

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

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Minutes of the **HELIONS BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **13th NOVEMBER 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	Yes
A. Meldrum	Parish Councillor	Yes
N. Nicholson	Parish Councillor	Yes
A. Parker	Parish Councillor	No
D. Garrod	District Councillor	No
P. Schwier	County Councillor	No
L. Brown	Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	Yes

0 Members of public

23/114 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Parker, Cllr Turner

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Cunningham

23/115 Members' Declarations of interest

None.

23/116 Public Forum

None present.

23/117 Minutes

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 09th October 2023 as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Meldrum

23/118 **District & County Councillors Reports** (Appendix A)

Details in the appendix.

23/119 **Clerks Report**

Clerk is still looking into first aid courses.

The council have been signed up to the Salt bag partnership scheme but are yet to receive their delivery, the Clerk has contacted Essex Highways to find out more details. Essex Highways are investigating getting a delivery to Helions Bumpstead.

23/120 **Action Tracker** (Appendix B)

Chairman went through the action tracker.

23/121 **Finance** (Appendix C)

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

Proposed: Cllr Kehr **Seconded:** Cllr Nicholson

Cllr Kehr appointed as authoriser.

23/121.1 **Grants**

Resolution: Renew membership to the RCCE of £52.80, 2023/24.

Proposed: Cllr Nicholson **Seconded:** Cllr Etheridge

23/121.2 **Budget and Precept 2024/25**

The council considered their general and special reserves in relation to setting the budget and precept for the coming year. The Council have a number of projects for the coming year and are working to get quotes to better understand the council's potential financial position.

23/121.3 **Renewal of Utilities Contract**

Utility Aid and Cardinal have been engaged to get quotes for the PC, still waiting on a reply.

23/121.4 **Mower Service**

Resolution: The council agreed to pay up to £1000 for the service of the mower. Cllr Nicholson will contact another provider to service the mower.

Proposed: Cllr Meldrum **Seconded:** Cllr Cunningham

23/122 **New Planning Applications**

No new applications.

23/123 **Flooding in the Village**

Meeting between council members, Essex Highways and landowners scheduled in November.

23/124 **Emergency Plan**

No Update.

23/125 **Playground**

Waiting on inspection to take place.

23/126 **Highways and Footpaths**

The council considered a proposed footpath diversion.

The proposal seems to be shifting the footpath from one landowner to another and there is no indication that this has been considered and agreed by all parties.

The current footpath is already blocked, and walkers are forced to walk around the property off the footpath.

Water Lane has no indicators to the edge of the ditch which could be dangerous to drivers as they are at risk of falling in. – Clerk to report on Highways portal.

Quote has been received to make good footpath 21 and clear the parallel ditch. To be considered at a later stage.

23/127 **Handyman Fund Projects**

A member of the council raised potentially adding shelving units to the phone booth for books, but it was noted that the phone booth is very damp and may not be suitable.

23/128 **Neighbourhood Plan**

Chair to speak to other Councils that have been through the NB Plan process.

23/129 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

None.

23/130 **Date of the Next Meeting**

11th of December.

23/131 **Meeting Close** @ 9:14 PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

APPENDIX A

District Councillor's Report to Parish Councils November 2023

Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Intended closure of Camps Road, Helions Bumpstead. Due to commence on 28th November for 3 days whilst Anglian Water undertakes meter exchange.

Intended closure of Braintree Road, Halstead Road, Queen Street, Potter Street, Swan Street, Sible Hedingham, due to commence on 15th January 2024 for 6 days whilst Essex CC undertakes machine resurfacing. Details at: <https://one.network/?tm=135750313>

Wethersfield Asylum Centre Update

Since the decision was taken by the Home Office to use the site to house asylum seekers, Braintree District Council has used legal routes to challenge the decision.

On 29 March 2023, BDC started legal proceedings to challenge this decision by applying for an injunction. This was on the grounds that we believe the Home Office could not rely on the use of permitted development rights (known as Class Q) as a way of getting around the need for planning permission. The injunction application to restrain the Home Office from using the site for this purpose was heard on 19 April 2023 and the High Court decided not to grant BDC with the injunction. BDC took this to appeal and on 23 June 2023 we received the Court of Appeal's judgement that this was not successful.

