**STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING Due to COVID-19**

**ON Thursday 12h November 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 Rust & Cllr Borges

In attendance: Cllr Diana Garrod

Parish Clerk: Julia Howard

Members of the public: Mr James Webb, Mrs Kate Irwin

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| **20/108** | Welcome and Apologies – Apologies from Cllr Finch |
| **20/109** | Declarations of Interest – none. \*see planning section.  |
| **20/110** | Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated) Cllr Westrope proposed to accept these as a true account, Cllr Mackenzie Seconded. All were in agreement. |
| **20/111** | Question Time – Mr James Webb attended the meeting to speak about the addition of a Hydro Pool and ask Councillors to see the letter he has circulated. The pool is to be situated in the garden of the Red Lion, which Mr Webb owns. Initially for private use, but longer term would be for guests staying at the pub. There have been some local objections, but these are not based on planning reasons.  |
| **20/112** | District Councilor’s Report. Please see attached report – Appendix 1. Cllr Garrod continued to discuss the COVID-19 case rates in our district which have risen quite dramatically in the past week or so. James Cleverly MP visited the war memorial in Steeple Bumpstead on 7/11/2020, the Parish Council would like to thank him for attending. Cllr Garrod continued to speak about the Lockdown and how it is a softer approach from the Lockdown we saw in March. Discussed the decision for ECC to move to tier two and the extension of the Furlough Scheme. Of course, there is no easy option but our country’s death figures have exceeded 50,000 and we need to be proactive if we can be.  |
| **20/113** | County Councilor’s Report – no report has been circulated |
| **20/114** | Vacancy / Recruitment - we welcome Kate as parish Councillor as she has now been co-opted on the council. |
| **20/115** | Community Initiative Fund update – Cllr Girvan. Our thanks to Cllr Finch for supporting our applications. We were successful and were awarded £2,500 of the £5,000 we requested for the playground equipment and the full £1300 for the handyman. All funds must be spent by March 2022. |
| **20/116** | Open Spaces, Highways and Lighting – ECC lights have been reported to us as being on continuously on Bower Hall Road near the school, Edith Cavell Way and George Gent Close, the Clerk has reported these online to ECC. Our PC owned lights have also been identified as faulty on Finchingfield road and Haverhill road and need further investigation – they are still under warranty but other works have been occurring in the area which may have had an impact. Some of the local road signs are also falling into disrepair. Cllr Hill will survey the streetlights and the road signs with a view to reporting those needing a repair. Lighting analysis to be done and discussed at next meeting. Clerk has prepared a draft which has some data missing, this will be shared to Cllr Fellows.ITEM 1. Motorcycles on the B1057 – Cllr Barnes has been meeting (by zoom) with other PC chairmen to try to tackle the issue of noise pollution. There have been continuing efforts and communication with the local police. Further update after the next meeting. ITEM 2. Camping Close update – Play bark is due to be delivered next week, date and time to be confirmed. Playdale have given a provisional date of mid-December to proceed with repairs to the 2 central supports which are rotten and will be replaced with metal capped wooden posts. Thomas (the Handyman) has been doing a fine job of raking the mulch as part of his role, which has seen a huge improvement. Regular inspections have continued. With regard to upgrading the area / replacing removed equipment, Cllr Mackenzie plans to submit some suggested options for the January meeting. It was suggested that speaking to the preschool/ primary school for suggestions or consultation. Cllr Borges reported that approx. 30 trees have been planted by the Environmental Group.A tree has partially fallen at the back of Humphries Meadow – Cllr Barnes has asked for a quote to have that removed. Alex (Country Gardens) has also quoted to add some sleepers to build up the bank and provide a seating area. Total approx. £1300 for the works. Cllr Barnes and the clerk will check the accounts before actioning this. The cutting area has been getting smaller by the cut and Cllr Barnes has asked for the area to be re-cut to its original size. Country Gardens has also quoted for this. ITEM 3. Footpaths – Cllr Rust has been working through a report provided by Cllr Barnes and has located 58 signs. 5 new signs are required, 18 posts need attention 9 posts are loose, many discs are faded and need replacing. See Appendix 2 for Cllr Rust’s report. Cllr Rust has spoken to Lorraine Wright and caught up with the progress she has made and areas of difficulty. Cllr Rust has been in touch with Shirley Anglin about the Parish Paths scheme, which is on hold due to the lockdown, but there are things we can start with independently. Highways will undertake works to any signs near to any traffic. Cllr Rust to proceed with next steps to move this forward. Cllr Barnes has had a report of the Bridge with handrail towards Haverhill had a slat missing, Cllr Rust will check this. **Boxing Day walk**. Cllr Rust is going to plan a short route (approx. 