

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

LUKE BROWN
Clerk & RFO

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Minutes of the **HELIONS BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **9th JANUARY 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	No
N. Nicholson	Parish Councillor	Yes
A. Parker	Parish Councillor	Yes
D. Garrod	District Councillor	Yes
P. Schwier	County Councillor	Yes
L. Brown	Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	Yes

1 Members of public

22/154 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Kirkland and Cllr Etheridge.

Resolution: Accept apologies of absence.

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

22/155 **Members' Declarations of interest**

None for this meeting.

22/156 **Public Forum**

A member of the public asked about the council's decision to demolish the broken kick wall. The council noted that they had acquired a number of quotes related to repairing the wall and reinstalling the basketball hoop and demolishing it. With a seemingly lack of interest from the public the council decided to take it down. The council offered the member of the public, who has done work for the council in the past, if they would be willing to quote to repair the wall. The council in conjunction with the cricket club are investigating potential cricket nets, which would ideally be placed in the wall's current location.

22/157 **Minutes**

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th October 2022 as a true record.

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

Resolution: Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st November 2022 as a true record.

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

22/158 **District & County Councillors Reports** (APPENDIX A)

DC Garrod gave their report to the council.

ECC Schwier gave their report to the council. Cllr Turner noted that potholes are a particular issue, which are causing damage to vehicles.

ECCLr noted that with the rise of inflation it has and is going to be a tough year, council tax is going up by 1%. The Council is looking to deliver better services for less money.

The main expense is going towards child and adult social care.

Cllr Turner asked for a breakdown of ECC's spending allocation. The ECCLr advised that they would get back to the council on more details as they become available but that the 4 main areas the council is focusing on are, Climate change, Highways, Transport, and child and adult social care.

Cllr Cunningham noted that there are blocked drains along Sages End Rd. These drains were serviced by Highways but did not clear the blockage. Cllr Cunningham to forward images and What3Words to either ECCLr or Clerk to forward.

Cllr Parker requested the original plans and maintenance for the drainage work done along Water Lane, from the ECC officer that had attended the meeting with ECC Schwier.

22/159 **Clerks Report** (APPENDIX B)

Cllr Turner will write a response related to the recent disclosure of information regarding development 22/01341/FUL.

22/160 **Action Tracker** (APPENDIX C)

No comments.

22/161 **Finance** (APPENDIX D)

Resolution: Agree payments for this month.

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

Cllr Kehr appointed as authoriser.

22/161.1 **Grants**

The council considered the grant request from the cricket club and requested their accounts before making a decision.

22/161.2 **Budget**

Resolution: Agree a budget of £12,000 for the 2023/24 year.

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

22/161.3 **Precept**

Resolution: Agree a precept of £12,000 for the 2023/24 year.

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

Precept form signed.

22/161.4 **Appoint Internal Auditor**

Resolution: Appoint Val Evans as the council's internal auditor.

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

22/162 **New Planning Applications**

No applications to consider.

22/163 **Flooding in the Village**

Issues covered under item 22/158.

22/164 **Village Magazine**

Cllr Kehr to speak to Jackie, no one has yet stepped forward as the new editor.

22/164 **WASC – Prison Development Proposal**

No comment.

22/165 **Playground**

Clerk to contact contractor to remove the rotten part of the climbing frame that has come away.

Clerk to tape up play equipment that is considered a hazard.

22/166 **Highways and Footpaths**

No comments.

22/166.1 **Hedges and Trees Trimming**

No comments.

22/166.2 **Culvert Clearance**

No comments.

22/167 **Handyman Fund Projects**

Clerk to contact contractor to cut down some dead trees near the pavilion.

22/168 **Resources for Teenagers**

No comments.

22/169 **Stansted Airport**

No comments.

22/170 **Risk Register**

Risk register has been circulated.

22/171 **Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

Risk register.

22/172 **Date of the Next Meeting**

13th of February 2023

22/173 **Meeting Close**

@ 8:46 PM

Signed.....

Dated.....

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

APPENDIX A

Essex County Councillors Report

Essex County Council's budget proposals will boost social care for adults and children, maintain roads, protect the environment and promote climate change and economic growth to support levelling up.

Supporting the vulnerable, improving infrastructure, ensuring pupils receive a high-quality education and help with the cost of living are at the heart of Essex County Council's budget plans for 2023/24, driven by resident and business priorities and the commitments in Everyone's Essex, the Council's plan to level up the county.

The proposals include funding for adult social care rising to over £500m, with additional funding this year of nearly £60m.

ECC has a strong track record of financial management, having delivered £199m of savings over the last four years, with a further £36m of savings planned this year. It also has one of the lowest county council tax rates in England.

