

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING @ The Lecture Hall

ON Thursday 9th September 2021 at 7.30pm



Chairman: Cllr Kerry Barnes

Present: Cllr Hill, Cllr Girvan, Cllr Westrope, Cllr Mackenzie, Cllr Borges

Also in attendance: Cllr Peter Schwier, Cllr Garrod

Parish Clerk: Mrs Julia Howard

Members of the Public: 6

MINUTES

- 21/242** Welcome and Apologies – Apologies from Cllr Fellows and Cllr Rust, who will listen via zoom. The chairman welcomed everyone and recapped declarations of interest – clerk to circulate guidance.
- 21/243** Declarations of Interest – none
- 21/244** Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated) –
Proposed to be a true record of the meeting by Cllr Hill seconded by Cllr Mackenzie all in agreement.
- 21/245** Question Time –
MOP 1 – 16 church street application, information and history explained by the MOP. Then went on to discuss Blois application, to the side of the business park. Objective when bought the site was to complete the development prior to retirement. Approx. 1 acre is still standing vacant, even though they have tried to attract development for the past 15 years. MOP would invite anyone to come to have a look at this. The PC will respond to the member of the public following the meeting.
MOP 2 – regarding the GP surgery, having attended the Unity Zoom call this morning, feels that there is little prospect of keeping the surgery, however it may go part time, to 3 days a week. We need to look to rally some local, substantial support. No response will be sent – this item is on the agenda today.
- 21/246** District Councillor’s Report – see appendix a.
Cllr Garrod referred to her report, which is on the PC website and circulated to the PC, and summarised some areas.
There are a number of road closures affecting the area.
The Extraordinary meeting, for the cycling strategy and climate change, has been rescheduled for 20th September and will take place in Witham, to allow for safe distancing. The following full council meeting will be on 11th October.
There is a COVID-19 vaccination tour bus which will be touring to increase the take up of the vaccines. This is particularly important as the infection numbers are rising again.
Further discussions regarding the cycle strategy followed, including increasing the number of bridal ways, which are useful for cyclists too.
- 21/247** County Councillor’s Report – No report was forwarded; however, a number of emails are sent throughout the month.
Cllr Schwier highlighted the increasing fuel prices, and the ECC big switch. He also drew attention to the growing waiting lists / times for operations, and that a mobile surgery unit has helped combat that.
The government has now advised that there will be a covid vaccination top up, likely for the most vulnerable people.
Cllr Westrope asked about the lay-by to the front of the cemetery, he has noticed that the panel is now referring to the rear of the church which is not the correct location. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Schwier / Highways panel regarding the location of the lay-by. Which is required to enable a place for a hearse to park when there is a funeral. Cllr Borges raised that this lay-by had already been approved, and so for it to be picked up by committee now is unfair.



- 21/248** Co-option / vacancy - addressed after item 21/249.
A co-option notice has been placed on the website and noticeboards, currently there is one vacancy and there are 2 expressions of interest for this currently.
- 21/249** Village GP surgery – proposal to close, **consultation until 11th October 2021**
There have been two zoom calls and is a survey open.
Discussion around contacting other parishes in the area and having a joined-up approach, contact our MP and ask for him to back us, raise support where possible and hold a separate meeting on this topic.
The meeting was suspended by the chairman at 20.11, who asked to clarify whether those outside of Steeple Bumpstead also received a letter. MOPs living outside of Steeple Bumpstead confirmed they did not receive letters. The meeting resumed 20.12.
Further discussions around way to utilise the building for say 2 days a week, to reduce the rental impact on Unity to sway them to continue with the practice. Discussions continued around alternative clinical offerings.
The Chairman has proposed that PC has a working group of Councillors, to be led by Peter Hill, with Kerry and Ian Westrope. Cllr Hill to arrange a meeting and involve patient participation group and keep in touch with the County Councillor.
- 21/250** Yellow Book deadline 17th September – this is now a vacant working group and so the clerk is to put this together this month, with a repeat of the article referring to the platinum jubilee.
- 21/251** Planning & Consultations (*applications received between now and the meeting date may also be discussed*)
ITEM 1. Applications and Decisions
21/02501/COUPA – Wildings Farm, Wildings Lane, Steeple Bumpstead – no objection.
21/02541/FUL - Land At 16 Church Street, Church Street, Steeple Bumpstead – no objection, however we would like to comment that there is a public right of way which is not referred to on the plans.
21/01624/OUT – Land north of Blois Road, Steeple Bumpstead – The PC has previously objected on the grounds that it would be a shame to lose employment land to housing. If the land is converted for housing, then the industrial site won't be able to increase in later years. Following the comments earlier, from the member of the public, the planning working group will review this application again.
57 North Street TPO – no need to comment
21/02381/HH 17 Queen Edith drive, extension – not yet reviewed by the planning group as it has come too late for this meeting.
- ITEM 2. Neighbourhood Plan (standing Item) - The PC are applying for funding for technical support. The Chairman has been speaking to the funding team and is applying for more funding.
- 21/252** Finance and Administration
ITEM 1. Clerk's report (appendix b) – The Moot Hall Charity is to be added as a standing order payment.
Cllr Borges proposed to accept this as an accurate account and Cllr Westrope seconded, all in agreement.
ITEM 2. Bank Reconciliation – The reconciliation for April and May was completed. Three more months are prepared and Cllr Hill will audit them and return to the Clerk.
- 21/253** Event Planning (to update on progress/ status)
ITEM 1. Remembrance Day parade – 14th November
Cllr Westrope will liaise about this and arrange for a wreath and crosses – clerk to raise a donation cheque for a wreath and crosses once confirmed