3 miles) and a longer route for the hikers (approx. 5miles). Risk assessments will be required, the Clerk has forwarded on a Covid Risk assessment. ITEM 4. Salt – winter service – Although we did not request any, additional salt bags were delivered. We can have these collected. This salt is to be used on public areas, pavement and roads. Cllr Hill will check salt bins, to see whether any need replenishing and check the condition of them all. Cllr Westrope is happy assist with his trailer if we need to fill them. ITEM 5 – Road Closures- - Water lane road closure 15/12/2020 BT 15 hoursWiggens Green, Helions Bumpstead, Essex 10-25/11 county broadband |
| **20/117** | Planning Applications / Decisions – Cllr Jon Borges.\*newly Co-opted Cllr Irwin declares an interest in the next items, however as a newcomer was not expecting to comment anyway. **20/01787/FUL –Fox and Hounds** – no objection**20/01621/LBC – Fox and Hounds** – no objection**20/01758/HH – 20 Chapel Street** – This new application is for a carport (in front of the building line) for which an almost identical application was refused in 2016, due to being in a conservation zone and not wishing to make a precedent for this. There is a temporary structure on site, which is partially hidden. The Parish Council still consider the need to object on the same grounds. Cllr Borges recommend and Cllr Hill seconded, all Cllr’s in agreement – Recommend refusal (Clerk to submit this) **20/01698/FUL – The Red Lion –** the PC discussed the objections which have been submitted and reviewed the planning application. Based on planning regulations, the PC have no objection and recommend this for approval. (Clerk to submit this)**20/01692/HH – Wakelands Farm**  - no objection, recommend approval (Clerk to submit this)  |
| **20/118****20/119** | Planning Appeals**APP/Z1510/W/20/3255805** (**19/02316/PIP) - deadline 13/11/20 –** Appeal basis that BDC doesn’t have a 5 year plan, and so planning should be granted. It is outside the village envelope and there is no connection to the village. The PC have previously recommended refusal. Cllr Borges has liaised with other Cllr’s and drafted a letter for submission, which was read at the meeting and agreed the PC will submit. Cllr Borges to submit this on behalf of the Parish Council. (action was completed prior to minutes being written.) **AAP/Z1510/W/20/3258211- deadline 18/11/20**  - the old Weatherhead site. The PC commented that we liked the developer’s proposal, BDC did not and it went back and forth before going to committee and BDC rejected it. However, in the meantime the developer has taken this to appeal under grounds of non-determination. The PC would like to see this land developed, however consider there is no further action to be taken here.Finance and Administration – Chairman Cllr Barnes shared a spreadsheet with financial information as first steps in considering the budget for next year’s precept. Cllrs noted the trees at the cemetery will need a significant amount of work (however this isn’t the PC’s responsibility, but we may wish to assist financially) The closed courtyard is however our responsibility. Clerk noted all notice boards require attention /possible replacement. Clerk to circulate draft finance report/ spreadsheet for information. ITEM 1. Clerks Report – Appendix 3. Cllr Fellows proposed to accept the clerks report, Cllr Westrope Seconded this, all voted unanimously in agreement.ITEM 2. Audit Update – update provided; clarification has been requested on a couple of minor points, but well underway. ITEM 3. Website – Cllr Barnes has been updating the Facebook page. The Clerk is updating the website. We would like to work to make it more up to date and informative. Cllr Rust has cast new eyes on this and consider that it would be good to provide more information on what the PC has been doing. Councillors are invited to submit suggestions or write paragraphs / documents to be included. Cllr Girvan will update the PC address for search engines as it has incorrect information. This website will run for the next year and the PC will use that time to consider re-vamping / changing the website. Cllr Irwin will need a dedicated email address, clerk to arrange this. ITEM 4. Yellow Book deadline 13/11/20 – SBNN are adding an article, and Cllr Girvan will prepare something on behalf of the PC.  |
| **20/120** | Information Sharing – Cllr Fellows, County Broadband are due to connect but BT have said to keep an email address would cost £7.50/month. Cllr Borges – none, Cllr Irwin – none, Cllr Mackenzie – none, Cllr Girvan - none, Cllr Rust - none, Cllr Hill – none. |
| **20/121** | Next Meeting – Thursday 10th December 2020, 7.30pm Zoom CallMeeting closed at 21.55pm  |

