



STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL Meeting @ The Moot Hall

ON Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.30pm

Chairman: Cllr Barnes

Present: Cllr Westrope, Cllr Hill, Cllr Borges, Cllr Mackenzie and Cllr Hexter

Clerk: Mrs Julia Howard

Others Present: None

MINUTES

23/140 Welcome and to receive apologies for absence - Apologies received from Cllr Garrod (report has been circulated), Cllr Schwier, Cllr Denning, Cllr Swaby and Cllr Rust.

23/141 Declarations of Interest Cllr Barnes – Re: planning app at Little Smiths Green Farm, doesn't see any conflict and will partake in discussions.

23/142 To approve the minutes (previously circulated) of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th October 2023. Proposed and Cllr Borges and seconded by Cllr Westrope and all in agreement – these will be signed at the next meeting

23/143 Question Time – none.

23/144 Invitation to Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Council and Cllr Diana Garrod, Braintree District Council - Chairman Cllr Barnes gave a brief run through of Cllr Garrod's report, which is available on the Parish Council's website.

23/145 Working Parties and Village tidy up – there are a number of tasks due around this time of year, including raking and removing leaves, plus some more minor maintenance tasks. Cllr Rust is going to arrange a working party for clearing the leaves. Cllr Westrope and Cllr Hexter raised concerns over the overgrowth in the cemetery, in particular brambles. Whilst the cemetery is not the responsibility of the Parish Council for its upkeep, at this time of year the Council places a wooden cross on the graves of those who died in the war. It has not been possible to get to all of the graves due to the significant overgrowth. The Parish Council are aware that the Church is responsible for keeping this area tidy and Chairman Cllr Barnes will speak to Reverend Jonathan Lowe to see whether this work is already planned or whether support from the Parish Council is required.

23/146 Planning Applications

| Number | Address | Postcode | Details | Status |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---|---------|
| 23/02580/OUT | Little Smiths Green Farm, Hempstead | CB9 7DY | Outline planning permission with all matters reserved apart from access and scale for the erection of up to 5 dwellings and associated development. | Pending |

23/02580/OUT – there is no reason to object to this application which sits across the border with Uttlesford

23/02690/TPOCON- Portobello house, 2 Chapel Street – the PC would support this *if* trees are planted for the ones removed

Decisions:

| Number | Address | Postcode | Details | Status |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|--|-----------|
| 23/02175/TPO | Colnebrook Blois Road | CB9 7BN | Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 2/79 Thin out overcrowded woodland as listed :- T1 - TAXUS - Fell to ground level T2 - TAXUS - Fell to ground level T3 - ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS- Fell to ground level T4 - LAWSON CYPRESS- Fell to ground level T5 - ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS - Fell to ground level T6 - ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS- Fell to ground level T7 - TAXU- ,Fell to ground level T8 - TAXUS- Fell to ground level T9 - DEAD BETULA PENDULA - Fell to ground level T10 - ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS- Fell to ground level T11- ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS- 1 x stem on multi-stem .Fell to ground level T12 - TAXUS - Fell to ground level T13 - AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM- 3 x stems fell to ground level T14 - FAGUS SYLVATICA -Crown lift to 2m | Granted |
| 23/02205/TPOCON | 43 Lion Meadow | CB9 7BY | Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area:- T1 - Taxus, overall crown reduction of 2-3 m in height and 1-2 m from the sides | withdrawn |



23/147 Neighbourhood development plan – The NHP Steering group recommend approval of National plan v11, consultation statement and the basic conditions statement. Cllr Borges proposed that the documents are adopted by the Council, seconded by Cllr Hill, all voted, the vote was not unanimously approved. It is to be recorded that Cllr Hexter voted no – in part due to maps being incorrect, roof pitch angles not being correct across the historic properties within the village

23/148 Financial Matters

To note and Decision

Item 1. To note receipts and approve upcoming payments as usual plus the pay award was agreed this week by NALC so that will show in the next pay slips

Item 2. Clerks' report / admin – there have been a number of contacts from the public, mostly in relation to overgrown areas and faulty street lights, both of which can be reported online directly to the County Council. [Tell us - Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](https://www.essexhighways.org)

Item 3. Grants update - we have received confirmation that the herb planter grant has been allocated to us from the community gardens fund – volunteers will be sought to help care for the planter.

The District Council's grant, has been applied for to go towards the cost to improve the electrics at the Moot Hall for the Christmas tree and to allow us to install a screen.

The Clerk has also applied for a CIF grant of £10k towards the replacement play area surface and awaiting a formal response.

23/149 Churchyard Wall working group – Chairman Cllr Barnes gave an update on the recent meeting which went well and he has been in touch with a variety of organisations to determine what kind of applications need to be submitted and will re-apply to the heritage lottery fund for a grant and look to get a 3d scan of the wall. Chairman Cllr Kerry Barnes proposed the spend of £990 to obtain a 3d scan and report of the churchyard wall, enabling decisions to be made on how to repair the wall Cllr Mackenzie seconded and all agreed. Chairman Cllr Barnes to provide relevant information to the Clerk to instruct the scan to take place.

23/150 Open Spaces and Footpaths Update

To note and Decision

Item 1. In addition to item 23/145 the hedge by the village hall needs cutting back, between Bendyshe Court and the Village Hall, the path needs clearing underneath too.