Driven by the commitments outlined in Everyone's Essex, the budget proposals have been formulated at a time of huge economic uncertainty.

With inflation above 10 percent - its highest level for 40 years - council finances are under huge pressure. Inflation, rises in utility prices and interest rates coupled with increased demand have added £74m more to the cost of services this year.

Balancing those factors with the need to limit impacts on household budgets in the current cost-of-living crisis mean a proposed Council Tax increase of 3.5 per cent. This is made up of a 1.5 per cent council tax increase, plus a further 2 per cent ring-fenced to Adult Social Care.

This means for an average Band D property household, the ECC element of Council Tax will increase by £49.05 next year, or 94p per week.

A public budget consultation, which saw a 98 per cent increase in responses compared to the previous year, has helped the council understand residents and businesses' priorities.

These were:

Infrastructure

Support for those who care for the vulnerable

Securing high standards in education

Providing support to struggling families

In direct response to this consultation an extra £68m is now going into service budgets next year.

Plans include continuing a £1.3b four-year strategy for major infrastructure projects, such as new schools and large road improvements. The spend in 2023/24 is set to be £275m, money which also supports local contractors and their workers.

Unprecedented demand and complex cases in adult social care means funding will be increased by a further £58m, bringing the total budget to £506m. This will support the continued integration of health and social care, helping people stay out of hospital and recover well if they are admitted, and helping older people live in their own homes for as long as possible.

In education, Essex County Council is investing £7.5m to deliver 340 additional mainstream school places in time to increase school intakes in September. £130m is being spent over the next four years to ensure there are enough mainstream school places across the county.

Construction will start on three new primary school buildings, due to open in 2024, with over £1.5m spent on replacing ageing temporary classrooms with new, permanent, low carbon buildings.

To enable foster carers to continue their support for some of the county's most vulnerable children during a significant rise in the cost of living, the fees paid to foster carers will be raised. Foster carer fees will increase by 9.04% (rounded up or down to the nearest £5) and be backdated to 1 Oct 2022. (Please note, this decision is subject to a call-in period which ends at 5pm on 12 January).

To help residents cope with the increased cost of living, the roll out of community supermarkets will continue, the first two having recently been opened in Tendring and Basildon. These are run by the voluntary sector and source food and other essential household goods at lower cost, helping to reduce the weekly shopping bill for hard-pressed families.

Real action on climate change and carbon reduction is being taken, responding to the recommendations of the Essex Climate Action Commission.

This includes a £200m spending commitment toward Essex's net zero targets and achieving the Council's aim of a high-quality environment. Buildings are being transformed to become more energy efficient. New and existing cycle routes and active travel schemes are also being built and maintained to enable people to walk and cycle.

ECC will also continue to invest in highways and footway maintenance and repairs with budgets remaining in line with the previous year.

Support for businesses will continue through the Backing Essex Business programme, encouraging business growth across the county, promoting economic growth and creating jobs, as well as continued investment in skills to help people progress and get back into work.

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Leader of Essex County Council, said: “Support for people who are vulnerable or struggling is at the heart of our plans. These proposals would allow us to continue the outstanding work of Everyone’s Essex, our plan to level up the county.

“We’ve worked hard on this agenda and the benefits are being seen and felt, but there is more to do. We want to renew our economy, provide equal opportunities for all and ignite ambition for the people and places we are privileged to represent. This budget is a crucial step on that journey.”

Cllr Chris Whitbread, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Corporate Affairs, said: “In the most channelling economic landscape since WWII, we have had to balance supporting vulnerable or hard-pressed people with the need to keep any Council Tax increase below inflation and as low as possible. We must never forget it is our residents’ money we are spending.

“This year the price of energy has risen, the price of goods and materials has risen and so have interest rates. Councils, just like any business or family, are affected by inflation and price rises for goods and services.

“With the changes and reductions in Government grant funding over recent years, coupled with increasing and more complex demand for core services, such as caring for the elderly, protecting vulnerable children and supporting those families who need it, the financial situation continues to be challenging. However, our budget proposals are in tune with our residents’ priorities, protecting the most vulnerable in our communities, investing in infrastructure, education and offering value from every pound we spend.”

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

Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. Intended closures:-

The Endway, Steeple Bumpstead to commence on 11th January 2023 for 3 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

Broad Green, Steeple Bumpstead. Due to commence on 13th January 2023 for 5 days whilst Essex County Council undertakes carriageway patching.

The Street, Sturmer on 23rd January 2023 for 9 hours whilst Openreach undertakes cabling.

