be invited, as could other committees such as CMMC, BVHMC, PCC and Skylarks etc. The clerk was asked to circulate a date suggestion (April) and draft a format.

### 17. Tree Inspection

Cllr. Fulcher had emailed a suggestion that the parish council join with the PCC tree inspection. The limes avenue could be inspected at same time, sharing costs. Some limes are hollow in the middle. The 2005 plan was that remaining older trees would be replaced in 8 years. All agreed that this was a good idea and to refer back to Cllr. Fulcher re: costs.

### 18. Correspondence for discussion

i) **Stop Stansted Expansion:** Cllr. Morgan noted that Stansted Airport has been sold, expansion may be of concern again. Night flights are the current issue. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

ii) **Training:** Cllr. Cook had attended an EALC course on Freedom of Information. She advised that the public could ask to see emails on parish matters; these are defined by whether they involve the clerk. The clerk will circulate the information pack from the course.

iii) **Grass cutting:** Mortimers have reported that the permissive path near the school is too narrow to cut. The clerk was asked to raise the matter with the landowner/farmer.

iv) **Cluster meetings:** A nearby parish had suggested reviving these meetings of local parish councils to discuss common issues. They have been of benefit in the past. Subjects could include National Grid, PSG, Stansted. The clerk was asked to respond suggesting these issues and a frequency of twice annually.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

~~~~~

BULMER OPEN GARDENS



We were blessed with dry weather for the weekend and lovely sunshine on the Sunday. Lots of lovely people came. Everyone involved enjoyed it very much and would like to do it again. Those who didn't visit any of the twelve gardens missed a treat.

A big thank you must go to all the gardeners, the providers of plants, cakes and preserves and the tea makers. The publicity provided by the sign makers,

poster and programme designers spread news far a field. Enquiries were received asking where Bulmer was from various points of the compass.

All the hard work paid off and St. Andrew's Church received just over £1,200 as a result. So thank you to all our visitors too.

Margaret Mills

PARISH PATH WALKS

Our last three walks did not pose the logistical problems the previous three did. March was a mixture of snow and mud but the last two left us with clean footwear. Our walk on the 5th May we heard the cuckoo and saw the local buzzards on our way across the brook to Belchamp Walter and bluebells were just showing in deal nursery. Our trip around Lamarsh and Alphamstone on 27th may saw bluebells still looking good in the woods there. The meadows were looking lovely and garlic was carpeting and scenting some moister woodland areas.

Why not join in the next walks, most are suitable for school age children, but dogs must be kept on a short lead.

SUNDAY 28th JULY 2:30PM

Church to Castle. About 6 miles, meet at Gestingthorpe Church.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 26th AUGUST 10:30AM

Foxearth and Beyond. Approx. 6 miles, meet at Foxearth Village Hall.

SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2:30PM

Bures to Wormingford, via the Stour Valley Path, Approx. 4½ miles, meet at Bures Community Centre.

Enquiries to Margaret Mills 269377

FOOTPATH GRASS CUTTING

An Urgent request for help! PLEASE!!

Unfortunately since the meeting on the 10th May, we do not now have anyone to look after cutting the paths and they are in danger of becoming difficult or unpleasant to walk. The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to perhaps take on looking after a path near where they live rather than one person being responsible for them all. We have a brand new wheel based strimmer to make the task easier.

If no one steps forward we will have to consider passing the responsibility back to Essex CC, and under the current economic climate they may not be cut as often as we would like. Please call the Clerk: Hannah Fraser on 374310 or any Councillor if you would like to know more. One person has come forward to look after the path behind the South side of the Street, but we need more.

WIRELESS BROADBAND UPDATE

The survey of the parish has now been completed and the forms passed back to County Broadband (CBB). The initial analysis indicated 92 were 'Very likely' and 45 'Might' join, that's around 46% of the village, an encouraging result. We now await further news from CBB on when installation will begin.



~~~~~

The next edition will be published around the end of Sept. 2013. Can I please have all your pictures & articles, by the **15<sup>th</sup> Sept.** Call 378155 or email [mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mike@mcrome.fsnet.co.uk)