ITEM 2. Platinum Jubilee on 5th June 2022 & SBNN Village fun day – Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood network (SBNN) received a grant from the district councillor and has used some of the money running the group, and has some available which it has been agreed could be used for a village fun day, with the aim to reduce isolation and increase social networks. It will likely happen during the Platinum Jubilee 4-day weekend 2nd – 5th June 2022.

Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Mackenzie updated the PC that there is a group who are building and developing some plans, still looking for more volunteers. We will re-visit this item in October.

21/254 Highways and Footpaths – update on the Claywall bridge, has been inspected by ECC in April 2021, and there is no weight restriction.

ITEM 1. Update on status of Footpath posts *Meeting suspended at 20.51 by the Chairman to allow Cllr Rust to speak*, however we could not hear him so the chairman summarised.

1. A map of all the posts that need replacing has been created
2. Highways have provided all the posts, signage and tools
3. Cllr Rust is required to attend a 1st aid course, arranged by ECC Highways prior to being able to get a group together and progress this further
4. Cllr Rust aims to start on his own next month, whilst awaiting the training.

Also, the broken footbridge between Smiths Green and Latchley's farm has been reported to highways (2711145) and currently is 'assigned to a team to schedule works'

Meeting resumed at 20.55

ITEM 2. Highways Devolution – the Chairman read out his letter to highways and their response, regarding the proposed 68p per head to take on the responsibility would not be sufficient for the rural roadways of the village. The ability for the PC to be able to sufficiently procure a suitable provision with such low funding isn't realistic. Chairman will take this to BALC and seek a joint opposition to this.

21/255 Open Spaces

ITEM 1. Trees update – Humphrey's Meadow – The tree is due to be removed tomorrow morning. Humphrey's meadow will be closed to the Public until the job is completed. It is likely to be quite rotten but Treeworx will come back on Monday with the aim to retrieve and tidy up and then allow the public to come and take excess wood. Clerk to check, with the EALC, the status of the funding application for benches.

21/256 Information Sharing – items for future meetings / information only

Dance Network Association (DNA) which aims to bring forward dance on prescription, have an annual conference in Colchester

Cllr Hill - none, Cllr Westrope - none, Cllr Mackenzie – re: drug activity, there has been no further sightings but we're still being vigilant, Cllr Borges – none, Cllr Girvan – resigns from the role, and will leaving the village. We thank Sophia greatly for all her work and assistance.

Sue Bailey's funeral is next Friday, she was a fundamental part of the community and will be greatly missed.

21/257 Next Meeting – Thursday 14th October 2021, 7.30pm venue tbc.

21/258 Meeting Closed at 9.13pm

Signed by the Chairman
Date

ACTIONS:



Action 1	21/242 Circulate guidance on Declarations of Interest	Clerk
Action 2	21/245 Planning working group to respond to Member of the Public	Chairman, Cllr Borges & Cllr Fellows
Action 3	21/247 Liaise with Cllr Schwier re: location of the lay-by	Clerk / Cllr Borges
Action 4	21/249 – Arrange a meeting of the new working group for the GP surgery consultation and include patient participation group members if possible	Cllr Hill
Action 5	21/250 – write and submit Yellow Book article	Clerk
Action 6	21/251 ITEM 1 – review application in light of further information from MOP	Chairman, Cllr Borges & Cllr Fellows
Action 7	21/251 ITEM 2 – Complete the application for additional funding	Chairman
Action 8	21/252 ITEM 2 – Audit Bank reconciliation	Cllr Hill
Action 9	21/253 ITEM 1 – liaise re: parade and arrange wreath and crosses	Cllr Westrope
Action 10	21/254 ITEM 2 – discuss a group approach with BALC	Chairman
Action 11	21/255 – check CIF application status, for benches	Clerk

Appendix a. District Councillor's report

District Councillor's Report September 2021 to Parish Councils (Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)

01/09/21

Temporary Road Traffic Orders

Intended road closures:-

Eggshell Lane, Steeple Bumpstead on 7th September for 2 days – County Broadband fibre optic installation.