In July, Braintree District Council was given permission to pursue a judicial review which took place at the High Court over a two-day hearing on Tuesday 31st October and Wednesday 1st November. This was alongside another legal challenge by a resident from Wethersfield and West Lindsey District Council for the RAF Scampton site.

Mrs Justice Thornton considered arguments from both parties, with Braintree District Council challenging the Home Office on their reliance of the use of permitted development rights (Class Q), the Environmental Impact Assessment screening direction and compliance with the Equality Impact Assessment. A decision in relation to the challenge on the Home Office's use of RAF Wethersfield to house asylum seekers will be made at a later date after the High Court reserves judgement, so we will have to wait a little while longer for a final decision.

Braintree Local Highway Panel and the Bumpstead Ward (update)

At the July meeting it was reported that the following schemes had been cancelled. It was not known how much of the funding allocated to these schemes would be carried over to the 2023/24 financial year as this was dependent on how much had already been spent on them.

LBRA168003 – (Public Rights of Way) Public Right of Way improvements, Byway 43, Steeple Bumpstead
Estimated Cost:- £45,500

It was decided that the following schemes be recommended for approval and included in the programme of work for 2023/24:-

LBRA213006 – Provision of dropped kerb, A1017/Crunch Croft, Sturmer
Estimated Cost:- £14,500

It is recommended that the following schemes, the status of which has been assessed as 'red' as they do not meet the criteria, are removed from the list of potential schemes subject to the specific comments denoted:-

LBRA173003 – Footway improvements, Hill Lane, j/w the A1017, Sturmer
Estimated Cost:- Not known

That the following schemes be subject to the specific comments denoted:-

LBRA222066 – Relocation of 30mph sign, Finchingfield Road, Steeple Bumpstead

Estimated Cost:- Not known

(Note:- (Classified as ‘in validation’). This scheme is within Hedingham Division, not Braintree Eastern Division. K Louis to update the ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ report).

LBRA222067 – Speed reduction, Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead

Estimated Cost:- Not known

(Note:- (Classified as ‘in validation’). This scheme is within Hedingham Division, not Braintree Eastern Division. K Louis to update the ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ report).

At the September meeting it was decided that it be recommended that due to the exact value of Braintree Local Highways Panel’s remaining budget not being known and to the limited time remaining within the current year to implement works, priority be given to those schemes listed in the ‘Schemes Awaiting Funding’ report which relate to ‘design’ works, or to the ‘design’ element of those schemes which have been identified as ‘total schemes’ and that once it has been confirmed how much funding will be available, Members of the Panel be advised by E-Mail and requested to approve the schemes recommended for funding. Also that the following schemes be subject to the specific comments denoted:-

LBRA203002 – Design for new footway, Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead

Estimated Cost:- £26,000

(Note:- (Classified as ‘green’). It was noted that Essex Highways Design Team had expressed concern about commissioning this scheme due to legal issues. D Maclean agreed to contact the Design Team to discuss what could be done with this scheme and whether it could be given priority).

NB: Kandice Louis - Highway Liaison Officer, Essex Highways has now stepped down. It was noted that another Officer had been appointed to replace Kandice and that they would be in post prior to the Panel’s next meeting on 18th January 2024.

Essex Recycling Centre Bookings Consultation

Whilst I expect many in the Bumpstead Ward use the Haverhill centre in Suffolk. I know that sometimes it is necessary to travel to Saffron Walden, Essex for some items. The consultation about the bookings process takes just a few minutes. The consultation closes Sunday 19th November 2023.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2023/recycling-centre-bookings-consultation>

Flooding – Government announces funding for flood-hit areas

There were areas in the Bumpstead Ward which were recently impacted by flooding. The Government announced new funding to help recovery and make homes and businesses more resilient for the future.

