

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

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Village Hall, Helions Bumpstead,
3 Mill Rd, Haverhill, CB9 7AH
Tel: 07713 926 645

Minutes of the **HELIONS BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **11th MAY 2023 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	No
R. Kirkland	Parish Councillor	Yes
N. Nicholson	Parish Councillor	Yes
A. Parker	Parish Councillor	Yes
D. Garrod	District Councillor	No
P. Schwier	County Councillor	No
L. Brown	Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	Yes

1 Members of public

23/20 Nominate and Elect the Chairman for Period 2023 - 2024

Cllr Kehr nominated and duly elected as Chairman for the period 2023/24.

23/20.1 Sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Kehr signed the declaration of acceptance of office, which was witnessed by the Clerk.

23/21 Nominate and Elect the Vice Chairman for Period 20223- 2024

Cllr Turner nominated and duly elected as Vice Chairman for the period 2023/24.

23/21.1 Sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Turner signed the declaration of acceptance of office, which was witnessed by the Clerk.

23/22 Cllrs to Sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

All other Cllrs signed their acceptance of office form, which was witnessed by the Clerk.

23/23 Expenses and Register of Interests Forms

Cllrs reminded to complete their expenses and register of interests form and return it to BDC.

23/24 Confirm the Member's Representation Responsibilities

Stansted Airport – Cllr Nicholson

Play Areas – Cllr Kehr

Village Green – Cllr Parker

Footpaths – Cllr Cunningham

Highways – Clerk
Village Hall – Cllr Kehr
Meet & Greet – Cllr Etheridge and Cllr Cunningham

23/25 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Etheridge

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Turner

23/26 **Members' Declarations of interest**

None for this agenda.

23/27 **Public Forum**

No comments

23/28 **Minutes**

Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th April 2023 as a true record.

23/29 **District & County Councillors Reports** [Appendix A]

Cllr Parker noted that vouchers are available for those that have a pre-payment meter. Cllr Parker to put a notice in the village magazine.

23/30 **Clerks Report** [Appendix B]

Council have received a quote to repair the noticeboard but would like more quotes.
Clerk to contact more companies for quotes.

Insurance is due for renewal at the end of the month. Council commented on the reason for the insurance claim for the noticeboard a while back for the Clerk's benefit. Waiting to find out renewal quote.

23/31 **Action Tracker** [Appendix C]

A committee is being formed regarding the cricket nets, expected cost in the region of £20k - £30k.
The phone box has been looked at by the council's handy man and does not seem to have a panel missing after all.
Footpath 21 is being investigated by the council as a potential hazard and are looking into possible remedies and improvements.
Letter to local landowners to go out asking them if they will look to help fix Footpath 21 – Cllr Kehr to action.
Cllr Nicholson gave a report from their survey.
Clerk to report the bank collapse.

23/32 **Finance** [Appendix D]

Resolution: Agree payments for this month.

Proposed: Cllr Turner **Seconded:** Cllr Cunningham. – unanimously approved

Cllr Kehr appointed as authoriser.

A comment was made regarding the budget – Clerk to investigate.

23/32.1 **Grants**

None.

23/33 **New Planning Applications**

23/01092/FUL | Expansion of existing stock pond to create a lake | Board Barn Farm Drapers Green Helions Bumpstead Essex CB9 7AU.

- The council considered the above application in a meeting of the full council and have no objections.

23/34 **Flooding in the Village**

Resolution: Write to the landowners.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Parker

Resolution: Cllr Kehr to write to Glenn from the flood team and ask him who is responsible for the pipes underneath a resident's home.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Turner

23/35 **Annual Parish Assembly**

Tea and Coffee offered at 6:45 PM before the assembly starts.

Cllr Kehr to write a notice to go in the village email system.

23/36 **Playground**

Equipment has been repaired.

23/37 **Highways and Footpaths**

A Cllr commented on Footpath 57 and that it goes through a resident's garden.

23/38 **Handyman Fund Projects**

Noticeboard at drapers lane.

23/39 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

Stansted Aware

23/40 **Date of the Next Meeting**

12th June

23/41 **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

Essex County Council - Hedingham Division

Cllr Peter Schwier – 2022/23 Annual Report

It is now almost two years since I was elected to Essex County Council; serving the residents of all the villages – and 33 parish councils - that make up the Hedingham division has been a real privilege. The year that has passed since your last annual meeting has gone very quickly but has proved extremely busy and filled with activity and achievement.

The passing of those two years also means we are half-way through the current four-year term, and we are starting to see many positive outcomes from the ambitious work the county council set in train back in May 2021.

