

# 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 **13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 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	Yes
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

0 Members of public

## 22/197 **Apologies for Absence**

No absence.

## 22/198 **Members' Declarations of interest**

None related to the agenda.

## 22/199 **Public Forum**

No members of the public.

## 22/200 **Minutes**

A question was raised concerning the changes to the risk register, which was explained. Council considered the reference to a local business be removed and agreed to remove it.

**Resolution:** Approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 as a true record.

**Proposer:** Cllr Kehr    **Seconded:** Cllr Nicholson – Unanimously agreed.

## 22/201 **District & County Councillors Reports**      (APPENDIX A)

The council reviewed the reports sent out by the DCllr and CCllr.

## 22/202 Clerks Report

Clerk has not had any details regarding the up coming elections from the BDC but will distribute anything that comes through and post on the website.

## 22/203 Action Tracker (APPENDIX B)

The council reviewed the Action Tracker.

Clerk reported they had received a quote of £697.80 to make repairs to the children's play equipment. Clerk had attempted on several occasions to get quotes from other businesses, but they were unwilling to do the work.

Quote circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Resolution: Agree quote of £697.80 to repair children's play equipment.

Proposed: Cllr Kehr Seconded: Cllr Turner – Unanimously agreed

## 22/204 Finance (APPENDIX C)

**Resolution:** Agree payments for this month.

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

Cllr Kehr appointed as authoriser.

### 22/204.1 Grants

None to consider.

## 22/205 New Planning Applications

Consider all current planning applications.

**23/00367/TPOCON** | Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Oak Tree (1): Reduce crown by approx. 2 metres. Hawthorn Tree (2): Reduce crown by approx. 2 metres. Ash Tree (3 and 9): Remove. Willow Tree (4): Pollard back to previous cut points removing 4 metres of overall growth. Sycamore Trees (5 and 7): Remove. Sycamore Tree (6): Reduce crown by approx. 2 metres. Ash Tree (8): Reduce crown by approx. 2 metres. Beech Tree (10): Reduce crown by approx. 2 metres. Selection of small shrubbery (11): Remove. | The Sparrows Church Hill Helions Bumpstead Essex CB9 7AJ | **Expiry Date: Thu 16 March 2023**

- The council considered the above application and have no objections.

**23/00513/FUL** | Change of use of land from agricultural grazing to dog exercise area. - Board Barn Farm, Drapers Green, Helions Bumpstead.

- The council considered the above application and have no objections.

## 22/206 Flooding in the Village

The council are considering having a leaflet printed reminding everyone of their riparian owner responsibilities and distribute it with the village magazine.

The council have not had a response from Essex Highways regarding the letter sent via email. Clerk agreed to send the letter by post.

## 22/207 Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Council Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Annual Parish Assembly – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 at 7PM.

**22/208 King's Coronation**

The council agreed a budget of £2000 for items related to the Coronation.  
Cllr Turner agreed to arrange the purchase of gift mugs for the event.

**22/209 WASC – Prison Development Proposal**

A further application has been put forward to house 1500 asylum seekers.

**22/210 Playground**

Clerk has contacted Madlingley Mulch and requested a proforma invoice for delivery of play bark.  
Clerk to contact local contractor for dealing with some trees that have been deemed dangerous by the council.

**22/211 Highways and Footpaths**

Clerk to forward letter to Essex Highways regarding speed limits in Helions Bumpstead.

**22/211.1 Proposed move of Footpath 7**

Council to review footpaths for the next meeting.

**22/211.2 Hedges and Trees Trimming**

Council to walk camps road to review the condition of the hedges.

**22/212 Handyman Fund Projects**

Clerk to request local contractor to take up cutting the village green.  
Potential for some hardcore to go down on Footpath 21, Cllr Parker to investigate.

**22/213 Resources for Teenagers**

No comments.

**22/214 Stansted Airport**

Re-writing the letter to the airport authorities.