Details at:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-support-for-flood-hit-areas>

Essex County Council is the authority responsible for Flooding, Drainage & Manhole Covers. However, I will of course continue to raise concerns and assist where possible. Residents should be made aware of how to report problems to ECC. This is done at: <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>

Essex County Council say: “If you or your residents do come across flooding it can be reported through the ‘tell us’ tool on the Essex Highways website. Our communications teams will also put information up on the Essex Highways social media channels, so make sure you are following these for the latest information. If it is an emergency - such as a fallen tree - and potential risk to life, please call 0345 603 7631.”

There is also information, including flood strategies and responsibilities at: <https://flood.essex.gov.uk/>

Parish Council's may wish to keep a copy **Braintree District Council's Public Emergency Response Plan** with their own Emergency Plan. This can be found at:-

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/homepage/52/emergency-plan-for-the-braintree-district>

Police Fire & Crime Commissioner - Meeting

Braintree Public Meeting - 22nd November 7pm to 8pm

Venue - Braintree Town Hall Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 3YG

Roger Hirst says: "For me, safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and prosperity. Good policing means our residents feel secure and safe in their homes and on Essex streets."

Fly Tipping

Last month I provided information about fly tipping and was asked further questions:-

2022/23

- Number of fly tipping incidents investigated - 183
- Number of prosecutions - 4
- Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued - 10

2023/2024 to date

- Number of fly tipping incidents investigated -78
- Number of prosecutions - 3
- Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued - 6

The number of Fixed Penalty Notices and Prosecutions is dependent on evidence being found in a fly tip. Unfortunately, in lots of cases evidence is often not available, and we are unable to take any further action. In areas where there are persistent fly tipping problems, we use CCTV to try and identify the perpetrators. You can report fly tipping at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/streets-transport-parking/report-fly-tipping>

Ice Rink at Braintree Shopping Village

From 10 November until 7 January 2024. Currently offering a discount on bookings.

<https://braintree-village.com/ice-rink-2023>

Various Funding Opportunities Available at:-

I would be grateful if parish councils would convey to local groups and organisations:-

<https://www.community360.org.uk/blog/category/funding/>

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/rural-funding-digest-november-2023>

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding>

<https://www.find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/grants>

<https://tescostrongerstarts.org.uk/>

<https://www.sportengland.org/funds-and-campaigns/our-funds/small-grants-programme>

Cllr. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

Action Tracker

Council Meeting	Reference	Details	Status
July '23	23/66	Update website – clerk give access to Chairman	Cllr Kehr to review website
July '23	23/66	Drapers Lane notice board repairs – Getting more quotes	Ongoing
July '23	23/31	Speak to the PPT regarding install of cricket nets – Committee formed.	Cllr Turner Ongoing
Oct '23	23/99	Investigate getting defib unit onto map	Clerk to action
Oct '23	23/101	Draft letter to arrange meeting with landowners regarding flood prevention	Cllr Meldrum & Cllr Kehr to action
Oct '23	23/101	Distribute letter	Clerk to action
Oct '23	23/101	Contact Clerk at Steeple Bumpstead regarding NB Plan	Cllr Kehr to action
Oct '23	23/107	Draft letter to the public to properly maintain hedges and verges	Cllr Kehr & Clerk to action
Oct '23	23/110	Submit Noise action plan response	Clerk to action
Oct '23	23/111	Investigate first aid training courses	Clerk to action

APPENDIX C
November

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance							43,918.33			
	Employee	Salary - November	N/A	BACS				363.22		363.22
	Employee	Expenses - November	N/A	BACS				95.40		95.40
	Employee	Salary Award 2023/24	N/A	BACS				1,925.00		1,925.00
	Chris Haylock	Verge Cutting	INV-0035	BACS				1,629.60	271.60	1,358.00
	Drax	Electricity	0187/7716	DD				56.40	2.68	53.72
	Malcolm Cox	Grass Cutting, Hedges & Fixings	14/13/8/3	BACS				525.00		525.00
	RCCE	Membership 2023/24	N/A	BACS				52.80		52.80
	CBS	Defib Grant	N/A	BACS				375.00		375.00
Totals								5,022.42	274.28	4,748.14
								38,895.91		