The following is a small sample of the key numbers, landmarks and achievements from a busy year – many are necessarily Essex-wide but, where possible, I have tried to focus purely on issues relevant to our local communities.

Budget / Council Tax 23/24

In the toughest and most uncertain and inflationary financial climate the county has known for many years, ECC agreed a budget which prioritised support for adults' and children's social care, road maintenance, improving infrastructure and helping people with the cost of living.

Over the course of the next year, the county council will spend a total of £2,281m (gross) and £1,164m (net) through its revenue budget – 7% higher than had been planned last year, as a result of inflationary pressures

There will also be £275m of capital spending in 23/24.

Budget points of note include:

- £58m increase in the adult social care budget
- £7.5m extra to deliver 340 additional school places
- 9% increase in fees for foster carers
- Community supermarkets to be rolled-out – providing essential household goods at lower cost for hard-pressed families
- £200m spending on climate change remains in place, with new and existing cycle routes and active travel schemes are also being built and maintained to enable people to walk and cycle.

Highways

The council will be spending nearly £145m on highways maintenance and sustainable transport over the coming year and, as ever, will prioritise the areas by severity of need.

By way of context, the county looks after:

- 5,100 miles of carriageway;
 - 4,000 miles of footways / cyclepaths;
 - 130 miles of safety barriers;
 - 131,000 street lights;
 - 14,000 illuminated highway signs;
 - 80,000 non-illuminated signs;
 - 36,000 items of Public Rights of Way infrastructure.
- **7,002 – the number of potholes repaired in Essex over the course of 22/23 so far.**

Over the last year, in terms of calls to our contact centre around highways issues, we received the following numbers:

- 1,899 – average daily number of calls to the Contact Centre in January 2023;
- 432,711 - total calls to Contact Centre;
- 47,904 - total calls to Highways (new faults and general) service.

Meanwhile, the average answer waiting time for highways calls was 03:10.

Levelling Up

In late 2021, ECC launched its own Levelling Up White Paper, aimed at raising living standards for people in particular cohorts and locations. One year on, a great deal has already been achieved.

This includes:

- 12,000 more homes and businesses connect to Superfast Broadband
- Over 6,600 devices donated to schools across Essex, to support students with getting online and enhancing their learning.
- 250 new entry level jobs created through our social value scheme.
- The Essex Opportunities website launched to provide access to more flexible job roles. In its first year the website has had more than 90,000 visits and 6,500 clicks to apply for jobs
- The Essex Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Service supported creating 240 new apprenticeships across Essex Businesses. Expanded our completely free holiday activity and food programme, ActivAte, which over the last two years has provided over 500,000 free meals and supported over 30,000 young people
- An almost £2million boost provided to social care in Essex under our Nightingale Care Bursary, which will support people from the most deprived communities in Essex to achieve social care qualifications or support existing care workers to achieve further qualifications.
- Our working families programme has been in contact with 960 families to provide support to those seeking information on upskilling or retraining for a new career
- Parkplay has now been launched in 16 areas across Essex and had over 2,000 unique people attend, with 16,000 attendances in total so far! Parkplay will be launched in more areas throughout 2023.
- The physical and mental wellbeing of 130,000 school children and young people supported at Essex Outdoors sites, where they learn a range of skills through outdoor pursuits.
- 60,000 new library members have signed up since Jan 2022
- 150,000 new recyclable library cards distributed to every primary school child in the county as part of the 'Essex Year of Reading' celebration. 74 new literacy areas have been created across Essex (one in every library).
- Almost 24,000 children took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. This is an increase of 36.4% on 2021.
- 'Multiply' launched - a new initiative that will offer over 14,000 Essex residents free access to maths and finance training

The environment and climate action

As the county council's Climate Czar, I've been front and centre with much of the work around our support for the environment and the drive towards net zero. I am delighted that it remains a central ambition of the council's work, despite the financial pressure. Progress has been made, along with our partners, over the last year, and key achievements include:

- 138,349 trees planted across Essex on our way to target of 375,000 by 2025. This amounts to 52.73 hectares of trees, and 16,492m of hedgerows
- 36,681 LED streetlamps now installed across the county.

