STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

ON Thursday 8th October 2020 at 7.30pm

M I N U T E S

Chairman: Cllr Kerry Barnes (Chairman)
Present: Cllr Girvan (Vice Chair), Cllr Hill, Cllr Mackenzie, Cllr Fellows, Cllr Westrope & Cllr Borges
In attendance: Cllr David Finch (County Councillor)
Parish Clerk: Julia Howard
Members of the public: Mr Colin Rust

20/094 Welcome and Apologies - Apologies from Cllr Garrod & Cllr Hill

20/095 Declarations of Interest - none

20/096 Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated) - Cllr Borges proposed to accept these as a true account, Cllr Westrope Seconded. All were in agreement.

20/097 Question Time – no questions

20/098 District Councilor's Report – see appendix 1.

20/099 County Councilor's Report –
4 main items this month. First, is the increased activity around COVID 19, with spikes in Uttlesford and Basildon. There may be interventions from the Government and/or public health as needed.
Secondly; Local Government Reform, whilst this continues the enthusiasm has waned while Brexit and the Planning consultation take more attention.
Thirdly; Budget in Essex, being mindful that Furlough is coming to an end, possible budget gap of £80m, but will need to see how this plays out. ECC is focusing on how to make more jobs in Essex to negate this.
Finally; Green Essex, nearly 1Million trees will be planted over the next 5 years, looking at extensions to schools being carbon neutral and aiming to make all schools carbon neutral. Using more solar panels on buildings and converting lighting to LEDs which use less electricity. The electric charging point (24 vehicles) will be built at the Horizon centre.

20/100 Vacancy / Recruitment – We have one co-option vacancy and one applicant; therefore, Cllr Colin Rust is Co-opted into the Parish Council, with responsibility for Footpaths.
We have one further vacancy which was advertised and has now expired, the vacancy is now advertised for Co-option, and we have had 1 applicant so far. We would look to Co-opt next meeting.

20/101 Steeple Bumpstead Wildlife Friendly Village – Cllr Mackenzie
Recent information and news reports into the Risby Wildlife Friendly Village were circulated before the meeting. In Steeple Bumpstead we do already have a Wildlife group, which could be built on in some of the ways Risby has had success. One of the differences is that the Risby project gets residents in their homes more involved and this is something that SPBC could speak to the wildlife group in the village about doing, it would need a good level of support. Risby is a small village (half the size of Steeple Bumpstead), they have designated areas and try to get the whole community involved. Perhaps the school may be able to get involved too. This could be a really great way of involving the whole community, from their own homes, whilst still able to isolate if needed. Cllr Mackenzie to speak to the SPBC wildlife group and school.

20/102 Open Spaces, Highways and Lighting
ITEM 1. Motorcycles on the B1057 – The local parish councils have had some meetings to see how best to tackle the antisocial behaviour of some of the motorcyclists and some car drivers too. Not such an issue in Steeple Bumpstead but a significant issue in the neighbouring villages. We were sent a heatmap showing the most troubled areas. The group will look to make some recordings and perhaps seek media assistance.

The issue is being pursued and will be updated in coming meetings.
Village Speed watch projects are starting to take place again, and the villages would Like to work together in a combined effort across the villages most affected areas. Steeple Bumpstead Speed Watch is in need of more volunteers, particularly at the moment.

ITEM 2. Camping Close update – awaiting play-bark delivery and still awaiting Playdale to visit and repair/replace parts. The regular inspections are still being undertaken by Cllr Mackenzie on a weekly basis. Clerk to chase up Maddingly Mulch for a delivery date.

ITEM 3. FIDO bins – 3 replacement bins have been installed. One is awaiting a repair, however the litter bin at Humphries meadow was missing. Cllr Hill to follow up on this. We are still having issues with residents dumping waste next to a full bin rather than taking and disposing with household rubbish or going to an alternative FIDO bin.

ITEM 4. Essex Highways User Survey 27/10/2020 -31/12/2020 – online survey to complete, which will complement the pothole survey completed by Cllr Westrope and Cllr Mackenzie.

ITEM 5. Power cuts and street lighting – many of these were out of sync but it appears that this has now been resolved.

20/103 Planning and Environmental Matters

ITEM 1. Planning Applications / Decisions – Cllr Jon Borges

Update on the Weatherhead site, BDC took this to committee, however in the meantime the developer raised an appeal under non-determination. The Committee still went ahead and the Planning Committee unanimously rejected the plans due to the ridge at the development. Therefore, we will need to wait for the appeal with the planning inspectorate.

20/01613/COUPA – Maltings Poultry Farm – although this isn't at the planning permission stage, the PC is invited to make comment and the clerk has already put through comments and will feed back to the planning group once a reply is received.

ITEM 2. Planning Consultations

The Current Planning Policy consultation, deadline is 1st October – Cllr Borges provided a summary of this.

The Planning White Paper consultation – deadline 29th October.

