

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

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3 Mill Rd, Haverhill, CB9 7AH
Tel: 07713 926 645

Minutes of the **HELIONS BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **10th APRIL 2023 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	No
R. Kirkland	Parish Councillor	Yes
N. Nicholson	Parish Councillor	Yes
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

23/01 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Etheridge, Cllr Turner

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

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

23/02 Members' Declarations of interest

None for this meeting.

23/03 Public Forum

A member of the public thanked the Council for lowering the precept.

23/04 Minutes

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th March 2023 as a true record.

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

23/05 District & County Councillors Reports (APPENDIX A)

The DCllr gave their report to the council, full details in the appendix.

They noted that an injunction is to be heard on the 19th of April to stop the Asylum seekers being located at Wethersfield airfield.

23/06 **Clerks Report** (APPENDIX B)

Resolution: Accept the quotes supplied by the Parish Council's handy man to cut the grass, fix the little shed to the ground, maintain the hedging around the play area, seasonal gritting, and cut down trees near the pavilion.

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

23/07 **Action Tracker** (APPENDIX C)

Clerk to contact the maintenance company to find out when they are attending to carry out the work to the play area.

The Parish Council received a reply from Essex Highways regarding the request to investigate the speed limit zones in the village and would like clarification as to what their reply meant in real terms.

The Parish Council considered putting down steppingstones or other material on Footpath 21 to make it better to walk on. To be investigated further.

23/08 **Finance** (APPENDIX D)

Resolution: Agree payments for this month, payments circulated to members prior to the meeting.

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

Cllr Kehr appointed as authoriser.

23/08.1 **Grants**

None to consider.

23/08.2 **EALC & NALC**

Resolution: Agree to subscribe to EALC and NALC.

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

23/09 **New Planning Applications**

23/00676/HH | Reconnection of two sides of dwelling which had previously been divided.

Formation of flat glazed roof over the courtyard. Repair of existing timber frame, re-rendering of damaged areas and addition of internal insulation throughout. | The Old Vicarage Camps Road Helions Bumpstead Essex CB9 7AS | **Expiry Date: Tue 18 Apr 2023**

- The Parish Council considered this application and object based on that it seems the plans do not take into account its listed building status and an ancient wall from the 18th century is planned to be knocked down.

23/10 **Flooding in the Village**

The road drains have been jetted and the culvert was checked for blockages and is all clear. Drains along Water Lane and Sages end road still seem to be blocked. Cllr Nicholson agreed to carry out a survey regarding the issues of flooding in the area.

Gabions along Water Lane and Camps Road need to be reported to Essex Highways as they have started to fail. Cllr Cunningham to send the Clerk the What3words to help report the issue.

23/11 **King's Coronation**

Mugs and alcohol have been purchased for the event.

Monday volunteer day, still looking for projects.

23/12 **WASC – Prison Development Proposal**

A letter drafted by Cllr Nicholson is to be sent to Braintree District Council.

23/13 **Playground**

Covered under item 23/07.

23/14 **Highways and Footpaths**

Bank collapse and bridge have had temporary repairs for months now and should be re-reported to get a permanent fix.

23/15 **Handyman Fund Projects**

None.

23/16 **Anaerobic Digester**

No comments.

23/17 **Solar Farms**

No comments.

23/18 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

None.

23/19 **Date of the Next Meeting**

11th of May 2023

23/20 **Meeting Close**

@ 9:13 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 Annual Report to Parish Councils - April 2023

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Braintree District Council Member for the Bumpstead Ward

As your District Councillor, I have pleasure in providing this end of year report which outlines some of the activities and achievements relating to Braintree District Council. It is not exhaustive, but contains subjects which will probably have an impact on the Bumpstead Ward.