Lanpro Solar Farm Exhibition

Sturmer Parish Council has arranged for Lanpro to exhibit their plans for a Solar Farm across Sturmer and into Steeple Bumpstead. This will be held on Thursday 12th January 2023; 3pm to 6.30pm at Sturmer Village Hall. Residents should receive a paper invitation through the post. However, I would be grateful if this is advertised through your social media channels.

Housing Strategy Consultation

Braintree District Council is developing its new strategy to guide its approach to housing need and demand up to 2028, which is now out for public consultation until 5pm Tuesday 7th February 2023. Residents can read and comment on the document on the council’s website at www.baintree.gov.uk/housing strategy The three main commitments from the Council in the draft strategy are:

- Facilitating a consistent programme of high quality, affordable homes which best meet the needs of the current and future residents.
- Supporting communities and enabling housing across the district to meet the needs of all our residents, especially those who are vulnerable.
- Improving access to and the quality of the Private Rented Sector and make best use of assets and existing properties.

Christmas Tree Collection

BDC will be providing a drop-off service from 10 locations across the district on Saturday 14 January 2023. Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall, Finchingfield Road, CB9 7EA, 08:00 - 08:30am. The Old Council Yard, Hedingham Road, Great Yeldham, CO9 4HS, 09:00 - 09:30am.

- BDC will collect real trees and wreaths
- You must remove all decorations before recycling the tree
- BDC cannot take artificial trees or wreaths containing wire
- Trees must not be taller than 6'7"

Members Allowances

At the meeting of Full Council on 3rd January 2-23, it was agreed to amend Rule 20.8 of the Members Allowance Scheme as set out in the Constitution and to not increase Members Allowances in line with the Local Government Staff Pay Award for 2022/23.

PFCC Public Meeting

Put your questions to Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex: County Wide Public Meeting – 15th February 2023 – Facebook Live.

Second Quarter Performance Management Report (1/7/22-30/9/22). Sample extracts:-

The purpose of the report is to demonstrate the performance of the Council at the end of the second quarter of 2022/23 in relation to the publication of 'Bouncing Back Together', the Council's plan for the district up to March 2023.

The Council continues to support and monitor Superfast Essex in the delivery of Superfast Broadband across the district:- The Braintree district is currently at 95% of premises able to access superfast broadband and is forecast to reach 99% coverage within 3 years. The district wide take up of superfast broadband is currently at 30%. Superfast Essex and Gigaclear have been running campaigns to increase uptake and to raise awareness of 5G.

The Council continues to work with partners including Essex Highways on the delivery of our Cycling Strategy and implementation plan which includes developing integrated, high quality cycle routes that are safe to use and connected across our district:- The cycle video launched in conjunction with National Bike week in June was used again for Bike to Work week in August. The council has also supported three local cycling organisations who have now received cycling grants up the value of £12k. The recommendations from scrutiny reviews of the Cycling Strategy and into cycling and walking in the Braintree district have been undertaken and presented to Cabinet in October 2022.

Carry out air quality reviews in known air pollution hot spots across the district to improve the knowledge of local air quality and the proposed actions to take:- The results of the air quality monitoring in Halstead have shown that no measures need to be put in place. The review of air quality in the district has been completed by the Consultants. A report will be taken to Management Board in the third quarter.

Facilitate the delivery of a purpose-built medical centre in Sible Hedingham:- Planning permission has been granted. The land transfer continues to be delayed and the end date was pushed back to December 2022. This is to allowed adequate time for the necessary process requirements to complete within the NHS to exchange contracts.

Revitalise Community Transport scheme and increase the number of volunteers:- The service currently has 20 volunteer drivers shared between the social car scheme and minibus hire scheme. In the second quarter of the year, the Community Transport team provided 6,530 journeys. Demand for the service post pandemic is starting to increase. The Community Transport service have been working with Community 360 to promote volunteer driving opportunities at various events across the district.

Continue to deliver our LiveWell programme, focussing on:

- Supporting children and their families to have the best start in life
- Supporting older people to age well
- Supporting children and adults to have good mental health
- Tackling obesity in adults and children
- Reducing hip fractures in over 65's

The health and wellbeing panel are reviewing the priorities of the health and wellbeing board. A number of activities continue to be delivered under the Livewell programme including numerous organised walks (which average 200 walkers each month), fitness classes for people with health conditions and the over 60's, seated exercise classes, dance lessons and weight management sessions.

Work with Community 360 and Active Essex to provide support to children and families who need it during school holiday periods through the provision of activity sessions:- We continue to work with Active Essex and Community 360 to provide activities and a nutritious meal through the school holiday periods. The summer holiday sites saw 82% of children return to an activAte club. During the summer, 11 clubs were provided by ten organisations providing support to 644 children and young people.