**22/215 Anaerobic Digester**

Council to keep an eye on it.

**22/216 Solar Farms**

Council to keep an eye on local applications.

**22/217 Up Coming Elections**

Consider action required for reappointment.

**22/218 Matters to be Raised by Members for the Next Agenda**

None.

22/219 **Date of the Next Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> of April 2023

22/220 **Meeting Close**

@ 9:27 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 March 2023 to Parish Councils**  
**(Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)**

**Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. Intended closures:-**

Camps Road, Helions Bumpstead. Due to commence on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for 3 days. Required while Anglian Water undertakes meter exchange.

Sages End Road, Helions Bumpstead. Due to commence on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for 3 days. Closure required while Anglian Water undertakes stoptap replacement.

**Further £1m to help the most vulnerable (Decision at Full Council meeting 20/2/23)**

Due to the council's strong history of sound financial management, it is able to offer support to the district's most vulnerable residents using £1million of its New Homes Bonus. The funding will provide support to communities by working with partners to provide food security, helping the most vulnerable through activities of existing community groups and organisations, improving access for rural communities and enabling physical and emotional health and wellbeing. To ensure the cost-of-living funding is targeted and delivered in the most effective way, Braintree District Council will work closely with community partners on delivering a programme of support through to March 2025.

**Council Tax 2023/24 (Decision at Full Council meeting 20/2/23)**

With over 60% of the council's net budget being funded from council tax, it has been agreed to increase council tax by 2.5%, an extra 9p per week based on a Band D property. This means Braintree District Council will remain one of the lowest Council tax rates in Essex and below the national district average. Additional support will be provided to those facing financial difficulties through the council's Exceptional Hardship Fund and a new government funded Council Tax Support Fund, where those in receipt of Local Council Tax Support can get an additional discount of up to £25.

It is proposed that £1.6m is used to provide a New Homes and Growth Dividend of up to £25 to council taxpayers against their 2023/24 council tax liability. The taxpayer must be known by the Council to be liable to pay Council tax on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and continue to have a Council tax liability for 2023/24 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. If this criterion is not met there will be no entitlement to a dividend. Braintree District Council's Council tax remains one of the lowest in Essex. The £25 refund means that, depending on their property, almost everyone will pay between 4% and 17.5% less Council tax than they are currently paying.

The Council Tax rate for 2023/24 is £194.31 or an additional £4.68 for the year or 9p per week based on a Band D property for Braintree District Council's share of the overall tax bill.

Although Braintree District Council collects the council tax, the money doesn't just pay for our services. It also pays for the services provided by the police, fire, county council, parish and town council services too. Braintree District Council collects the Council Tax on behalf of the District Council, Essex County Council, Essex Police and Crime Commissioner, Essex Fire Authority and the Parish and Town Councils in the district. Less than 10% of Council tax is allocated to BDC.

For every £1 people pay in council tax, just under 10 pence goes to Braintree District Council (9.7%). ECC receives 72.1 pence, Essex Police & Crime Commissioner receives 11.6 pence, Essex Fire Authority receives 4 pence and Parish and Town Councils receives 2.6 pence.

### **Parish Council Street Cleaning Agreements (Decision at Full Council meeting 20/2/23)**

Unexpected extra funding from central government has meant that the previous budget proposal to reduce the funding to parish councils by 33% as part of a street cleaning agreement will be deferred by a year.

### **Optional Green Bins – Potential Charge to Residents – Why it is being considered**

The budget proposals confirm an intention to introduce a charge for garden waste collections, which would be significant in closing the 2024/2025 budget gap and in future years. This will be considered at a Cabinet meeting on 13 March 2023, along with car parking tariffs.

Over 70% of local authorities in the UK already charge for garden waste collections as a non-essential, opt-in service. If the proposal gets approved at Cabinet on 13 March 2023, those who currently do not make use of the garden waste collection will not be charged if they choose not to sign up to the service. Residents with gardens can choose to compost their own garden waste rather than opting to pay for a service or disposing their garden waste at one of the Essex County Council recycling centres. If it is approved, BDC will communicate full details with residents.

