

Minutes of Bures Hamlet Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 19th July 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs M Baker, C. Ellis, K McAndrew, D Monk, B Raymond, R Shackell, M Welch, J McCrory (BSMPC), J Aries (Parish ROW Officer), Cllr W Scattergood (BDC)

In the Chair: Cllr R Shackell

Also Present: No members of the public present.

01/07/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from the Clerk, Mrs J Wright (unwell).
Apologies also received from Cllr P Schweir (ECC).

02/07/21 DECLARATION/REGISTER OF INTERESTS/DISPENSATIONS

To receive any 'pecuniary' or 'non-pecuniary' interests and dispensation requests.
No interests declared and no dispensation requests put forward.

03/07/21 MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of 17th May 2021 (previously circulated) were duly approved and signed as a correct record.

04/07/21 PUBLIC FORUM

15 minutes maximum public participation

3 minutes for individual contributions unless agreed by Chairman

There were no members of the public present. No matters put forward.

District Councillor: Cllr Scattergood presented her report to the meeting. She advised members that as she had been absent from her role throughout June owing to illness she was only able to offer a brief report. Cllr Scattergood continued to support the village for an alternative use of the land at Cambridge Way and a proposal for tree-planting is to be put forward at a BDC meeting on 26th July. She also noted that whilst she had initially supported the village's proposal re: Parking on Bridge Street, she had currently withdrawn this support in the light of the position taken by BDC on the matter. She was however still considering her final position and would decide in the light of whatever transpired in ensuing discussions.

County Councillor: Cllr Schweir was not in attendance to put forward a report.

05/07/21 HIGHWAY MATTERS

a) Review of parking restrictions at Bridge Street: After debate in the council and following consultation with residents, it had been decided to submit an application to NEPP to change the current ruling to 2 parking bays along the road approximately in front of the Delicatessen and Rose's General Store. Bays to be designated as 20 minute slots with no return within 40 minutes. A meeting has been held with the North Essex Parking Partnership and attended by the Chair and the Clerk: NEPP appeared at the time to suggest approval may be given providing that 75% of Bridge Street residents were in favour. The application required a Braintree District Council Road Traffic Order consultation with the parish council. The BDC Officer recommendation was not supportive and offered alternatives e.g. restrictions could be left as they are, but altered in places with red route restrictions, to provide passing places and to maintain the flow of traffic. The Chairman agreed to prepare a response to the Officer's recommendation to be forwarded to BDC and NEPP prior to the deadline of 26th July.

b) Local Highway Panel (LHP) requests for consideration to put forward:

- 1) Crossing point at Colchester Road – to be discussed again at the next meeting.
- 2) Safety improvements at Mount Bures junction – residents had once again asked the parish council to revisit the previously refused LHP request. Cllr Ellis noted that this is an issue of grave importance as currently passengers on the bus from Colchester to Sudbury have to alight in the middle of the road junction and the matter has now been ongoing for several years. Clerk following up with Cllr Schweir and ECC Officers.

c) Parking issues at Colchester Road: The Chairman considered this was an issue that had re-emerged due to the recent period of good weather and the commencement of school holidays. It was noted that any introduction of parking restrictions would require the support of 75% of local Bures Hamlet residents before any application was made. It was considered that restrictions may shift on street parking to Cambridge Way and Normandie Way and as such residents of these streets would need to be included in any consultation. Short term the parking along Colchester Road will be monitored to identify peaks and troughs.

d) Station Hill tree roots: This issue has in part been resolved as Highways have covered over the offending roots of one tree with a layer of tar Macadam. The second tree (that which is further away from the station) is as yet untreated but will be remedied shortly.

e) Bridge Street resurfacing: Members unable to comment on this issue. Clerk has the current information. To be reported on at next meeting.

f) Flooding issues:

- 1) Colchester Road/Bridge Street: ECC Surface Water Assessment Scheme remains a priority. Clerk continuing to liaise with ECC for action.
- 2) Water Lane Brook clearance: Residents of Water Lane to be reminded that it is their responsibility to keep the brook clear of debris and weeds.
- 3) Mount Bures junction and top of Colne Road. The Chairman noted that the flooding at the Mount Bures junction is the landowner's responsibility. Regarding the flooding at the top of Colne Road – it is thought that there is a pipe which carries surface water away from adjacent farmland. The pipe may be blocked or damaged and as this crosses under the road this becomes the responsibility of Highways. Clerk has reported for action.

g) LHP requests submitted.:

- 1) Bus stop at Mount Bures junction – still waiting on design to determine if the gradient is appropriate for the provision of a hard standing.
- 2) Provision of 2 bollards to protect a fire hydrant at Colchester Road transferred to the 2021/22 programme of works. Prioritised.
- 3) Grit bin - request submitted for a grit bin at Colne Road.

