

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

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Minutes of the **HELIONS BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **10 JANUARY 2021 AT 7:00 PM.**

NAME	POSITION	PRESENT
S. Kehr	Chair	Yes
N. Turner	Vice Chair	Yes
S. Cunningham	Parish Councillor	Yes
R. Etheridge	Parish Councillor	Yes
R. Kirkland	Parish Councillor	Yes
N. Nicholson	Parish Councillor	Yes [21/231]
A. Parker	Parish Councillor	Yes
D. Garrod	District Councillor	Yes
P. Schwier	County Councillor	No
L. Brown	Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	Yes

1 Members of the public.

21/230 **Apologies for Absence**

ECC Schwier.

21/231 **Public Forum** [Cllr Nicholson 19:04]

The member of the public discussed the setting of the Precept, they noted that the Precept over the last 10 years had increased by 68%, which is double the rate of inflation and would therefore like to see the Precept decreased.

The Council have set in place a reserves policy which it has been following but will review it at the next meeting.

The member also questioned the Council's donation to the Church for the Churchyard maintenance. The Council believes that this is a benefit to the community.

21/232 **Members' Declarations of interest**

Nothing related to items on the agenda

21/233 **Minutes**

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th December 2021 as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Turner **Seconded:** Cllr Nicholson – unanimously agreed.

21/234 **District & County Councillors Reports** (APPENDIX A)

Full report in appendix – Temporary Road Closures/ Grant Scheme for Electric vehicle charges ending soon/ BDC's Local Plan consultation ending on 24th January/ Recycling and disposal of Christmas trees/ Fly tipping report/ Free Funding Workshop/ Ministers reject calls for Council Meetings to be held online/ Championing Mental health Motion/ BDC Working to reduce the number of rough sleepers.

Regarding the Local Plan, Cllr Turner commented that he had contacted West Suffolk and was told that they were planning to publish their findings in the Spring even though on their website it says they were to be published in January.

21/235 **Clerks Report** (APPENDIX B)

No comments.

21/236 **Action Tracker** (APPENDIX C)

Council discussed the project to rebuild the football wall and reinstall the basketball hoop on the cricket field. Further details under item 21/245.

21/237 **Finance** (APPENDIX D)

Resolution: Approve payments for this month.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Cunningham – unanimously agreed.

Resolution: The Council use money from reserves to spend on projects for this year instead of seeking funding from outside sources.

Proposed: Cllr Nicholson **Seconded:** Cllr Kehr – unanimously agreed.

Resolution: Review policies and procedures for reserves.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Etheridge – unanimously agreed.

21/237.1 **Budget**

Resolution: Approve a budget of £14,671 for the year 2022 - 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Nicholson – unanimously agreed.

21/237.2 **Precept**

Resolution: Approve a precept of £14,671 for the year 2022 - 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Nicholson – unanimously agreed.

21/238 **Internal Auditor**

Resolution: Appoint Val Evans as the Councils internal auditor.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Kirkland – unanimously agreed.

21/239 **New Planning Applications**

- No current applications to consider.

21/240 **Playground**

Resolution: Request Mr. Cox add more bark to the playground area, funds available in reserves or from the handy man grant. Expected cost ~ £200 for labour and £700+VAT and delivery for the bark.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Cunningham – unanimously agreed.

Clerk to contact Wicksteed's to see if they are able to fix faulty play equipment identified in their report.

21/241 Flooding in the Village

Report on flooding in the village has yet to go through “Checking”, which the Council expects soon. It was noted that there are some planning developments in the village, which do not seem to consider surface water, drainage or a provision for water storage, in spite of recent developments. Cllr Nicholson to draft a letter to BDC regarding the potential flooding from approved work.

21/242 Highways and Footpaths

Water Lane ditch is getting worse, verge being eroded away which is a potential danger to cars and other road users.

Clerk to send report to ECC Schwier.

Camps road drains are blocked, which seems to have been missed from when the other roads drains were serviced by Essex Highways

It was noted that many of the verges in the Village are being eroded away by passing vehicles on the narrow roads and the excess soil on the roads is being washed into the drains.

The Council received a response from Essex County Council Highways, in which they do not claim responsibility for the verge along Water Lane but that the landowner has the responsibility to maintain it.

Resolution: Write letters to the major landowners based on response from ECC Highways, to find out who’s responsibility it is to maintain the verges/ditches.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Parker – agreed, Cllr Turner, Nicholson abstained.

21/243 Steeple Bumpstead Surgery Closure

No update – this item can be removed from the agenda.

21/244 Queen’s Jubilee (02 June 2022)

Potential funding available from the Parish Council – Cllr Kehr to write to the Village to find willing participants to help organise the Jubilee celebration.

Clerk to contact Andy Gage of The Fire Pit to get a quote for building a Beacon of the Parish.

21/245 Handyman Fund Projects

The Council debated the repair of the wall and reinstallation of a basketball hoop. The Council is obtaining quotes from two companies DRT and Danes for the work. Cllr Etheridge has been appointed to survey the community on this issue.

The Council also put forward the idea of installing cricket nets and improving the BMX track.

Clerk to order bark for the playground and ask Mr. Cox to spread it.

Clerk to request a quote from Mr. Cox to clear the BMX track.

21/246 AONB

No update.

21/247 Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda

Fox Hunting through the village.

Review outstanding policies and procedures.

Review Standing Orders.

Review General Reserves Policy.

Thank you letter to the Pub.

Litter Pick in the village.

Follow up on grants.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Clerk to the Council: Luke Brown
72 St. Edmunds Fields, Great Dunmow,
Essex, CM6 2AN
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APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report January 2022 to Parish Councils 07/01/22
(Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders

Intended closure of Chapel Street, Steeple Bumpstead. Due to commence on 17th January 2022 for 3 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes washout installation.

Intended closure of Haverhill Road, Helions Bumpstead. Due to commence on 7th February 2022 for 5 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes new connection.

Grant Schemes for Electric Vehicle Charing Infrastructure – Office for Low Emission Vehicles

The government offers grants to support the wider use of electric and hybrid vehicles via the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). This includes the Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme (EVHS) which provides grant funding of up to 75% towards the cost of installing electric vehicle chargepoints at domestic properties across the UK. From April 2022, the EVHS will no longer be open to homeowners who live in single-unit properties such as bungalows and detached, semi-detached or terraced housing. Installations in single-unit properties need to be completed by 31 March 2022 and a claim submitted to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) by 30 April 2022.

The scheme will remain open to:

- homeowners who live in flats
- people in rental accommodation (flats and single-use properties)
- The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) is a voucher-based scheme that provides support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge-points, for eligible businesses, charities and public sector organisations.
- The On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) provides grant funding for local authorities towards the cost of installing on-street residential chargepoints for plug-in electric vehicles.

More info: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles>

Planning Inspector's Modifications to the Local Plan – Consultation Closes 5pm Monday 24th January

Residents still have time to have their say on the proposed changes to Braintree's local plan made by the Planning Inspector. The proposed changes to the Plan and the supporting documents can be found at www.braintree.gov.uk/mms2 and feedback can be submitted until 5pm on Monday 24 January 2022. Following the Inspector's hearing sessions of the plan in July 2021, the Inspectors Mr Jameson Bridgewater and Ms Anne Jordan have given their feedback and recommended some main modifications to the plan before they can find the section 2 Local Plan sound, as well as an updated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and an updated Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA). The Local Plan is set out in two sections, with Braintree District Council's Full Council unanimously agreeing to adopt Section 1 Local Plan in February 2021, shared with Tendring District and Colchester Borough Council's. Section 2 is the council's individual plan, which contains local policies and allocation and once adopted, will be used to assist in determining planning

applications. All the responses made to the consultation will be given to the Inspectors for consideration before finalising the main modifications and making a final decision on the Local Plan.

Recycling and other Disposal of Christmas Trees

Drop off location for this part of the district is Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall, Finchingfield Road, CB9 7EA from 08:00am to 08:30am on 15th January 2022.

- BDC will collect real trees and wreaths
- You must remove all decorations before recycling the tree
- Artificial trees or wreaths containing wire cannot be taken
- Trees must not be taller than 6'7" tall

Social distancing measures will be in place to protect both staff and members of the public at collection points. Christmas trees left outside of these times will be treated as fly-tipping.

You can compost your Christmas tree at home by breaking it down into smaller pieces and putting it in your home compost bin or you could cut your tree up and put it in your green wheeled bin. BDC will empty this bin when the collection resumes in Spring 2022. You must make sure your tree fits within the bin with the lid shut.

