

# Coe's Meadow Management Committee (CMMC)



**6pm, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Bulmer Village Hall**

Minutes taken by Laura Little.

## **Present:**

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

Members of the public: Mike Crome

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

**2. Approval of minutes from AGM held 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026:** approved.

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

## **4. Finance**

- a.** Charities Commission Reporting - Laura Little confirmed that the Charities Commission reporting has been filed in relation to the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, with the kind help of Kevin Money, BPC clerk.
- b.** Bank balance – the accounts were reviewed. It is hoped the year will be finished with funds of around £4,000, primarily due to fundraising efforts over the last year.
- c.** Funding
  - i. The BPC grant for treeworks has been received and approved works paid for.
  - ii. Sam Rowe will raise, at the next BPC meeting, whether the council would consider paying for the grass cutting on Coe's Meadow and will reference to the Framework Agreement between BPC and CMMC. Dario Kenson has kindly offered his time to cut the grass.
  - iii. Laura Little confirmed that CMMC was unsuccessful in with the Community Initiative Fund grant application for £10,000 to help fund part of a new agility trail. For a total fund of £200,000, applications totalling £1.2m were received making it very competitive.
  - iv. Essex Community Foundation will continue to be considered for the future.
- d.** It was agreed to change the name of the Go Fun Me appeal to not include a specific year.

## **5. Habitat Management**

### **a. Next working party date**

Next working party is planned for 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Focus of this working party will be to coppice the willow tunnel and remove excess growth of surrounding foliage and nearby tree to give the willow more light.

- i. Dario and Jenny have kindly cleared debris around the lime avenue and Sam will be taking this away. Jess of St Jude's adjacent to the meadow has kindly maintained the laurel hedge.

**b. Stour Valley Volunteer Dates for 2026** – Jenny Kenson has scheduled this for 30<sup>th</sup> September and will focus on the cut and rake of the meadow.

**c. Treeworks** – lime avenue update -the older lime trees have been pollarded. However, upon confirming the planned reduction height for the younger trees, Braintree Council have only approved a reduction 1.5m, rather than planned 2-3m, citing that such a reduction would be detrimental to the tree's health. As a result the required tree works will be more labour



intensive and more expensive, requiring new quotes and funding to be obtained. This work will be planned for the Autumn 2027 so funding will need to be sought in 2027.

## 6. Playground Update

### a. Maintenance (inc bins)

- i. In response to an email from Jess Soper regards the state of the bins on Coe's Meadow, Emma Hamilton-Russell informed that a new poo bin at the Vicars Orchard entrance will need to be requested by Bulmer Parish Council. Sam Rowe will raise this at the next BPC meeting.
- ii. Sam Rowe will have a look to see if any repairs can be made to the general waste bins. Otherwise, it may need to be considered to replace.
- iii. Jenny Kenson shared that Dario plans to work on repairs to the two towers play structure this spring, to include putting up a safety bar by the slide and replace some of the slats of the bridge. The CMMC also agreed that "Deep Water" signage could be painted on the back of the red life ring station which would make this communication much more visible.

### b. Grant and plans progress

- i. Laura Little shared with the CMMC the Coe's Meadow plan with a new playground that Oli Rowe of Plan Free has kindly prepared. It was agreed that this would be reviewed in more detail at the next meeting. Laura explained that the primary options for funding the new playground may be the National Grid Community Benefit Fund for the Twinstead to Brampton Reinforcement, which is not yet open to applications or the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. The CMMC will discuss the feasibility of these in more detail at the next meeting. A planning application will on be considered once a grant is to be applied for and any grant criteria have been considered.

**7. Possibility of incorporation of charity:** The Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust is an unincorporated charity and is managed by the CMMC while BPC is the trustee. It has been suggested that an incorporated charity could be set up and this could hold the Coe's Meadow asset, dissolving both the CMMC and The Lawrence Coe Recreational Trust and relieving BPC as trustee and registered owner of the land. A quote of £2000 has been obtained for the legal work that would be required to achieve this. This may be of benefit if a grant funder requires a charity to be incorporated. Until it becomes obvious that this is a requirement and could help to raise significant funds, such an expenditure is not justified by CMMC.

## 8. Fundraising events for 2026

- a. Plant sale with coffee morning - to be held Saturday 23rd May 2026, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Jenny Kenson is leading on the organisation of this. The public are welcome to join us on the day to buy plants, have some coffee/tea and cake and take part in our tombola. Donations of plants and tombola prizes would be appreciated.
- b. Beer festival – to be held Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 from midday and hosted by Sam and Taylor Rowe. Similar format to last year.
- c. Band night currently planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2026. Laura Little is leading on organisation of the event and Sam Rowe will organise the bar. Local musicians will be invited to play sets

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and there may be an open mic section. Village Hall committee to be asked if they would like to make it a joint effort and split the proceeds.

- d.** Tabletop sale – planned for Autumn.

**9. Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm.

**10. Any other business**

- a. Online presence** – the committee discussed that it would be beneficial for Coe's Meadow to have more of an online presence. This may help with grant applications and visibility of the meadow. Mike Crome has kindly offered to set up an e-voice website for Coe's Meadow and Laura Little will set up Instagram and Facebook pages, which Emma has kindly offered to help maintain.