06/07/21 PLANNING

a) All applications received and comments made to date as per attached list.

b) Applications requiring consideration at this meeting:

Butlers Farm, Colne Road, re-consultation Application No. 20/02131/FUL:

Members agreed the position remained as before with no further comments to be made. It was noted that site was now for up for sale.

21 - 25 Maltings Close, Application No. 21/02104/LBC: Members agreed unanimously to support this application.

Ferriers Farm, Ferriers Lane, Application No. 21/21/01966/FUL: The Chairman advised members that this was a fresh application for consideration. Members agreed that there were issues relating to parking and access, particularly for larger and emergency service vehicles. The Chairman considered that this fresh application had taken careful note of all areas that had caused the previous application to be withdrawn and the new submission was of a very high standard and addressed most points of previous contention. Although it could be argued that the development lies outside the village envelope, it is not a greenfield site. Members unanimously agreed to support the application in principle but to raise concerns regarding parking and access.

c) Other planning matters reported on:

Vacant garage site: The garage site is now on the market again for a sum in the region of £700,000, with planning permissions currently in place. The parish council has written to BDC and to the developer's agent regarding safety at the site. BDC is investigating BHPC concerns but it was noted that the developer has a timescale of up to 3 years to erect the hoarding.

Land to rear of Cambridge Way: Cllr Scattergood continuing to support the village for an alternative use of the land. (See 04/07/21). The parish council remained supportive to proposals for the land to become a community woodland open space managed under Bures Common Land Trust and Bures Transition Group on behalf of the village. Both parish councils to prepare a joint letter of support to encourage BDC to progress the initiative.

Ferriers Lane site: The Chairman had investigated resident concerns however there appeared to be no evident changes since last year. Therefore no action required.

Cuckoo Hill site: The application to reduce the height of Plots 5 & 6 has been agreed by Babergh DC with stringent conditions attached to alleviate the problems residents have suffered thus far. An insurance bond of £250,000 is to be set up to allow Babergh DC to take over if the developer fails to complete.

d) Bures Joint NHP: An application for a Joint Bures NHP has been submitted to both Braintree and Babergh District Councils, identifying the area to which it applies. Volunteers are needed to join the NHP Working Party. Lead LPA to be Braintree DC. Grants to be administered by Braintree DC via BHPC.

e) Braintree Local Plan: All information on the Braintree District Local Plan 2013 – 2033 available via the Braintree DC website.

07/07/21 Joint Parish Plan 2021-2: All members agreed to the adoption of the 2021-2 Parish Plan. The plan was an ongoing process and to be amended as and when items arose. The suggestion for Bures in Bloom with planters installed at strategic points around the village to be considered further and jointly with BSMPC.

08/07/21 ITEMS FOR UPDATE, REPORT AND FOLLOW UP AS REQUIRED

a) P3 Scheme: Cllr Aries has drawn up a list of suggested footpaths to be covered by the ECC Service Level agreement and circulated to all members. Members have agreed to proceed. Continuing to be followed up with Shirley Anglin, ECC PRoW and Localism Officer.

b) BH Speed Watch: Cllr Aries reported that the Speed Watch team is currently running smoothly with nothing further to report.

c) Police Community Engagement event: To be held at the recreation ground on Friday, 23rd July from 10am to 12 noon. It is considered imperative that as many members attend the event to show the parish's commitment to alleviating the ASB issues. Police support and presence in the village was vital. The Chairman emphasised the need to report any incident of ASB as this would greatly improve the chance of specialist support from the police Kestrel team. The Chairman urged that members spread this message.

d) Colchester Road VAS: ECC Highways have repaired the VAS and it appeared to be working satisfactorily.

e) Ground maintenance volunteering initiatives: The Chairman considered that verge cutting should not fall to volunteers. Cllr Baker suggested the village road signs could be cleaned.

f) Eastlight Housing: The Estate Manager had arranged for the garden to be tidied. Members considered overall the situation had greatly improved.

g) Bramford - Twinstead Pylon Consultation: Numerous concerns have been raised by residents and councillors from both sides of the village. Undergrounding is a preferred option. The Chairman noted to members that there is no active proposal to extend the AONB boundary but is currently an aspiration.

h) Health & Wellbeing: BSMPC Cllrs Sills and McCrory have agreed to take this forward to produce a Health and Wellbeing Plan for Bures. BHPC offered its support.

i) Light provision for Parsonage Hill: Tenter Field Management Group has declined to provide a light at the entrance into the estate. Following the installation of low level lighting at Tenter Field, the parish council will reconsider the need to supply a light on the hill when evenings pull in and an assessment can be better made.

j) E54 Pedestrian crossing: The parish council is still waiting on the Public Inquiry outcome as to whether the crossing will be closed to pedestrians. No decision currently made for any Essex crossings.