Figures Reveal a Decrease in Fly-Tipping Incidents in the Braintree District

The number of fly-tips in the Braintree district has decreased over the past three years, figures show. Braintree District Council received 856 reports of fly-tipping in 2020/21, a reduction of 56, from the 912 reports received in 2019/20. So far in 2021-22, there has been 525 reported fly-tipping incidents*, which is another downward trend for the second consecutive year. Over the past three years, Braintree District Council has investigated over 1,550 reports of fly-tipping, issued 40 fixed penalty notices and prosecuted 27 cases. In one court case back in 2020, an offender who pleaded guilty for fly-tipping was ordered to pay over £1,300 for the fine, victim surcharge and the Council's costs. Braintree District Council continues to take a proactive approach to fly-tipping, investigating all reports received, removing waste within one working day, and issuing fixed penalty notices or prosecuting where possible. The Council also uses CCTV at known fly tipping hot spots to help deter offenders which has also been complemented by some local parish councils purchasing their own cameras. Over the years, the Council has invested resources in tackling the issue, working with Love Essex and other local authorities on campaigns to raise awareness and help reduce fly-tipping, such as the successful Crime Not To Care campaign, as well as with businesses and town/parish councils to encourage more responsible behaviour. Last year, together with over 150 local authorities and waste and environmental crime partnerships across the UK, the Council called on the Sentencing Council to consider tougher fines and sentences for fly-tipping offenders, as these do not always match the severity of the fly-tipping offence or fairly reflect the costs incurred by the taxpayer, in having to remove the waste.

Community 360 are Promoting a Free Funding Workshop

Free funding workshop: how to tap into unrestricted funding for your community organisation in 2022 This is an informal session to find out how voluntary groups, social enterprises, church, schools, sports clubs or charity can benefit from unrestricted funding in 2022 using the easyfundraising platform. The workshop takes place via online Zoom on Tuesday 1st February 2022, 12.30pm-1.00pm.

Register at: <http://efraising.org/1vY4Fny7kh>

Ministers Reject Calls for Council Meetings to be Held Online

Councils must continue holding meetings in person, the Government has said, as it rejected calls to introduce laws despite the spread of the Omicron variant. Lord Greenhalgh, a minister of state at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, confirmed the policy in response to a written

question. Last month the LGA had called on ministers to urgently bring in emergency legislation to enable councils to return to hybrid meetings.

A recent LGA survey of councils, conducted before the emergence of Omicron, found that 72 per cent had recorded a decline in councillor attendance at statutory council meetings and 73 per cent had reported a fall in public attendance. The LGA has called on the Government to urgently bring forward emergency legislation, saying the gathering of up to 200 people in one room is an “unnecessary public health risk”. LGA Chairman Cllr James Jamieson said emergency legislation would help curb the spread of the virus and make sure “councils can continue to make democratic decisions, even during times of emergency”.

Championing Mental Health Motion – Full Council Meeting 13th December 2022

As a Mental Health Champion for BDC, I submitted a Motion to the Full Council on 13th December 2021 to demonstrate that mental health is a priority. The local authority has a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health. I am delighted to advise that it was carried unanimously by all present members. Full details can be viewed in the agenda and minutes on BDC’s website.

BDC Working to Reduce the Number of Rough Sleepers by Developing a Range of Support Services

Projects are progressing to provide additional supported accommodation to rough sleepers especially in relation to units available to deal with complex needs. This also includes the ‘next steps accommodation programme’ on further initiatives to prevent rough sleepers returning to the street. Day to day, BDC continues to prevent people from becoming homeless and the mental health navigator is engaging with rough sleepers with more complex needs to help them sustain a tenancy.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

Clerk's Report

Correspondence

I have received a reply from the Regulatory and Compliance Officer of Essex County Council reference the letter sent to Andrew Cook Head of Essex Highways.

I have received a confirmation from Braintree District Council for the TPO that was granted in June 2021, at the Cricket Pavilion.

Other News

I have requested a price for replacing the Sox street lamps with LED's, from A&J Lighting.

APPENDIX C

Action Tracker

Council Meeting	Reference	Details	Status
July	21/150	Update website	Cllr Kehr to review website
September	21/170	Obtain quotes for works for repairing wall on cricket ground	Cllr Kehr to action
September	21/176	Set up email accounts for the Cllrs	1 account left to set up
October	21/188.2	Cllr Turner to investigate Jubilee memorabilia for the children of the village	Cllr Turner to action
December	21/228	Submit Planning objection comments	Clerk to action - Done

APPENDIX D
January Payments

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance										
							40,388.88	-		-
	Drax	Electricity		DD				54.45		54.45
	Luke Brown	Salary	N/A	Bacs				299.78		299.78
	Luke Brown	Expenses	N/A	Bacs				49.63		49.63
<hr/>										
January Totals							<u>40,388.88</u>	403.86		403.86
							39,985.02			