About your District Councillor (Diana Garrod)

I live in Sturmer and became your Braintree District Councillor in October 2016. In April last year I was elected Vice Chairman of the Council where I have undertaken a number of duties throughout the district. I have attended all Full Council meetings during the year, these often have agendas containing hundreds of pages. I am also Chairman of the Community Development Scrutiny Committee where I have overseen scrutiny reviews this year in to Cycling and Walking, The Cost of Living Crisis, where I personally put forward 20 out of the 22 recommendations to Cabinet, and Markets and Associated Events which is currently awaiting a response from Cabinet. I am a member of the Climate Change Working Group and have participated in shaping the Council's Climate Change Strategy, and I remain the Council's outside representative for the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Advisory Committee; part of this ward is placed in the

AONB; Stour Valley ‘project area’ and is considered a ‘valued landscape’. I also remain a Mental Health Champion as peoples’ mental wellbeing should be considered a priority and of course, I liaise with parish councils, local organisations and residents.

Councillor’s Community Grant Scheme

I am allocated a Councillor’s Community Grant which is used to support a range of projects and initiatives to benefit residents through local groups and organisations. Since April 2019, 288 grants have been awarded by Councillors, totalling £245,847. This money has gone into the heart of the districts’ towns and villages to meet local needs.

Fly-Tipping

Your Council will always respond within 24 hours to remove the dumped rubbish. During 2022, 680 fly-tipping incidents were reported and cleaned up, 37 fixed penalty notices were issued and 13 cases were sent for prosecution.

Financial Support

In the two years 2021/22 and 2021/22 the total amount of Covid related grants and reliefs provided to businesses and individuals was £59m and £2m respectively. These relate to both mandatory and discretionary schemes. Financial support given to individuals included the Council Tax Hardship Fund.

In 2022/23, £7.7m of Council Tax Energy Rebates paid to eligible households in Council Tax Bands A to D. A discretionary scheme was also administered providing a further £213K of financial support to households not included in the core scheme and ‘top-ups’ to those households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support.

Rough Sleeper Initiative

Funding was secured through the Rough Sleeper Initiative which, in partnership with Essex County Council and some of the other Essex Housing Authorities, has enabled the provision of an outreach service to anyone found to be rough sleeping in the district. Other RSI funding has been used to provide a 6-bed scheme, with support for former rough sleepers and/or those at risk of rough sleeping, with a further 3-unit scheme, due to come on-stream in summer this year. Some RSI funding was also re-purposed during the pandemic to trial a Mental Health Navigator role, shared between BDC and Epping Forest District Council. The Value of this post was recognised by all, and funding has been extended for a further 3 years (until 2024/25).

Warm Spaces

Since the beginning of the year, a number of new warm spaces activities have been established and in February this number was 73. Contact was made with 22 of the organisations participating to see if other support is required. On the whole, these have been received very well.

Stray Dogs

Unfortunately, the Council has seen an increase in the number of stray dogs being reported and abandoned. In the calendar year ending 31st December 2022, a total of 60 stray dogs were reported of which 15 were not claimed. Unclaimed dogs are signed over to the RSPCA to be assessed and to be put up for adoption.

Planning

Last year BDC received and validated 3,088 planning applications. The Council formally adopted Section 2 of the Local Plan in July 2022. Section 2 contains local policies and allocations to guide development of homes, employment, infrastructure and community facilities between now and 2033. Section 1 of the Plan, which was adopted in February 2021 is shared with Tendring District and Colchester Borough Councils, sets the key vision, objectives, and overall strategic direction for growth. The Local Plan has full weight in determining planning applications.

In tandem with the Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans also have a role to play where towns and villages want to see development in their area. Neighbourhood Plans take time to pull together and require the dedication and effort of a group of local volunteers, together with the support of the Parish Council and BDC Officers. I am delighted that Steeple Bumpstead's is currently in the consultation phase.

In addition to planning applications, an increasing number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) have come forward such as the A12/A120 upgrades, Longfield solar Farm, East Anglia Green energy upgrade and the Bramford-Twinstead energy project. These schemes are time-consuming and complex,

A Members Forum for the Planning Committee has also been established. This gives developers the opportunity to present an application at an early stage to the Committee, and relevant Ward Members, take questions and receive feedback on their scheme as a whole. It is early days for this Forum, but already appears to be beneficial to all concerned.

The Enforcement Team has received a further £200k to boost staff resources and have covered some particularly difficult investigations.