09/07/21 AUDIT AND FINANCE MATTERS

Business Premium A/C balance: £10,537.46

Community A/C balance: £4,388.13 (when all cheques paid)

a) It was noted that the External Auditor's report for 2020/21 Accounting Statement has not yet been received.

b) It was noted that the Internal Audit Review is scheduled for 4th October 2021.

c) Finance & Budget Monitoring Report – circulated, noted and attached.

d) Bank reconciliation report dated 10th July 2021 – circulated, noted and attached.

Corresponding bank statements – circulated, noted and attached. Duly signed by the Chairman and non-signatory member.

e) It was noted that Cllr Welch, on behalf of BHPC would submit a grant application to ECC for new toddler play equipment.

10/07/21 CLERK'S REPORT PLUS ANY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR ACTION

This had been previously circulated (attached and placed on website).

11/07/21 PHYSICAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr Raymond had circulated his report prior to the meeting. All assets appeared in good order. Dog waste bins needed emptying. Braintree DC to be contacted. The bus shelters needed a clean and tidy.

12/07/21 REPORTS

All reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Bures St Mary PC: Cllr McCrory drew attention to the ongoing issues at the Cuckoo Hill development. The developer has now been given 30 weeks to comply with the conditions of the approved planning application. Next meeting to be held on 22nd July.

Cemetery: Cllr Aries had circulated her report prior to the meeting. Cemetery all in good order. Overgrowth on and around the UK Power pole scheduled to be cleared shortly by BTS. Following on from the Memorial inspection, now awaiting quotes for those memorials needing to be secured. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Gallipoli marker now installed for the grave of K.P.Carr. The revised layout works completed. New smaller shed on order

Sportsground: Cllr Monk had circulated a report from the Committee meeting held on 8th July. Cllrs Jackson and Welch both agreed to continue in their respective appointments for the next year. Further CCTV coverage to be investigated to combat ASB. Cricket Club also taking additional measures when matches are in progress. It was agreed that the Hobby Horse Refreshment Kiosk may extend its opening times into the winter months, weather permitting. The portaloo has been widely appreciated by visitors.

Community Centre: Cllr McCrory gave the following report: A treasurer is still being sought. This is a voluntary role. The full chairman's report will be published in the parish magazine to give the wider public an overview of how the Community Centre has been run during the past year. Finances have remained stable in spite of minimal lettings income thanks to a COVID grant, the generosity of people in the village and a grant from the Babergh District Councillor. Further grants are being sought to fund minor works, painting and decorating.

Rights of Way: Cllr Aries had circulated her report prior to the meeting and this has been placed on the parish council website. Items to note – Parish Paths Partnership Scheme still be followed up with Shirley Anglin, PRoW and Localism Officer for ECC. FP5 reinstatement remains unresolved. Parish Contractor had cleared FP8 down to the footbridge. FP12 track requires attention. To be followed up with landowner in first instance. Phillips Path hedges on both sides of the path have been cleared.

BALC: Cllr Shackell has attended the virtual meetings run by EALC which aimed to reform Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC). A constitution now adopted and an executive committee elected. Martin Lee (Sible Hedingham Chairman) appointed as Chairman of BALC. A subscription of £40 initially proposed.

Transport: Nothing to report.

Station Adopters: Mary Turner had circulated her report on behalf of Bures Station Adopters. Bee friendly flowers bedded out in two wooden planters provided by the Bee Friendly Trust and the South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership. A pargetting project now being considered for the station wall. Ferriers Barn members are preparing art work for permanent display to further enhance the station.

Tree Warden: Cllr Baker had circulated her report prior to the meeting. She had responded to one tree application since the previous meeting – to fell a Sallow which is pushing over a wall at No. 14 Colchester Road. No objection made.

Bures Primary School: Cllr Fairbairn, Chair of School Governors has circulated the school's Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 and this has been placed on the parish council website. Cllr Fairbairn thanked all the staff, pupils and families for rising to the challenges of a difficult year so magnificently. He also extended the school's thanks and best wishes to Rev'd Steve Morley and his wife as they embark on their retirement.

Bures Common Land Trust: Gill Jackson, Secretary had circulated a report on behalf of the Trustees. Next market 11th September. The monthly markets continue to be well supported. A very successful Arts and Crafts market was held on 6th June.

A celebration of 10 years since the purchase of Bures Common is planned for 30th August with live music and refreshments.

13/07/21 INFORMATION EXCHANGE/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

Next agenda item: Recording and use of social media at meetings and Bures in Bloom.

14/07/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th September to be held at Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road at 7.30pm.

Future dates booked: 2021: 15th November

2022: 17th January, 14th March, APM TBA, 16th May AGM,
18th July, 19th September

The meeting closed at 9.23pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: