

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

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Minutes of the **HELIONS BUMPSTEAD ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **11th JULY 2022 AT 7:00 PM.**

NAME	POSITION	PRESENT
S. Kehr	Chair	Yes
N. Turner	Vice Chair	No
S. Cunningham	Parish Councillor	Yes
R. Etheridge	Parish Councillor	Yes
R. Kirkland	Parish Councillor	Yes
N. Nicholson	Parish Councillor	No
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 public

22/68 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Turner and Cllr Nicholson

Resolution: Accept apologies for absence.

Proposer: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Cunningham – Unanimously agreed.

22/69 **Members' Declarations of interest**

None for this agenda.

22/70 **Public Forum**

1 member of the public spoke about their planning application which was turned down and wanted to advise the Council that there are some works being done in particular roof repairs. They are reapplying and waiting to hear the outcome.

22/71 **Minutes**

Cllr Parker noted that if the Wethersfield Prison doesn't go ahead then there could be 1000 homes built instead.

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th June 2022 as a true record.

Proposer: Cllr Parker **Seconded:** Cllr Kirkland

22/72 District & County Councillors Reports (APPENDIX A)

There will be Long Covid drop-in centres through the summer months in Steeple.

22/73 Clerks Report (APPENDIX B)

The hedges and trees located at the back of the Village Hall require cutting back. Malcolm Cox provided a quote of £270 to cut back and clear.

Resolution: Approve quote to cut back and clear hanging shrubs and trees by 2 meters.

Proposer: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Parker

Clerk to contact BDC to find out if they have contacts for playground repairs.

Clerk to contact other playground companies for repairs.

Clerk to contact Peter Schwier regarding highways issues.

22/74 Action Tracker (APPENDIX C)

The action tracker was reviewed by the Council.

22/75 Finance (APPENDIX D)

Resolution: Approve payments for this month.

Proposer: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Kirkland

22/75.1 August Payments

Resolution: Approve Clerk to raise payments in August when the Council are not due to meet.

Proposer: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Kirkland

22/75.2 Grants

None to consider.

22/75.3 Financial Regulations

Clerk to update the regulations by removing the part related to the Council having to vote to pay bills via BACS every two years. This is the primary system used by the Council to make payments and therefore unnecessary to address every two years.

22/76 Risks & Risk Register

Cllr Kehr, Cllr Kirkland and Cllr Etheridge to review the Risk Register.

22/77 Asset Register

Council reviewed the Asset Register and made the following changes:

Margret's Bench – maybe a Village Hall asset.

Basketball units – to be removed from the register.

Printer – to be removed from the register.

Answer/fax machine – to be removed.

3 Draw filing cabinet – value set to 0.

Scanner – to be removed.

Telephone – to be removed.

Shredder – to be added to the register.

Play equipment – to be updated.

22/78 New Planning Applications

No new planning applications to consider.

22/79 **Flooding in the Village**

Road drains are starting to get clogged up with debris with some already blocked. Cllr Parker to create a report to forward to Cllr Schwier.

22/80 **Playground**

Covered under item 22/73.

22/81 **Highways and Footpaths**

Footpath bridge not repaired yet on Footpath 39.

The kissing gate needs repairing at the top of Rec ground. This was reported to EPROW a while back.

There are road issues still on going such as the pothole on copy hill that seems to have been overlooked by Highways.

22/81.1 **Hedges and Trees Trimming**

Covered under item 22/73.

22/81.2 **VAS or SID Illuminated Sign**

The Council would like to see a 30MPH zone in place for the whole of the village but acknowledge that could take a while to be implemented. In the meantime, the Council are going to investigate installing VAS or SID's. Cllr Etheridge to coordinate with Cllr Turner.

22/82 **Handyman Fund Projects**

The notice board at Drapers Lane, waiting on a quote for the repair.
Hedge trimming at the Village Hall.

22/83 **Telephone Box**

Cllr Kehr to speak to Allison to see if there was support from the village to get the telephone box moved.

22/84 **Resources for Teenagers**

Waiting on Cllr Turner to report back.

22/85 **Village Magazine**

If the quality of the printing from RedSideUp is suitable the Council suggested that they should try to secure a deal with them for future printing.

Resolution: Approve RedSideUp to print the next edition of the Village Magazine.

Proposer: Cllr Parker **Seconded:** Cllr Kehr

22/86 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

No comments.

22/87 **Date of the Next Meeting**

Next Full Council Meeting 12th of September 2022.