- 1,222 fuel-poor households receiving support, helping them claim an additional £2.4 million in benefits via our Warm Homes Essex project
- £100,000 awarded in the last 12 months to local cycling groups and charities
- SuDS advice provided on 850 major planning applications a year
- 62,500 new properties receiving flood reduction expertise
- Green Flag award status retained across seven country parks welcoming one million visitors during the year
- £500,000 awarded from the Climate Action Challenge Fund to more than 30 local organisations and schools taking action on key climate change issues
- Several retrofit projects completed on the ECC estate
- £17.2m secured jointly with partners to provide fuel-poor households with grant funding of up to £10,000 to improve energy efficiency and heating systems in their homes
- A new North Essex Farming Cluster supported, which will help with information-sharing across the farming community, helping farmers move to more sustainable farming methods and protect sustainable agriculture
- Through Solar Together Essex, we have led a scheme enabling Essex residents to benefit from a significant discount on solar panels and battery storage from a reliable supplier. The scheme in Essex has now delivered over 1,300 installations and enabled over 1,100 tonnes of avoided carbon emissions annually. There have been 6,600 registrations over this year, more than any other year. The deadline to apply has been extended so people can register until 21/4/23.

Waste and recycling

We continue to work closely with district councils to promote recycling and efficient waste management that minimises the harm to the environment:



52% of household waste in Essex was recycled in 2020/21 – higher than the national average of 44%



The household **recycling rate varies from 40% - 58%** across the different district, borough and city areas



On average, each resident in Essex produces around 463kg of waste per year, that's **16% more waste than the national average.**



Approx 700,000 tonnes of household waste are generated in Essex per year – with a recycling rate of 52%, that means **circa 330,000 tonnes of general rubbish to landfill each year**



Over £100m is spent each year on the cost of collecting, treating and disposing of household waste in Essex



There are around **1.5 million visits to our 21 Recycling Centres each year**

Locality Fund

Once again, it has been a pleasure to support local communities through my Locality Fund. The details of schemes supported are as follows:

Organisation	Amount
The Birdbrook & District Community House	£310
Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council	£600
Mens Shed Great Yeldham	£1,000
Sturmer Parish Council	£700
Gestingtorpe Parish Council	£825
Birdbrook Bowls Club	£800
Helions Bumpstead Community Benefit Society	£803
Belchamp Otten & Belchamp St Paul Parish Council - Belchamp St Paul Community House	£300

I hope the above gives you an idea of the work that has gone in over the last year to develop our plans and deliver on them for the people of Essex.

Meanwhile, my work as Climate Czar has been extremely rewarding: meeting people across Essex and beyond; championing the work and achievements of people throughout our county; lobbying government on environmental causes – including the East Anglian Green proposals which I and colleagues across the region are steadfastly opposing.

On top of the above, I have also continued my busy work as a Braintree District Councillor, including membership of various bodies, such as the Planning Committee.

Most of all, it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve the residents of all the villages, both large and small, within the Hedingham division. I look forward to continuing to do so in the next year and beyond.

Best wishes,

District Councillor's Report May 2023 to Parish Councils **(Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)**

NB: Since we are currently in purdah; a pre-election period which restricts some business being undertaken, my report this month is shorter than usual.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. Intended closures:-

Steeple Bumpstead – Temporary closure for Coronation Street Party – Church Street from 12.00 noon until 8.00pm on Sunday 7th May 2023.

The Street, Birdbrook – due to commence on 11th May 2023 for 5 days. The closure is required while UK Power Networks undertakes electrical works.

Ride London 2023 – Classique Cycle Race - Friday 26th May 2023

Stage One of this race will travel from Saffron Walden to Colchester on Friday 26th May 2023. Market Square in Saffron Walden will be closed to vehicles from 05:00 to 14:00 to host the Start Area of the event. It starts at 11:00. They will pass through Finchingfield, (inc. Steeple Bumpstead), through Halstead shortly before entering the Dedham Vale (AONB), towards Manningtree and the banks of the River Stour before the race finishes on Colchester High Street at Grey Friars between 14:45 and 15:00. There will be road closures and requests not to park on the route. Further details:-

https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/11938/RideLondon-Classique-road-closure-information-Friday-26-May-2023/pdf/FRL_Classique_Friday_RCL_8pp_v6_Web_Use.pdf?m=638179287114330000

Concerns about Potential Pub Closures

At the beginning of April, I raised concerns with officers at BDC about potential pub closures due to escalating energy costs. A recent LGA email said "The British Beer and Pub Association is warning that the average energy bill for a pub will rise by £18,400 a year from April when the Energy Bill Relief Scheme ends. Landlords have said this will put many pubs out of business". British pubs are an important social aspect of our district and play a vital role to combat loneliness and isolation; particularly in the more rural areas and I would like to raise awareness.