The Salings Neighbourhood plan, deadline is 9th November.

20/104 Miscellaneous correspondence

1. A Tree obstruction at North Crescent is causing possible telephone disruption (The Clerk reported the tree down ref2681554 – response from initial visited noted that further investigation is required) Cllr Garrod has also been contacted.
2. Humphries Meadow location visit with Residents & Cllr Barnes and Cllr Girvan, to look at the damage caused by children over the lockdown. The resident stated that he would remove the ramp and reinstate the side of the riverbank. The PC wouldn't want to stop the children from using these areas but the Parish Council agreed that they wouldn't permit any further ramp building or digging away of the banks.
3. Several reports of Street Lighting being out of Sync following high winds – this is okay now.
4. The clerk has received a number of emails asking how well the County Broadband has been received and would like a minuted response to direct enquirers to– most reports are positive however the speeds are not consistently high; it very much depends on how close to the router you are. This is County Broadband and only provisions are broadband and telephone, so there are no options for television etc. There have been delays, which have been upsetting to some residents, the process has been very slow and is not completed yet. Some report that the service is better than they had previously.
5. Remembrance Day is coming up; Cllr Westrope to speak to BDC to see how it is possible for the PC to do something to mark the occasion. Cllr Westrope will also clean the memorial statue and arrange for a wreath to be made.
The Chapel will be holding a remembrance service.

Finance and Administration

ITEM 1. Clerks Report – Appendix 2 –

Cllr Girvan proposed to accept the clerks report, Cllr Westrope Seconded this, all voted unanimously in agreement.

20/105

ITEM 2. Website accessibility Compliance – the website now has an accessibility widget and will continue for the next year whilst we consider future plans.

ITEM 3. New Email addresses – all Councillors now have separate email accounts for PC business, these will be added to the contact list on the website / noticeboards.

20/106 Information Sharing

Chairman - Works to add a new Extractor fan at the Fox & Hounds pub
Right to Contest, snapshot survey online- Deadline 5pm Friday 9th October
Library reopened Tuesday 6th October
Cllr Borges – Jim from the Red Lion Pub would like to build an extension with a hot tub on and will apply for planning permission.
Cllr Mackenzie – public footpath, next to new building on Finchingfield road, there is no sign visible there, Cllr Mackenzie & Cllr Rust will look to see if it is concealed in the hedge.
Cllr Girvan - the panel for the Community Initiatives Fund (ECC) met today (8th Oct). We should be hearing soon about our two applications to the fund, for the handyman's wage and for the playground equipment – add to the next meeting agenda for an update.
Cllr Westrope – a resident reported some overgrown Horse chestnut trees with a preservation order on, Cllr Westrope to forward information to the clerk or report via BDC. The Moot Hall now has a QR code and a log book for being Covid Safe. The Moot Hall charity has opened the Smile amazon account to raise funds. Also one of the Lamp posts at the churchyard has been hit and damaged by the grass cutting there, this needs rectifying.
Cllr Fellows – none
Cllr Rust – none

20/107 Next Meeting – Thursday 12th November 2020, 7.30pm Zoom Call

Meeting closed at 21.30.

Actions:

Action 1	20/100 – Cllr Rust Co-opted. Papers to be prepared for the new Councillor.	Clerk
Action 2	20/101 – Cllr Mackenzie to speak to the village wildlife group and the school to see how to take this forward.	Cllr Mackenzie
Action 3	20/102 Item 1. Liaise with speed watch for a combined effort	Chairman
Action 4	20/102 Item 2. Play bark is very low, follow up with Maddingly Mulch	Clerk
Action 5	20/102 Item 3. Follow up on missing litter bin at Humphries Meadow	Cllr Hill
Action 6	20/104 Contact BDC with regard to Remembrance Day	Cllr Westrope

APPENDIX 1 - District Councillor report

District Councillor's Report October 2020 to Parish Council's (Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward).

Local Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders The intended closure of Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead is due to commence on 15th December 2020 for 15 hours. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while BT undertakes overhead cable. The intended closure of Kedington Road, Sturmer is due to commence on 12th October 2020 for 5 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while BT undertakes underground duct.

Highways Liaison Officer at the Local Highways Panel meeting on 17th September 2020, it was announced that Rissa Long, Highways Liaison Officer, Essex Highways, would be taking over from Jasmine Wiles, Asst. Highways Liaison Officer. It was reported that Jasmine would be taking up a new role within the Road Safety Team at Essex Highways.

Post Office – Consultation – Finchingfield Mobile Service CM7 4LS - 149114 Post Office services will be restored to the communities of Helions Bumpstead (and other villages not in Essex). This will also include services to Kedington with the introduction of a temporary Mobile service while they continue to seek a permanent solution. Sturmer residents might find this useful. The postmaster from Finchingfield Post Office will be operating these Mobile services and they should commence from 2nd November 2020. There is an opportunity to participate in an on-line consultation and for members of the public to tell them what they think about the suitability of the new locations and how easy it is to get to them; comments can also be made about the days and opening hours. Go to the Post Office Consultation Hub or search using the information in this heading.