Community Safety Achievements

In August last year, the Council secured £29,000 from Essex County Council via the Changing Futures fund to provide an SOS Bus; a medically equipped mobile vehicle, in identified locations across the district providing those with complex needs and vulnerabilities with access to a range of services in one place including drugs and alcohol, mental health, housing, debt, etc.

Health

The Medical Centre at Sible Hedingham is making good progress and also a Community Diagnostics Centre will be opening in Braintree which will be able to provide CT and MRI scans amongst other things. The ward space which has opened in Halstead Hospital is also to become permanent.

I continue to campaign for better healthcare services in this part of the district and raise this at every opportunity.

Finance and Council Tax

Many local authorities are under more financial pressure than ever and although good financial management over the years has put Braintree District Council in a better position than others, there may still be some difficult decisions to make. Of course protecting the services that residents rely on will be a priority. This year, an unprecedented £1million will be invested to support the vulnerable and those who need it most by providing food security, supporting community groups and organisations, and enabling physical and emotional health and wellbeing during this cost-of-living crisis.

BDC recognises the cost of living pressures faced by residents and have tried to keep the increase in Council Tax as low as possible. The Council Tax increase for the next financial year will be 2.5% which is half the maximum allowed. You may well have noticed £25 by way of a refund shown on your council tax statement, which has been provided to all eligible council taxpayers. This will be the largest Council Tax reduction of any District Council in the country. This money originally came from a New Homes and Growth Dividend. Between 2017 and 2022 1,159 affordable homes were completed with 417 in 2021/22, exceeding the target of 250. The Council requires 30-40% of new housing developments to be affordable. It is recognised that population is growing and people are living longer; more people want to live in this district. The Council wants to ensure that housing is decent, sustainable and genuinely affordable as it is the foundation of people's lives and essential to good health and wellbeing. There are also 2,000 empty homes in our district and the Council is also exploring ways to reduce this number.

Local Elections

Elections for Braintree District Council will take place on 4th May. Voting in person will require presentation of Voter ID. Acceptable ID includes a UK or EU passport, a photocard driving licence, a blue badge, a bus pass or a PASS card. If residents do not have ID, they can request a Voter Authority Certificate from BDC.

Assuring you of my attention at all times.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

Clerk's Report

Correspondence

I have forwarded the tender notice to cut the grass and other jobs around the village.
I have also forwarded the quote to cut the trees near the pavilion.

Other News

The council elections in May for Helions Bumpstead are contested, therefore there will be an election and the public will need to vote members onto the council.

APPENDIX C

Council Meeting	Reference	Details	Status
July '21	21/150	Update website	Cllr Kehr to review website
Feb '23	22/180	Drapers Lane notice board repairs	Ongoing
Oct '22	22/118	Speak to the PPT regarding install of cricket nets	Cllr Turner to action
Feb '23	22/180	Contact DC regarding a new dog poo bin	Ongoing
Feb '23	22/180	Obtain glass panel for phone box	Ongoing
Mar '23	22/211	Send letter to highways to extend speed limit zone	Clerk to action
Mar '23	22/206	Send letter via post to Highways	Clerk to action
Mar '23	22/208	Purchase mugs for the Coronation	Cllr Turner to action
Mar '23	22/210	Arrange delivery of play bark	Clerk to action
Mar '23	22/210	Get a quote for cutting down dangerous trees on the recreation ground	Clerk to action
Mar '23	22/212	Request local contractor to take over cutting the village green	Clerk to action
Mar '23	22/212	Investigate potential for putting down hardcore or matting on Footpath 21	Cllr Parker to action

APPENDIX C
April

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening balance 1/4/23							38,768.55			
	Parochial Church Council	Grass Cutting Grant	N/A					600.00		600.00
	Cricket Club	Registration Fees Grant	N/A					250.00		250.00
	Employee	Salary - April	N/A					337.22		337.22
	Employee	Expenses - April	N/A					24.40		24.40
	Employee	SLCC Membership	MEM243722-1					59.00		59.00
	Drax	Electricity	5709/7175					56.40	2.68	53.72
Totals								1,327.02	2.68	1,324.34
								37,441.53		