Coe’s Meadow Management Committee (CMMC) Meeting Minutes

6pm, Tuesday 15th September 2026 at Blackbirds, The Street, Bulmer

Minutes taken by Laura Little.

Present:

Cllr Antonia Crawshay, Emma Hamilton-Russell, Jenny Kenson, Laura Little, Cllr Sam Rowe,

1. **Apologies for absence:** none.

2. **Approval of minutes from AGM held 8th July 2026**: approved.

3. **Matters arising from the last minutes**: None.

4. **Finance**
   - **a.** Year to date accounts for 31st August 2026 reviewed.
   - **b.** Emma will research bank accounts and provide a recommendation for Bulmer Parish Council to discuss at their next meeting.

5. **Habitat Management and Grounds Maintenance**
   - **a.** Inspection and task list - The task list was reviewed and actions scheduled for attention.
   - **b.** Working party agenda - The working party agenda for 20th September was agreed; laurel removal, brambles, playground repairs and lime tree epicormic growth.
   - **c.** Stour Valley Volunteers - a visit is planned for 30th September for the cut and rake. A lunch of soup and rolls and cake will be provided.
   - **d.** Lime Avenue update and laurel hedge – Laura explained that the tree officer at Braintree Council has been contacted and confirmed that if CMMC would like to propose an alternative treatment to that which has been granted by Braintree Council (1.5m reduction for the non-pollarded limes), evidence will be required to support the reasoning for this. St Jude’s have confirmed they are happy for the reduction of 1.5m to be progressed for the non-pollards.
     It was agreed that work will be started at the next working party to remove the front rows of laurel to leave a single remaining row between St Jude’s and Coe’s Meadow. This work will be continued through the coming Autum/Winter.
   - **e.** Park gates – the request to lock have a schedule of locking gates was discussed. New gates will be required. It was discussed that the S106 funding needs to be progressed. Antonia will discuss progressing quotes with Debbie Deeks, Bulmer Parish clerk.
   - **f.** Precautions against fire risk – the risk was discussed and agreed that Laura and Jenny would discuss with Emma Black at the Stour Valley volunteer day as to whether there are any land management practices that could be followed during periods of high risk.

6. **Playground Update**
   - **a.** Purchase and installation of 7v7 football goals – Laura confirmed that the latest estimate is that these will be delivered around late October 2026.

   b. Planning application for playground replacement – Laura confirmed that Bulmer Parish Council agreed for a planning application for new playground equipment to be submitted. Oliver Rowe at Plan Free has been contacted regards submitting a planning application. Laura will follow up with him.

   c. National Grid grant application for playground equipment – Laura confirmed that once the planning application is approved, the grant application can be submitted. Laura will follow up on some discrepancies with quotes received. Bulmer Parish Council have also agreed that the grant and purchase can be processed through the council.

7. Website, social media and engagement

   a. Website name – item deferred to next meeting.

8. Fundraising events

   a. Appraisal of golf day – the committee discussed the success of the golf day and thank Taylor and Sam for their fundraising efforts. A total of £863 was raised.

   b. Future events – Sam and Taylor's wine tasting is planned for Friday 18th September and Jenny's yard sale is planned for Saturday 3rd October.

9. Request for provision of adult activities (e.g. boules court) – item deferred to next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting – 6pm 17h November.

11. Any other business – the Sycamore near the corner house adjacent to Vicars Orchard is dying. This needs to be assessed at the working party.