Government White Paper – Planning Reform On Monday 5th October, Full Council debated the government's White Paper on Planning Reform. You can read more about this and see the draft response in the agenda of the meeting displayed on the BDC website also at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future. The next step will be for Cllr. Gabrielle Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning, to respond formally to the government consultation. Anyone can submit a representation on the Government's Planning White Paper. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 29th October 2020.

Review of The Highway Code This is a review of The Highway Code to improve road safety, but particularly for the groups of cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders – Department for Transport and whilst this isn't strictly BDC information, as Bumpstead is a rural ward and includes all of these groups, I thought I would add it to my report. The main alterations to the code being proposed are:-

- introducing a hierarchy of road users which ensures that those road users who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others
- clarifying existing rules on pedestrian priority on pavements, to advise that drivers and riders should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross the road,
- providing guidance on cyclist priority at junctions to advise drivers to give priority to cyclists at junctions when travelling straight ahead
- establishing guidance on safe passing distances & speeds when overtaking cyclists and horse riders

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-highway-code-to-improve-road-safety-for-cyclistspedestrians-and-horse-riders

This consultation closes on 27 October 2020.

Green Homes Grant Scheme This scheme has now been launched. The government will provide a voucher worth up to £5,000 or £10,000 to help cover the cost of making energy efficient improvement to your home. Improvements could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces. You must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31st March 2021. The government will provide a voucher that covers two-thirds of the cost of qualifying energy efficient or low carbon heating improvements to your home. The maximum value of the voucher is £5,000. If you are on a low income and receive certain benefits, you can receive a voucher covering all of the cost of the improvements. The maximum value of the voucher is £10,000. https://greenhomesgrant.campaign.gov.uk To apply for the voucher, you must either own your home (including park homeowners, long-leaseholders and shared ownership), or be a private or social landlord.

Rise in Coronavirus cases in Uttlesford District (report 07/10/20) The latest figures from Public Health England have indicated a rise in cases of Coronavirus in the Uttlesford District area. Confirmed cases have risen to the highest level in Essex (64 cases per 100,000 population a week as of 06/10/20) and also continue to increase more rapidly in Epping Forest (58 cases per 100,000 population a week as of 06/10/20) and Brentwood at 55 per 100,000. Basildon has also seen an increase, although not to the same extent. The figures come from the latest PHE 'Patch report', which do not include data from the most recent four days. This is because the most recent data can be unreliable and is likely to change. The figures may therefore vary from those published via other sources, such as the Essex Open Data website, although will eventually agree. Dr. Mike Dogarty, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing at Essex County Council said "Sadly we are starting to see faster and faster increases in cases in many areas of Essex. They are now showing exponential increase, so are doubling every few days. Uttlesford's case levels have increased over the past week and are now approaching 65 cases per 100,000". In Uttlesford this looks very much transmission within the community, as there is no evidence which attributes these cases to a particular event, area or

outbreak. If cases appear in this way across a district, it makes it much more difficult to manage, contain and prevent further spread". Just because you might not know someone with COVID-19, it doesn't mean it isn't being transmitted in your local community – remember to protect yourself and others by practicing hands, face and space to keep it that way. Spread the message, not the virus. Let's stay safe Essex. Cllr. Diana Garrod District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

APPENDIX 2 – Clerks Report

CLERKS REPORT – 11th September 2020 – 5th October 2020

Receipts		Payments	
September 2020			
Cllr Grant – Neighbourhood Network	£1000.00	EON	£52.01
Precept instalment	£21,704.00	NEST	£33.77
		VIKING	£64.39
		Country Gardens	£2,406.00
		Handyman wages	£86.64
		Clerks wages	£810.53
Sub-total	£22,704.00		£3,453.34
October 2020			
Sub-total	£0		£0
TOTALS	**£22,701.00**		**£3,453.34**

Payments / Invoices pending:
October

£731.21	Clerks Salary
£86.64	Handyman wages
£1806.00	Country Gardens
£35.99	Purchase of a Rake
£65.71	Zoom account
£240.00	Website renewal (approx. figure)
£144.00	Moot Hall rental – 01/18 -12/18
£108.00	Moot Hall rental – 01/19 – 03/19
£324.00	Moot Hall rental – 04/19-03/20
£226.72	Moot Hall Cleaner/Caretaker
£17.31	HMRC

These payments are pending/ awaiting approval

Balances as at 05/10/20

Current Account:	£29,822.59
Savings Account:	£38,766.57
Savings Account:	£ 5,884.92
Total	£62,091.45

Earmarked Reserves:	£4,218.97 – War memorial
	£ 665.95 – Neighbourhood Plan grant
	£1,000.00 – Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Network