

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

LUKE BROWN
Clerk & RFO

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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 **13th FEBRUARY 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
R. Kirkland	Parish Councillor	Yes
N. Nicholson	Parish Councillor	Yes
A. Parker	Parish Councillor	No
D. Garrod	District Councillor	Yes
P. Schwier	County Councillor	Yes
L. Brown	Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	Yes

3 Members of public

22/174 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Parker and Cllr Turner

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

Proposer: Cllr Cunningham **Seconded:** Cllr Kehr – unanimously agreed

22/175 **Members' Declarations of interest**

Nothing related to this agenda.

22/176 **Public Forum**

A member of the public noted they had submitted a quote to repair the wall on the recreation ground, and mentioned that they had seen kids using it.

A member of the public noted that BDC planning had published the email the clerk had sent to them instead of the attached objection from the council. – Clerk to contact BDC planning.

Mr Quinn, the new editor of the village magazine introduced themselves to the council.

A member of the public was interested in the litter pick the council are organising, the children's playground and the equipment that has been taken out of service until it is repaired, and services for teens in the village.

22/177 **Minutes**

Cllr Nicholson noted that Essex County Councils budget does not show the amount of money going to pensions.

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th January 2023 as a true record.

Proposer: Cllr Cunningham **Seconded:** Cllr Kehr – unanimously agreed

22/178 **District & County Councillors Reports** (APPENDIX A)

Cllr Schwier gave their report to the council and highlighted the highways work at Great Yeldham is not expected to be finished until the Summer. Regarding flooding, they noted that landowners have a duty to keep ditches clear on their property and to keep vegetation cut back from highways assets.

Council tax is being raised this year.

A member of the council asked about the 20's plenty scheme and the Cllr asked that the council write through the clerk to the county council's general address. – Clerk to check that the speed limit sign that has been knocked down has been reported on highways system.

Cllr Schwier suggest the council should map drainage assets around the village and map where the gullies are.

A member of the council asked about the proposed work to Finchingfield bridge. Cllr Schwier noted that the work is to widen and strengthen the bridge to make it stronger for HGV's.

The DCllr gave their report to the council, highlighting their work they did for the DC's budget.

22/179 **Clerks Report**

Nothing to report this month.

22/180 **Action Tracker** (APPENDIX B)

Council went through the tracker.

The play equipment repairs are now considered urgent - Clerk to chase for quotes.

It was suggested that the location for a new dog poo bin on the village green should be next to the bus stop.

22/181 **Finance** (APPENDIX C)

Resolution: Agree payments for this month.

Proposer: Cllr Cunningham **Seconded:** Cllr Etheridge – unanimously agreed

Cllr Kehr appointed as authoriser.

22/181.1 **Grants**

The council considered grants for grass cutting for the churchyard and a grant for the cricket club.

Resolution: Approve grant to the PCC of £600 for grass cutting.

Proposer: Cllr Cunningham **Seconded:** Cllr Kehr – unanimously agreed

Resolution: Approve grant to the Cricket Club of £250 for league signup fee.

Proposer: Cllr Cunningham **Seconded:** Cllr Kehr – unanimously agreed

22/182 **New Planning Applications**

No new planning applications.

22/183 Flooding in the Village

Flooding report from Cllr Parker read out to the council by the Chair, noting the position of Highways on maintenance is variable, which is good news for Sages End road but there has been no progress on Camps Road, Water Lane or Mill road.

At least 1 resident has been awarded a grant to flood proof their house.

Council to follow up with Justin from Highways and copy in Cllr Schwier, regarding January's letter.

The pipe survey, which was promised has not happened yet, to be part of the response to Justin.

Cllr Parker suggested that the council arrange a meeting with Landowners.

22/184 King's Coronation

The group that organised the Jubilee celebrations are to work together again and plan a social event for the village for the coronation. Council would like to help out and need to come up with an idea.

22/185 Village Litter Pick

A village litter pick is to take place on Saturday the 18th of March 2023 at 10 AM. – Clerk to organise the equipment and put out a notice.

22/186 Village Magazine

No comments.

22/187 WASC – Prison Development Proposal

The proposal has been published by national papers.

22/188 Playground

Clerk to arrange the purchase of more play bark.