Item 2. Bumpstead Brook & Flooding updates – properties appear to have avoided significant damage and water ingress. However, the drains were backing up and pouring out water. The Flood sign has gone missing, so will sadly need to be replaced if it can't be found.

Item 3. Consideration of a new fence and gate at the bottom of Bellropes/ Camping Close - a DDA gate is required to replace the kissing gate and fence quotes to be obtained prior to any vote. Cllr Swaby and Chairman Cllr Barnes will obtain quotes.

Item 4. Open spaces update, incl. work to basketball area – Cllr Rust has the nets and will fix the backboard situation, will also look at repairing the cracked surface and about painting the lines back on.

OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

23/151 Essex Recycling Centre Bookings Consultation - The consultation closes Sunday 19th November 2023. <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/2023/recycling-centre-bookings-consultation>

23/152 Christmas Switch-On – update to the tree lighting 2023. This is on 25th November Start at 5.30pm, we have the Cavell Community Choir, the Primary School Choir, refreshments by the church, Gino's pizza van, mini stalls in the Moot Hall, bring your Royal Mail letters to Santa, meet Santa (who will be mingling), both pubs will be open.

Advent windows are going well – we'd like them all signed up to before the switch-on so we can have maps available to collect.

23/153 Remembrance Day – parade 12th November 10.30am. The Silent Soldier is in his usual place and 4 more have been ordered.

Poppies donated by The Spotted Cat pottery have been installed on the Claywall Bridge, volunteers gathered on 3 days to make them and 2 days to paint and glaze them and each one was kiln fired twice. All free of



charge, to enhance the remembrance display for the village. With huge thanks to the volunteers for giving up their time to learn how to make poppies.

23/154 Proposed plant opposite Haverhill's Epi Centre – for information only, this is outside of the Councils jurisdiction, broadly agree with this type of energy production.

<https://www.acornbioenergy.com/introduction>

23/155 Information Sharing – Cllr Hill – none, Cllr Westrope – none, Cllr Mackenzie - none, Cllr Hexter – will be retiring from the village library therefore a new volunteer will be required if the library is to continue, Cllr Borges - none.

23/156 Meeting Close & Date of Next meeting - 14th December meeting closed at 21.28.

Signed by Chairman

Date

RFO (Finance) REPORT & payments list –10th October – 7th November 23

Upcoming Payments / Invoices pending (for approval):

October:
 £50 - Cllr Hexter for ~~Cedburgh~~ Plant centre Ltd
 £55 - Cllr Hexter for ~~Cedburgh~~ Plant centre Ltd for tubs and baskets
 £9 - Cllr Hexter for B&Q for baskets this has vat to claim
 £55- Poppy appeal / Wreath Donation, by cheque
 Moot Hall electrics Quote (£1020.00 – Jarvis Electrical (Moot Hall))
 £8.67 – clerk, Bollard Keys
 £504 – RCCE NHP questionnaires
November:
 £158 website – clerk
 £204 – 2x emails – via clerk
 £14.98 – clerk for glue and cable ties
 £35 – safety sign clerk
 £8.99 – collection jar clerk

Regular pre-approved Payments (monthly unless stated)

£80.00 - Moot Hall (per month)
 £5.00 - Clerks monthly phone contribution
 £803.88 - Clerks Wages
 £84.80 – quarterly mileage claim

Account Balances as at 07/11/23

Current Account: £17,336.62
 Savings Account: £35,795.57
Total: £53,132.19

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| *Earmarked Reserves: | £4,250.46 | – War memorial |
| | £28,527.00 | – Churchyard wall repair fund |
| | £0 | – Neighbourhood Plan grant |
| | £3,000.00 | – Maintenance to Assets |
| | £2,239.09 | – Tree Surveys and Maintenance |
| | £957.11 | - Bumpstead in Bloom |

Savings Account (005)* Total: £38,973.66

Recent actions / observations

- £350 virement from War Memorial fund into current account to pay for 2 Silent Soldiers
- There are a number of tree survey actions coming up, which will have a cost attached, and be paid from the budget/Tree surveys and Maintenance fund
- In Bloom finance update. Spent: £4,830.29(incl. vat), Remaining £957.11
- Christmas Swich on accounts – tree donated, baubles: £20.10, wooden decorations: £43.32, road safety sign £35, collection jar £8.99, glue £14.98 = total spent is £122.39
 - Further items include, supplies for post box, new set of lights.

| Receipts | | Payments | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| October 2023 | | | |
| | | Npower | £ 93.48 |
| | | NEST | £ 32.53 |
| | | BDC Election Costs | £ 70.05 |
| | | Country Gardens | £ 1,806.00 |
| | | RBU silent soldiers | £ 720.00 |
| | | Clerk Wages | £ 803.88 |
| | | HMRC | £ 7.96 |
| | | Yates Playground | £ 8,016.00 |
| | | Clerk phone contribution | £ 5.00 |
| | | Moot Hall | £ 60.00 |
| | | clerk - Norton anti-virus | £ 79.99 |
| | | Baubles - Cllr Denning | £ 20.90 |
| | | baubles - clerk wooden | £ 43.32 |
| Sub-total | £0 | | £11,759.11 |
| November 2023 | | | |
| BDC s106 for Slide | £ 4,470.43 | | |
| Sub-total | £0 | | £0 |
| TOTALS | £4,470.43 | | £11,759.11 |