Planning Committee Meeting 8th of August 2022. (If required)

22/88 **Meeting Close** @ 9:14 PM.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Clerk to the Council: Luke Brown
72 St. Edmunds Fields, Great Dunmow,
Essex, CM6 2AN
07713 926 645

APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report July 2022 to Parish Councils **(Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)**

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders

Intended closure of Station Road, Birdbrook from 19th August 2022 for 19 days whilst Openreach undertakes new ducts works.

Section 2 of the Local Plan

The Council has now received the final report from the Planning Inspectors on Section 2 of the Local Plan which stated that it could now be found legally sound. The report concluded that the document was able to be adopted subject to the inclusion of some modifications. The final list of which is available on the Council's website although the document remained largely unchanged from the version that was consulted upon in January 2022. Graham Butland, Leader said; "As the master plan for future development for the District over the next 11 years, the importance of the Local Plan could not be understated. The Plan also assisted with the Council's defence against speculative housing developments when determining planning applications. The process behind the development of Local Plans was often long and complex and this Plan had been no exception. The Plan would not be considered through the normal governance processes at the upcoming meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee. If approved, the Plan would then be recommended to Full Council in July for formal adoption". NB: LPSC 5th July, Full Council 25th July.

Levelling Up & White Paper

I attended the Levelling Up launch on 10th June in Sible Hedingham. It was focussed on rural communities. There are hidden inequalities in rural areas and these inequalities and the challenges they bring are made tougher by the isolated natures, and lack of access to services in rural communities. Braintree District is one of the areas where we know there are people living in deprivation. The session discussed the importance of communities in levelling up and how best to take forward engagement with communities and partners.

The White Paper has been considered by the Essex Leaders from the County Council, the two Unitary Authorities and the 12 District, Borough and City Authorities. It was agreed that a joint letter would be composed by Leaders. A meeting has now taken place between the Leaders of the three upper-tier authorities (Southend, Thurrock and Essex CC), during which the Leaders expressed that they would wish to enter into discussions in due course with the Government on what may or may not be offered by way of devolution for Essex. It was agreed that it was of the utmost importance for Members across Essex to be kept up to date with the latest developments in respect of the White Paper. Cllr. Butland intends to provide a further update to Members in July. Lastly, there are to be three working groups established and chaired by the upper tier authorities, with representation from Leaders of the second-tier authorities to examine specific aspects of the White Paper with a view to reaching a consensus on what freedoms the County would like to obtain as part of any deal around devolution.

Motion carried at Full Council 20th June: National Grid Sustainable Electricity Generation

The Motion: "The Council recognises the increasing need for sustainable electricity generation, including utilising wind turbines located in the North Sea. The Council also acknowledges the need to transmit such electrical power from source to end user. However, the Council is concerned about the effect transmission overland using pylons up to 50 metres high may have on the countryside in Braintree District. It urges National Grid to explore all options, including undersea, and to take steps to mitigate negative impacts on

the natural environment. It also urges National Grid to fully engage with the local community so residents have the opportunity to respond to its proposals.” Councillor Mrs Parker commented on the proposal by the National Grid to build a new line of pylons from Norwich to Tilbury via Bramford near Ipswich and acknowledged that the means of generating electricity had changed significantly since the 1960s, but stressed that the new pylons would be of detriment to the rural landscape, natural environment and adversely affect properties.

Motion carried at Full Council 20th June: Cost of Living Crisis

The Motion: “This Council recognises the Cost of Living Crisis and the impact it is having on many residents in the Braintree District. Council also recognises that the Government has introduced a range of support measures including relief through council tax bills and new grant support, with additional specific grants to assist pensioners, people with disabilities and the poorest households. However the Government has stated it cannot cover all impacts and therefore, given the scale of the Cost of Living Crisis, Council requires the Chairmen of the Community Development and the Partnership Development Scrutiny Committees to establish a combined committee consisting of all the Members of the respective two Scrutiny Committees. The remit of the combined committee will be to review the measures that the Council and its partners in Essex are already offering, and to recommend any further assistance that can be delivered this financial year for the residents of Braintree District. The combined committee is to report back to the meeting of the Council to be held on Monday 10th October 2022, and to facilitate this timetable there shall be no more than two meetings of the combined committee.”

As Chairman of the Community Development Scrutiny Committee, I am already in the process of organising the meetings for this important subject in the very near future.

