

# Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

Parish Clerk/RFO: Kevin B. Money

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>. February 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. N. Nicholson (Chair), R. Kirkland, S. McGrath, A. Parker, N. Turner, BDC Cllr D. Garrod, and Kevin B. Money Clerk/RFO to the Council. There were no members of the public present.

**021/2025 Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr R. Etheridge and Cllr S. Cunningham

**022/2025 Declarations of interest**

To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda. **None Declared**

**023/2025 Approval of minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup>. January 2025 **All Agreed**

**024/2025 Public Forum**

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Parish Council meeting in order to speak with respect to items on the agenda. No questions from the public

**025/2025 Essex County Councillor Report.** No report was given

**026/2025 Braintree District Councillor report**

BDC Cllr D. Garrod February report can be found at

<https://helionsbumpsteadparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council-minutes/>

The benefits of the Local Government reorganisation were discussed. Braintree District will be combined with several others and will have a Mayor and would in all probability become Labour controlled. Local Councillors will become more remote and less approachable.

Cllr N Turner will recommend a course of action for the PC

Cllr D. Garrod left the meeting

**027/2025 Local Plan Review 2041.** <https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/local-plan-review>

This is the 'Issues & Options' stage of the review. It is where BDC outlines the key challenges for future development and ask for your views on how we can best address these through planning policies. You have an opportunity to help shape policies around new housing, transport and road improvements, green infrastructure, and community facilities like healthcare, education and allotments. The survey is live until 7 March 2025. <https://engage.braintree.gov.uk/>

**028/2025 Roads and footpaths (Sink hole, street light opposite Church)**

All faults to roads and footpaths issue have been submitted to Essex Highways.

PR2 designation should be removed

**Street Light opposite church on Church Hill is on during the day**

**029/2025 James Cleverly Letter** – Cllr S. McGrath

The letter concerning the condition of the roads was sent to James Cleverly on 30<sup>th</sup>. January 2025 but to date no response has yet been received

**030/2025 Wethersfield Airfield Scrutiny Committee (WASC)**

The unused accommodation at the Wethersfield Airbase has been filled up with over 500 Asylum Seekers by the Home Office. Putting these Asylum Seekers in a village far away from decent Roads, available Staff, suitable Housing, Towns, Shops, Amenities and Doctors has proven complicated. The Ministry of Justice may be less enamoured with the centre and the problem issues it creates.

Cllr N. Nicholson proposed paying £200 towards WASC to support its proposal to use the airfield as a Conservation Area, which would suit its relative isolation and would provide a reserve of natural fauna and flora in the overpopulated south east of England. Cllr S. McGrath seconded. **All Agreed**

Cllr N. Nicholson to obtain WASC bank details.

**031/2025 Payment of invoice from previous Clerk**

1. Past Clerk payment from 31.05.24 – 30.07.24 totalling £616.32p

Cllr N. Turner proposed sending a letter to Beth Sivyer in response to her invoice for £616.32p. Cllr S. McGrath seconded. **All Agreed**

**032/2025** Our very loyal postman is retiring in 10 weeks, after 45 years' service (many in Helions). Is there any plan to have a parish wide collection for him?

Cllr A. Parker proposed donating towards his retirement together with flowers to his wife. Cllr N. Turner seconded. **All Agreed**

**Cllr A. Parker to organise a presentation to David in the pub with the help of local residents.**

**033/2025** **A4 poster to get up to date email resident list** – update Clerk  
Base this on BDC Emergency plan. Cllr A. Parker to organise this with the Clerk

**034/2025** **Finance**

a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. January 2025

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. January 2025

b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2024/2025

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2024/2025

c) To approve the payment for Accounts for February 2025 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

**035/2025** **Councillor Training.** Councillors have received all Training notices from EALC.

**036/2025** **Planning Application/s** No planning applications have been received

**037/2025** **Items for the Next Agenda**

**Litter picking date – 22<sup>nd</sup>. March 2025 at the village hall**

Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 12.05.25 at 7pm in the main hall

**038/2025** **Date of the Next Meeting** - Monday 10<sup>th</sup>. March 2025 at 7pm

**039/2025** **Dates for 2025 meetings:** 14.04: 12.05: 09.06: 14.07: 08.09: 13.10: 10.11: 08.12

**040/2025** **Closure of the Meeting** To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.40pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*Nicholson*  
**N. Nicholson**  
Chair

10<sup>th</sup>. March 2025