

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

LUKE BROWN
Clerk & RFO

Email: helionsb.pc@gmail.com

www.helionsbumpsteadparishcouncil.gov.uk



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 DECEMBER 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
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

23/132 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Etheridge

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

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

23/133 **Members' Declarations of interest**

None for this agenda.

23/134 **Public Forum**

No members of the public present.

23/135 **Minutes**

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

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

23/136 **District & County Councillors Reports** (Appendix A)

Details in appendix.

23/137 **Meeting with Landowners**

The meeting with landowners was supposed to include Essex Highways but unfortunately, they couldn't attend.

The discussions were regarding Water Lane to consider what can be done to improve the flooding situation.

The council are considering their next steps.

23/138 **Finance** (Appendix B)

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

Proposed: Cllr Turner **Seconded:** Cllr Cunningham – unanimously agreed

Cllr Kehr appointed as authoriser.

Playground inspection came back, and it was noted that remedial work is required on some play equipment that is rotten.

Resolution: Clerk to contact playground maintenance companies for a quote. Cllr Parker to also get a quote from local contractor.

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

23/138.1 **Grants**

None.

23/138.2 **Renewal of Utilities Contract**

Resolution: The council agreed to a 24 month fixed contract through UMS.

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

23/138.3 **Mower Service**

Deferred to January meeting.

23/138.4 **Magazine Advertising Rates & Cover Change**

Resolution: Council agreed not to change the price for advertising and keep the cover the same.

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

23/138.5 **Cut Down Dead Pine Tree**

Resolution: Council agreed a quote of £200 to cut down a dead pine tree near the play area, including tidy up and take away of wood and rubbish.

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

23/138.6 **Budget and Precept 2024/25**

The council considered their budget and precept for 2024/25 and agreed to finalise at the next meeting.

23/139 **New Planning Applications**

Consider all new applications.

23/02835/HH | Proposed two storey side and rear extensions, side porch and detached garage with first floor accommodation | Manana Camps Road Helions Bumpstead Essex CB9 7AS | **Expiry Date: Thu 28 Dec 2023**

- The council considered this application in a meeting of the full council and agreed to support this application.

23/139 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

Budget & Precept, neighbourhood plan.

23/139 **Date of the Next Meeting**

Monday 8th of January 2024.

23/139 **Meeting Close** @ 8:40 PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

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

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

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Intended closure of Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead. Due to commence on 15th December 2023 for 7 days while Gas Transportation Company undertakes gas connection. Details at:

<https://one.network/?tm=135767707>

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>

Intended closure of Chapel Street, Haverhill Road, Finchingfield Road, Old Hall Road, Eggshell Lane, Cornish Hall End, Little London Hill, due to commence on 29th January 2024 for 12 days. The closure is required while Essex County Council undertakes surface dressing. Details at: <https://one.network/?tm=136554590>

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.

A judicial review took place at the High Court over a two-day hearing on Tuesday 31st October and Wednesday 1st November. Mrs Justice Thornton considered arguments from both parties. However, the Judicial Review was not successful and Mrs Justice Thornton has determined that the Home Office acted lawfully when making the decision to use the site for this purpose.

The Council will now reflect on the detail contained within the judgement and consider its position. However BDC has initially asked for permission to appeal the decision and awaits to hear more if this has been granted or not.

Officers continue to meet with the Home Office and the county council, health, police and fire services as part of the Multi-Agency Forum to raise questions and concerns about the asylum accommodation, to ensure there is minimal impact on residents that live nearby and local services whilst supporting asylum seekers coming to our district.

A statement has been issued and can be seen on the Council's website at www.braintree.gov.uk/wethersfieldairfield

The Home Office continue to keep their [factsheet relating to MoD Wethersfield Asylum Accommodation](#) updated regularly to include the latest information and updates about the site. They also publish a monthly newsletter available on the [GOV website](#) to address any concerns and questions raised by the community.

Planning Application for Solar Farm in Bumpstead Ward

Ref: 23/02705/FUL. Development of a ground mounted solar farm, including energy storage, associated infrastructure, access, landscaping and grid connection cable. Location: Land South of Sturmer Hall, Church Walk, Sturmer, Essex. Expiry date for consultation is **12th December**. If an extension is required, or for any further information contact Kathryn Oelman 01376 552525 Ex: 2524. Link To Website: (copy and paste into your web browser and once loaded, enter application number in search field then click on the 'Documents' tab) * <https://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

Dedham Vale AONB – Now National Landscape

On 22nd November AONB's nationally rebranded to National Landscapes. Areas will be known as the 'Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley' and 'Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape'. MP Rebecca Pow announced at the National Landscape chairs conference that she is the new Undersecretary of State with responsibilities for National Landscapes, replacing MP Trudy Harrison, working with Steve Barclay the Secretary of State at DEFRA. There is a 90 second film outlining the new brand at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LI9V6SavNNc>

Empty Homes

An Empty Homes Policy is awaiting approval. However, a question was asked at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting held 22nd November about empty homes: There were approximately 1,600 empty homes across the District, with the majority of these subject to a full Council Tax charge. In terms of premiums for homes that had been empty for more than two years, 133 properties had a 100% levy, 43 properties had a 200% levy and 62 properties were charged a 300% levy.

Green Waste Service

Questions were asked at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting held 22nd November. Responses:-

The Leader was pleased to report that there had been a 35% take up rate of residents signing up to the garden waste subscription service. Originally, the Council had only planned for 10%.

In regard to the trajectory of residents using the subscription service for green bins, the modelling was still based on the breakeven point of 26% take up in year three (2026/27).

The net operating cost of the Garden Waste Service was currently budgeted as £683,000.

Email from Anglian Water

I have received an email from Anglian Water Public Affairs team to notify me about some environmental investment AW are making at Steeple Bumpstead Water Recycling Centre (WRC) which will better protect river water quality. They stated that work began on the 29th of November, at the WRC on The Endway to install new equipment which will remove more phosphorous from wastewater, thus improving river water quality nearby.

They pointed out that phosphorous is widely used in soaps and cleaning products but can be harmful to wildlife when it reaches rivers and other watercourses. That's why they are investing over £1 million to strengthen their current water recycling process and remove even more phosphorous from wastewater before it is returned to the environment. They expect to finish these works by February 2024. They wanted to assure me that customers' wastewater services will not be affected and as the works are taking place on site at our WRC, there should be minimal disruption to the community. As one of the driest and flattest parts of the country, our region is particularly at risk from climate change. The increasingly frequent extreme weather this is already causing, combined with population growth, means investments to prevent pollution and enhance river water quality are even more crucial to protect the environment.

They have also recently submitted their proposed business plan for 2025 to 2030 to Ofwat. If approved by Ofwat, our plan will see them investing more than £9 billion between 2025 and 2030 to meet the needs of their growing region and ensure we are resilient to our changing climate. Further details about our plans are available on our website: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/our-plan-2025-to-2030-pr24/>

Cllr. Diana Garrod
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B
December

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance							41,195.91			
	Drax	Electricity	1985/7435	DD				54.59	2.60	51.99
	Employee	Salary - Dec + Back Pay	N/A	BACS				503.71		503.71
	Employee	Expenses - December	N/A	BACS				23.15		23.15
	HMRC	TAX	N/A	BACS				41.60		41.60
	Redsideup	Printing V.Mag	INV12225	BACS				330.00		330.00
	Wicksteed	Playground Inspection	823921	BACS				158.40	26.40	132.00
Totals								1,111.45	29.00	1,082.45
								40,084.46		