Continue to work with Essex County Council on the Governments 'Next Steps Accommodation Programme' on initiatives to prevent rough sleepers returning to the streets:- The Next Steps accommodation programme to provide stable accommodation and tailored support to prevent people returning to rough sleeping and begin to rebuild their lives is now up and running with all six units of accommodation now occupied.

Review the criteria for the discretionary business rates scheme for charitable and non-profit organisations:- The criteria for the discretionary business rates scheme has been reviewed and no changes to the criteria are being made. The relief scheme has been published and all current recipients of this relief have been contacted and asked to reapply so that entitlement can be reassessed against policy.

Monitor changes to various legislation to understand the impact on services including but not limited to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Environmental Bill 2020 and Planning reforms:- The Specialist Domestic Abuse Officer is now in post and is providing support to colleagues within the Housing Service. They are also establishing links with others in similar roles in other Authorities and looking into DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation to enable the council to respond to domestic abuse situations more effectively.

Review and adopt a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex and enhance the value of joint working through the waste management partnership:- As part of the project to review the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy, we have agreed the baseline data for our waste management service and six collection methodology options. External consultants are currently modelling the options to assess the impact on our waste collection service.

The full PM Report can be found in Cabinet agenda 6th December 2022: <https://braintree.cmis.uk.com>

[Free Workshops from Business Growth Experts](#)

A series of free workshops, designed to help boost knowledge and skills, will begin towards the end of next week. Each workshop is open to two employees per business. Register early to reserve a spot as spaces are limited. Follow the links (below) for more on the sessions and to reserve a spot:

✓ **13 January: How to trade out of the cost-of-living crisis**

Reserve a spot: <https://bit.ly/3VnROJO>

✓ **17 January: How to motivate staff**

Reserve a spot: <https://bit.ly/3HQ36TV>

✓ **20 January: How to increase productivity**

Reserve a spot: <https://bit.ly/3G6wmV8>

✓ **25 January: How to recruit staff and upskill employees**

Reserve a spot: <https://bit.ly/3hCPbpD>

The workshops will take place at [The Plaza in Great Notley, CM77 7AU](#)

Your business must be from the Braintree District to be eligible. The workshops are funded by the UK Government through the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#).

News from Suffolk – Public Meeting

Acorn Bioenergy wants to create an anaerobic digestion plant on land currently occupied by Spring Grove Farm, owned by the Thurlow Estate and situated next to the A1307 just outside both [Haverhill](#) and Withersfield. A public meeting is planned at the Epicentre on 12th January 2023 at 7pm.

APPENDIX B

Clerk's Report

Correspondence

I have received an email requesting the council remain vigilant regarding a building development in the village at Helions Farm Barns.

Councillors have been invited to a Burns night on the 28th of January by the Mayor of Haverhill.

Other News

The way you vote is changing, the government has introduced new voter security measures which means, for the first-time, voters will have to show ID at the polling station.

APPENDIX C

Council Meeting	Reference	Details	Status
July '21	21/150	Update website	Cllr Kehr to review website
Nov '22	22/139	Obtain quotes to demolish the wall	Cllr Parker to action
Nov '22	22/139	Contact Mr. Cox regarding securing play equipment to the ground – Waiting for quote	Ongoing
Nov '22	22/139	Drapers Lane notice board repairs	Ongoing
Oct '22	22/118	Speak to the PPT regarding install of cricket nets	Cllr Turner to action
Nov '22	22/139	Review the Risk Register	Cllrs to action
Nov '22	22/147	Contact DC regarding a new dog poo bin	Clerk to action
Nov '22	22/148	Obtain glass panel for phone box	Clerk to action
Nov '22	22/138	Contact EH regarding the quiet lane notification	Clerk to action
Nov '22	22/144	Forward letter from the council to Cllr Schwier and EH	Clerk to action

APPENDIX D
January

Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance							43,737.15	-		-
	Drax	Electricity	49141/42	DD				56.38	2.68	53.70
	Employee	Salary - January	N/A	BACS				337.22		337.22
	Employee	Salary Award back pay	N/A	BACS				234.00		234.00
	Employee	Expenses	N/A	BACS				24.40		24.40
	Malcolm Cox	Gritting	39	BACS				210.00		210.00
	Red side up	Printing	INV11187	BACS				300.00		300.00
	Wicksteed	Playground Inspection	820283	BACS				144.00	24.00	144.00
Totals								1,306.00	26.68	1,303.32
								42,431.15		