Appointment of CEO

Following the resignation of Mr Andy Wright, Chief Executive, a recruitment process was carried out, of which I was delighted to play a role. Mr Dan Gascoyne, who is currently Deputy Chief Executive at Colchester Borough Council has accepted the appointment as the Council’s Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) as well as the Electoral Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer with effect from a start date to be confirmed.



Long Covid Mobile Clinic

I was very sorry to hear that the scheduled visit to Steeple Bumpstead 29th June, was cancelled. Unfortunately, this was unavoidable due to very sad circumstances and was outside my control. Provide will rearrange again in the near future.

A New Section for Self-Driving Vehicles added to the Highway Code

From July 1st new rules on the use of self-driving vehicles in Great Britain have come into force. The changes can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/self-driving-vehicles-listed-for-use-in-great-britain>

Verge Cutting Changes

Whilst it is felt that biodiversity is important, at the request of a number of residents and parish councillors in the Bumpstead Ward, I have advised officers at BDC of the comments I have received; many people who live in very rural areas feel that cyclists (*in particular*), potholes and degrading road edges with high grass verges around single-track, winding lanes are a lethal combination for road users and potential accidents.

Affinity Water (largest water-only supplier in UK) Public Consultation

Affinity Water provide on average 950 million litres of water each day to a population of more than 3.83 million people in parts of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Surrey, the London Boroughs of Harrow and Hillingdon and parts of the London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Ealing and Enfield. They also supply water to the Tendring peninsula in Essex and the Folkestone and Dover areas of Kent.

Following the consultation of their draft drought plan in 2021, Affinity Water are undertaking a public consultation on the outcomes of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for their new Drought Plan. Consultation closes 5pm 8th August 2022.

Later this year they will submit an updated drought plan and associated documents, including the SEA, to Defra and the Environment Agency. Subject to receiving approval to do so from Defra, their final drought plan will then be adopted and published on their website. For details:

<https://www.affinitywater.co.uk/corporate/plans/drought-management/sea-consultation>

If you would like to view a paper copy of our SEA Environmental Report, please email dmpconsultation@affinitywater.co.uk or call 07814 767 405.

Representations by e-mail should be sent to: dmpconsultation@affinitywater.co.uk
Please include Affinity Water in your email subject field.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

Clerk's Report

Correspondence

I have been sent a quote from Mr. Cox regarding the hedge trimming on PPT land the quote has been circulated.

I have also heard from Mr. Cox regarding the playground equipment, which he has had a look at and is not prepared to attempt a fix.

Other News

The defib has been taken away to be checked over as it was showing an error message. I'm not sure when it is due to be back.

The issue with the over growing trees along camps road I have raised with Highways.

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
May 2022	22/33	Contact housing association regarding clearing the ditch behind footpath 21 – Waiting for reply	CLlr Parker to action
Mar 2022	21/285	Make revisions to policies	In progress
May 2022	22/35	Grant awarded to the PCC	In progress
May	22/39	Contact Mr. Cox regarding securing play equipment to the ground – Waiting for quote	In progress
May 2022	22/42	Drapers Lane notice board repairs – Waiting for quote	In progress
June 2022	22/53	Forward emails regarding a planning forum and long covid drop-in at Steeple Bumpstead	Clerk to action
June 2022	22/55	Speak to the PPT regarding install of cricket nets	CLlr Turner to action
June 2022	22/56	Make donation to the Cystic Fibrosis Charity	Done
June 2022	22/56.1	Update Financial Regulations document	Done
June 2022	22/56.7	Contact insurers regarding reserves cover	Done
June 2022	22/61.1	Contact Mr. Haylock regarding cutting the verges	Done
June 2022	22/62	Contact Mr. Cox regarding overgrown hedges and trees on PPT land affecting neighbours	Clerk to action
June 2022	22/65	Contact local printing services and get quote	Done

APPENDIX D
July Payments

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance							41,632.97	-		-
	Employee	Salary - July	N/A	BACS				304.98		304.98
	Employee	Expenses - July	N/A	BACS				24.40		24.40
	Drax	Electrcity - May	Inv 9214/15	DD				56.38	2.68	53.70
	Drax	Electrcity - June	Inv 4493/94	DD				54.59	2.60	51.99
	Martin Catchesides	Magazine distribution	15062022	BACS				13.00		13.00
	ICO	GDPR Data Protection	04062022	DD				35.00		35.00
	BDC	Printing	7057433	BACS				360.00		360.00
Totals								848.35	5.28	843.07
								40,784.62		