Over the last 10 years the Council has delivered £10million in savings and extras income, which it has been able to reinvest in priorities alongside meeting inflationary and other cost pressures. A further £1million has been identified to help close the budget gap for 2023/24, and where possible, the council has tried to avoid impacting key services. A budget gap of over £2million is forecast up until 2027. Given the scale of the challenge facing the council, inevitably there has had to be some difficult choices made in the budget.

### **FYI: Cost of living grant programme – UK Youth Fund**

This new fund is a three-year unrestricted grant programme aimed at mitigating the devastating impact the cost of living crisis is having on the youth sector.

The UK Youth Fund in partnership with Pears Foundation will provide targeted funding to youth organisations delivering high quality youth work to ensure doors stay open, bills get paid and youth workers receive the salaries they deserve. This will help to ensure young people continue to be supported at this most difficult of times by the youth organisations and youth workers on whom they've come to depend. The Fund will stay open whilst funds remain to be distributed.

Details at: <https://www.ukyouth.org/ukyouthfundpears/>

### **FYI: Investing in spaces and places grants – Asda Foundation**

Investing in Spaces and Places is Asda Foundation's higher value grant for local groups aimed at improving spaces in the heart of local communities.

The Foundation know small grass roots organisations play a vital role in their community, making positive change and improving people's lives every day, but the challenge for many is having the appropriate space and place to bring people together to deliver this fantastic work.

Asda Foundation will be investing £500,000+ for this grant in 2023 to support bigger community projects within local communities where local people can be together and thrive.

Grants will be between £10,000 and £25,000 and the application window opened on 6 February and will close on 19 March 2023. The grant criteria will focus on investing in community spaces and places and projects must fall into at least one of the following categories:

1. Building Repairs
2. Building Development
3. Outdoor Development

Details at: <https://www.asdafoundation.org/foundation-grants>

### **FYI: Defibrillator grants – London Hearts**

Grants are available to fund Public Access Defibrillators in communities all over the country. London Hearts is a charity aiming to help and support communities with the provision of heart defibrillators and teaching CPR/defibrillator skills. They can provide a grant of £300 towards the cost of a defibrillator and storage as well as a free online training video. When someone has a cardiac arrest, timely intervention is the key to survival. By making more defibrillators available, and by training more people to use them, the better the chance of survival for a cardiac arrest victim. Details at: <https://londonhearts.org/>

**Cllr. Diana Garrod**  
Braintree District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

## **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.

#### APPENDIX B

Council Meeting	Reference	Details	Status
July '21	21/150	Update website	Cllr Kehr to review website
Feb '23	22/165	Play equipment repairs – Waiting for quote	Ongoing
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	Contact DC regarding a new dog poo bin	Ongoing
Feb '23	22/180	Obtain glass panel for phone box	Ongoing
Feb '23	22/176	Contact BDC Planning regarding published letter error	Clerk to action
Feb '23	22/178	Check if speed limit sign has been reported	Clerk to action
Feb '23	22/185	Arrange litter pick equipment and waste collection	Clerk to action
Feb '23	22/189	Draft letter to highways to extend speed limit zone	Cllr Etheridge to action

**APPENDIX C**  
**March**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Invoice</b>	<b>FPO/DD</b>	<b>Min Ref</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Debit</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Net</b>
Opening Balance							41,627.08			
	Employee	Salary - March	N/A					337.22		337.22
	Employee	Expenses - March	N/A					24.40		24.40
	Drax	Electricity	985/986					50.91	2.42	48.49
	PCC	Grass Cutting Grant	N/A					600.00		600.00
	Cricket Club	Registration Fees Grant	N/A					250.00		250.00
<b>Totals</b>								<b>1,262.53</b>	<b>2.42</b>	<b>1,260.11</b>
								<b>40,364.55</b>		