22/189 Highways and Footpaths

Council to investigate extending the village speed limit zone. Cllr Etheridge to draft a letter to highways to extend the speed limit.

22/189.1 Hedges and Trees Trimming

Council agrees for Malcolm to go ahead with cutting back the hedges in the village hall car park as part of the planned grass cutting and hedge trimming maintenance.

It has been noted that the over hanging trees up Camps Rd have been cut back.

22/190 Handyman Fund Projects

Resolution: Approve quote of £150 to repair and make safe the wall on the Recreation ground.

Proposer: Cllr Etheridge **Seconded:** Cllr Kirkland – unanimously agreed

22/191 Resources for Teenagers

No comments.

22/192 Stansted Airport

There is going to be another letter drafted to the airport.

22/193 Risk Register

The council reviewed their risk register and made the following amendments:

- References to the Parish Plan can be removed.
- 3.6 – The mitigation is regular contact with residents.
- 1.1 – The mitigation is regular contact with residents.
- 3.15 – Emergency plan reviewed, remove reference to parish plan.
- 3.16 – Remove Parish Plan.
- 4.3 – remove Test.
- 4.8 – Remove Neighbourhood watch.
- 5.4 – Remove all of 5.4 as not a risk.
- 6.13 – Employee and contractors responsible for their Health and Safety, the council retain and review a health and safety policy.
- 8.2 – Remove broadband.
- 8.4 – Remove this item.
- 9.8, 9.9, and 9.10 – Check insurance policy.

22/194 Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda

Anaerobic digester proposal. Solar Farm and heat pumps for the village.

22/195 Date of the Next Meeting

13th of March 2023

22/196 Meeting Close

@ 9:08 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 February 2023 to Parish Councils
(Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)**

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. Intended closures:-

None advised to date.

Potential Late Changes to Council Budget and Council Tax 2023/24

As you are aware I chaired the Cost of Living Scrutiny Committee and 22 recommendations were put forward to Cabinet. Naturally, I have been disappointed at the prospect of council tax increases and other measures that have been put forward in the Council's proposed budget at a difficult time for residents.

At the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee held last Wednesday I raised a question about the £2.5m that had been set aside by BDC for a potential project to build slip roads on the A120 in Braintree from Millennium Way in conjunction with ECC. The scheme was expected to cost in the region of £10million, with BDC providing a quarter of the funding. It has been held for well over five years and I

queried as to whether this project would indeed go ahead. It was unsuccessful in the levelling up bidding process. I asked what would happen to this money if the project did not go ahead. Also, where it is invested and what sort of return the Council is receiving. Cllr. McKee replied. However, as a result of this question, the leader; Cllr. Graham Butland made enquiries and received an email response from the leader of Essex County Council; Cllr. Kevin Friday 3rd February. He read this letter at the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 6th February. The result is that the slip roads will not be going ahead. It was quickly decided that the Council budget would be reconsidered and over the weekend, Cllr. Butland, Cllr. McKee and Officers put together changes that were announced at the Cabinet meeting Monday 6th February. It is well worth listening to (see links below).

Proposals are that the £2.5m be used as follows: That the Council should put £1m into a Transformation Reserve for important work which will be needed in relation to services, etc., and that £1.5m should be returned to council tax payers. Cllr. Butland explained that considerations to reduce the proposed 2.5% increase in council tax was rejected for several reasons, one being that Band H payers would benefit some 4 times more than a Band A tax payer for the BDC element of the council tax. This was felt to be unfair whilst we are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis. A sum of £25; called the New Homes Bonus and Growth Dividend, will go to council tax payers. The greatest percentage pay-back therefore goes back to Band A tax payers; some 17.5% less than they currently pay to BDC, Band D - 11% less, and Band H – 4% less. The dividend is estimated to benefit around 64,000 council taxpayers with an estimated cost of c£1.6m. There will be additional administration and system costs that are estimated to be no more than £50k.

The intention will be that an amended paper will go out for consideration at Full Council 20th February 2023 and it will have the addition; (1) to revoke the ring fencing of the previously allocated £2.5m new homes bonus for the A120 access improvement package (Millennium Slips), (2) that the Council will establish a New Transformation Reserve of £1m; and (3) that a £25 New Homes and Growth Dividend will be made to all eligible households in 2023/24 in accordance with a Dividend Policy (estimated £1.6m).