BDC officers advised me that they are currently working through the processes to launch 2 new business support schemes; the North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) programme of business support and the Rural Prosperity Fund. They intend to contact all licensed Public Houses to offer them a referral to our partners at [Let's Do Business Group](#), based at Essex County Council, to explore 12 hours of mentoring, which could include strategizing the 'cost of living' crisis impacts, to mitigate the issues I have raised. Info at: <https://www.letsdobusinessgroup.co.uk/> In the interim, if there are any businesses in need of support, please refer them to BDC's Economic Development Team and they will be able to explore routes to support

Airfield & Housing Asylum Seekers

Braintree District Council's Updated Statement 28/4/23 Wethersfield

"Last Friday BDC received the High Court's judgement on our injunction application to challenge the Home Office's proposals to secure accommodation for asylum seekers at Wethersfield Airfield.

The High Court decided not to grant us with an injunction and determined that the Home Office is permitted to rely upon the provisions set out within Class Q.

We have been reflecting on next steps and have decided to proceed with appealing the High Court's decision, as we share the same view as many in our community that Wethersfield Airfield is not a suitable site for asylum use, and we remain of the view that the Home Office cannot rely on the use of permitted development rights (Class Q) as a way of getting around the need for planning permission.

We will be preparing our appeal papers and will be lodging these within the next week. We'll then await notification of when the appeal will be heard by the Court of Appeal and keep residents updated.

This appeal does not stop the Home Office from continuing to prepare the site to house asylum seekers. We will be requesting that the appeal is heard before the Home Office place any asylum seekers on site.

We know there is still a lot of uncertainty amongst the community on these plans and we are continuing to press the Home Office to engage directly with the local community to share more detailed plans about their proposals and fully understand the concerns being raised.

The government has issued a frequently asked questions document published on their website. However, some details remain unclear. We are still lacking detailed information from the Home Office on the needs of any asylum seekers and the facilities that would be provided on site.

In the meantime, we are continuing to work with our multi-agency partners to prepare if plans go ahead and identify any actions required so that we can support any asylum seekers accommodated and help to minimise any impacts on our local communities”.

Government Encourages Prepayment Meter Customers to Redeem Vouchers

The vouchers allow eligible customers to access discounts of up to £400 on their energy costs, which direct debit customers will have automatically received this winter. The scheme will remain open until 30th June. The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero has produced factsheets for advisers on a traditional prepayment meter to help applicants receive the government discount vouchers. A video explaining the discount vouchers has also been produced. You may wish to share this on social media:-
https://cdn-assets-cloud.frontify.com/s3/frontify-cloud-files-us/eyJwYXRoIjoiZnJvbnRpZnlicL2ZpbGVcL1ZxQjR3SmlHejJhN2ZhdEFGRIZELm1wNCJ9:frontify:7YypdqVSK82tco_Xz6_zsUykmkOwnJzz9niQ2Oc2egQ?width=%7Bwidth%7D&format=mp4

CPRE Essex Policy Statement on Solar Farms

For your information, this is available on the CPRE website:

<https://cpressex.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Solar-Farm-Policy-CPRE-Essex.pdf>

CPRE also has a link at this page which provides details of proposed solar farms in Essex:

<https://cpressex.org.uk/cpre-essex-policy-statement-on-solar-farms/>

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

Clerk's Report

Correspondence

I have received a quote of £530 to repair the noticeboard at Draper's Lane.

Other News

Insurance is due for renewal at the end of the month.

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	Obtain glass panel for phone box	Ongoing
Mar '23	22/212	Investigate potential for putting down hardcore or matting on Footpath 21	Cllr Parker to action
Apr '23	23/07	Contact maintenance company to find out when they are coming to carry out the work to the play area	Clerk to action
Apr '23	23/09	Submit planning objection	Clerk to action
Apr '23	23/10	Carry out survey in the village regarding flooding	Cllr Nicholson to action
Apr '23	23/10	Report failing banks along Water Lane	Clerk to action
Apr '23	23/08	Review details of allocated reserves in the budget	Clerk to action

APPENDIX C
May

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance							43,135.55			
27/04/2023	CommunityHearBeat	Annual Support	15847	BACS		Y		162.00	27.00	135.00
27/04/2023	JJ & TH Haylock Ltd	Verge Cutting	931	BACS		Y		597.60	99.60	498.00
	Drax	Electricity	5570/7083	DD				54.59	2.60	51.99
	Employee	Salary - May	N/A	BACS				337.22		337.22
	Employee	Expenses - May	N/A	BACS				24.40		24.40
	Mark Istance	Bus shelters and bins	49	BACS				104.00		104.00
Totals								1,279.81	129.20	1,150.61
								41,855.74		