Daw Street, Birdbrook on 13th September for 3 days – Anglian Water stop tap replacement.

Kedington Road, Sturmer on 16th September for 5 days – ECC carriageway patching.

Steeple Bumpstead Rd, Helions Bumpstead on 20th September for 7 days - County Broadband fibre optic broadband installation

Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council 20/09/21

The Council meeting scheduled for 20th September 2021 is arranged specifically to look at The Cycling Strategy and Climate Change. The agenda will be published on 10th September. There has been an increase in coronavirus cases since the relaxation of the Regulations and officers have consulted Public Health for guidance. Sufficient social distancing cannot be achieved at the Council Chamber in Causeway House and previously the Full Council meeting was held at Braintree Arts Theatre but this has ceased trading and is no longer available. Therefore the meeting 20th September will be held at the Rickstones Academy, Witham. It will not be possible to broadcast the meeting live. However, arrangements will be in place to capture an audio recording of the meeting. This will be uploaded to the Council's Website and YouTube as soon as possible after the meeting. The following Full Council meeting is scheduled for 11th October 2021.

Steeple Bumpstead GP Services

Letters dated 23rd August 2021 have been circulated from Suffolk GP Federation & Unity Healthcare concerning an engagement exercise seeking views on their proposal to close Steeple Bumpstead branch surgery. Two online events are being held to provide an opportunity for people to hear more information and the background to the proposal, and to ask questions. These will be held on Monday September 6th from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and on Thursday September 9th from 10.30am to 11.30am. Further information, including an online survey, Q&As and links to join the online events, is available via Unity's website: www.unityhealthhaverhill.org.uk

A Selection of Local Crime

In Week 33 criminal damage to a motor vehicle was reported in Bumpstead; the paintwork had been scratched to a black Audi whilst it was parked unattended. Whilst there were no crimes reported in the Bumpstead Ward in week 34, I was shocked to see three cases of black mail reported in the district. All related to indecent images or video with demands for money. There were also quite a few thefts of, or from motor vehicles and one case of theft of lead from a barn roof. Also, one case of criminal damage where a person has used a screwdriver to make multiple holes in a church door at Halstead.

Covid-19 Vaccination Bus to Tour Essex

A new Covid-19 vaccination bus is currently based at Lakeside shopping centre from 10am to 3pm for the next two weeks, offering the vaccine without the need for an appointment. The bus will then move to a new location in Essex. Anyone over the age of 16 can have the Covid-19 vaccine. If you haven't had it yet or you need your second dose, you can have either the AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccine on the bus, at a time that suits you. Most existing vaccination centres in Essex also offer walk-in vaccination clinics (www.eput.nhs.uk/news-events). If you plan to attend, you must take your NHS and ID with proof of your age. Get vaccinated. It's the best way that you can protect yourself and your loved ones from serious illness.

Cllr. Diana Garrod
District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward



CLERKS REPORT –9th August 2021 – 8th September 2021

Receipts		Payments	
August 2021			
		E On	£ 52.01
		ICO	£ 35.00
		Nest	£ 23.23
		Viking	£ 20.57
		HMRC	£ 75.02
		EALC	£ 690.00
		Country Gardens	£ 4980.00
		Clerk’s wages	£ 722.76
Sub-total	£0		£6,598.59
September 2021			
Bank Interest	£ 1.36		
Sub-total	£1.36		£0
TOTALS	£1.36		£6,598.59

Payments / Invoices pending:

JULY
 £144 (+£10 Joining fee) – SLCC Membership
AUGUST
 £27.00 – Lecture Hall rental
 £10.00 – SBNN phone bill (awaiting bill)
 £55.00 – Moot Hall

SEPTEMBER

£486.00 – A&J Lighting – annual service
 £27.00 – Lecture Hall rental
 £10.00 SBNN phone bill (awaiting bill)
 £1280.00 - TreeWorx
 £55.00 – Moot Hall
These payments are pending/ awaiting approval

Balances as at 8/9/21

Current Account: £10,463.13
 Savings Account: £38,771.42
 Savings Account*: £15,580.92
 Total **£64,815.47**

*Earmarked Reserves:

£4,218.97 – War memorial
 £10,000.00 – Churchyard wall repair fund
 £ 521.95 – Neighbourhood Plan grant
 £ 830.00 – Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Network

Clerks notes of interest:

Bin stickers have been removed from the recycling bins at the Village Hall, these have been reported and now replaced.
 Salt – excess salt / grit has been accepted by the primary school and the nursery.