Parish Street Cleaning Agreement

It was also announced that the accumulated surplus of £100m currently held by the government in the business rates levy account will be returned to local authorities and this will be distributed on a one-off basis based on each local authority's 2013/14 Settlement Funding Assessment. The amount allocated to Braintree is £29,243. This is extra funding received in respect of 2022/23 which was not included in the original budget. On the basis of the additional one-off funding to be received by the Council it is proposed that £29,000 is used to maintain the current level of funding to parish councils under the Street Cleaning Agreement for 2023/24 only. It should be noted that following years, will be considered by the new administration (after the election 4th May).

A120 & A12

It should also be noted that Essex County Council, in the communication to the Council, emphasised a shared determination to secure improvements to the A120 route between Braintree town and the A12, establishing a new route from Galleys Corner to join the A12 at Junction 23 just south of Kelvedon (known as option D in ECC's 2017 options appraisal) to make the network safer, support the flow of traffic and encourage economic growth.

Of course the above remain 'proposals' until put to the vote at the next Full Council meeting 20/02/23.

Links to watch extracts in relation to the above:-

PMSC 01/02/2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKvxZItAJb4> (**forward to 1:10:41)

Cabinet 06/02/2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEoG9Q-mWrQ> (**forward to 1:06:15)

UK Transition from Analogue to Digital Landlines

On 6th January 2023, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport published guidance on what the retirement of analogue phone lines, also known as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), means for customers. In November 2017, the telecoms industry announced its intention to retire analogue telephone networks such as the PSTN by the end of 2025. The industry will upgrade landline services to new digital technology using an internet connection. For most consumers, the change will be straightforward. Telecoms companies will contact their customers ahead of the migration taking place and customers should look out for communications material. The Office of Communications (Ofcom), the independent telecoms regulator, has put in place rules to ensure telecoms providers support vulnerable or at-risk customers throughout the process. Ofcom states that providers should take steps to identify at-risk customers and engage in effective communications to ensure all eligible customers are protected throughout the upgrade process. Ofcom has also issued guidance on how to prepare for the migration which can be found below. Openreach has also published factsheets for businesses that use phone lines to deliver services to help them understand how the move to Voice over Internet Protocol services will affect them. The telecoms industry has also worked together to create the Future Of Voice website, which offers further guidance for both consumers and businesses.

If customers have questions about the migration, the government recommends they get in touch with their telephone provider for further information.

Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines>

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-2/treating-vulnerable-consumers-fairly>

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/future-of-landline-calls>

News from Suffolk

In my capacity as Chair of Sturmer Parish Council, I have held conversations with the Chair of Wixoe Parish Council regarding a proposal for an Environmental Impact Assessment screening opinion at Water Hall Farm, Waterhall Road, Wixoe. Should your parish wish to be consulted on this, the officer at West Suffolk Council is Charlotte Waugh (01284 757349). Ref: DC/23/0088/EIASC. Unfortunately the consultation expiry for the EIA is 9th February 2023. However, it might be prudent to ask to be kept informed with a view to consulting should a planning application be submitted.

Email: customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk

Cllr. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX B

Council Meeting	Reference	Details	Status
July '21	21/150	Update website	Cllr Kehr to review website
Jan '23	22/156	Obtain quotes to demolish the wall	Ongoing
Jan '23	22/165	Play equipment repairs – Waiting for quote	Ongoing
Jan '23	22/160	Drapers Lane notice board repairs	Ongoing
Oct '22	22/118	Speak to the PPT regarding install of cricket nets	Cllr Turner to action
Jan '23	22/170	Review the Risk Register	Cllrs to action
Jan '23	22/160	Contact DC regarding a new dog poo bin	Ongoing
Jan '23	22/160	Obtain glass panel for phone box	Ongoing

APPENDIX C
February

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance							42,315.08			
	Employee	Salary - Feb	N/A					337.22		337.22
	Employee	Expenses - Feb	N/A					24.40		24.40
	Malcolm Cox	Gritting	43					270.00		270.00
	Drax	Electricity	335/336					56.38	2.68	53.70
Totals								688.00	2.68	685.32
								41,627.08		