**Actions:**

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| Action 1 | 20/114 – Cllr Irwin Co-opted. Papers to be signed/ witnessed for the new Councillor.  | Clerk & Cllr Irwin |
| Action 2 | 20/116 – Cllr Hill will survey the streetlights and the road signs with a view to reporting those needing a repair.  | Cllr Hill  |
| Action 3 | 20/116- Lighting analysis to be done and discussed at next meeting. Clerk has prepared a draft which has some data missing, this will be shared to Cllr Fellows. | Clerk |
| Action 4 | 20/116 Item 2. Assess and proceed with tree maintenance and work to brook at Humphries Meadow | Clerk & Chairman |
| Action 5 | 20/116 Item 2. Identify damaged bridge and arrange repair | Cllr Rust |
| Action 6 | 20/116 Item 2. Plan Boxing Day walk and complete a Covid-19 risk assessment | Cllr Rust |
| Action 7 | 20/116 Item 3. Check salt bins, to see whether any need replenishing and check the condition of them all. Arrange re-filling if possible | Cllr Hill |
| Action 8  | 20/117 **20/01758/HH – 20 Chapel Street –** Submit refusal**20/01698/FUL – The Red Lion –** Submit no objection, recommend approval**20/01692/HH – Wakelands Farm**  - Submit no objection, recommend approval | Clerk |
| Action 9  | 20/119 – New email address for Cllr Irwin | Clerk |
| Action 10 | 20/119 – Submit Yellow book article | Cllr Girvan |
| Action 11 | 20/119 – Update PC address for search engine searches | Cllr Girvan |

Appendix 1 - **District Councillor's Report November 2020 to Parish Council’s (Cllr. Diana Garrod - Bumpstead Ward)**

# Local Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders

The intended closure of Sages End Road, due to commence on 9th December 2020 for 9 days. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while County Broadband Ltd undertakes superfast fibre optic broadband installation.

# Covid-19 and Restrictions from Thursday 5th November 2020

The Prime Minister has announced tougher national restrictions in England to come in from Thursday 5th November. The House of Commons will vote on the regulations which, if passed, will mean that prople will only be able to leave home for specific reasons, including:

* For education;
* For work, if you cannot work from home;
* For exercise and recreation outdoors, with your household or on your own, or with one person from another household or support bubble;
* For medical reasons, appointments and to escape injury and harm;
* To shop for food and essentials
* And to provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer.

Guidance can be found at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november)

Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer said on radio that ‘The virus is spreading even faster than the reasonable worst case of our scientific advisors and the model suggested that unless we acted, we would see deaths in this country running at levels in excess of where they were in the Spring. Mortality would be far higher’.

It has been just over two weeks since Essex was placed into High local Covid-19 alert level. In the seven days to 22/10/20, there were 1,596 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Essex. This is the latest date for which complete data is available. As at 22/10/20, the weekly case rate (the number of cases recorded in the preceding seven days per 100,000 population) for Essex is 107.2, Braintree is 54.4, Uttlesford is 82.1, Colchester 117.1, Chelmsford 103.7. Numbers in the lowest age groups have flattened or declined, though the increase among older age groups is greater than the all age average. Hospital occupancy continues to increase significantly. As at 27/10/20 there were 191 beds occupied by confirmed Covid-19 patients in Essex hospital trusts. This is nearly 55% higher than one week previous (20/10/20). The East of England has had the fewest Covid cases and the lowest rate of infection in the country. However, despite that, we must follow the tough new guidelines. 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.

# Furlough Scheme Extended and Further Economic Support Announced

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended for a month with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked up to a maximum of £2,500. Under the extended scheme, the cost for employers of retaining workers will be reduced compared to the current scheme, which ended 31/10/20. This means the extended furlough scheme is more generous for employers than it was in October. In addition, business premises forced to close in England are to receive grants worth up to £3,000 per month under the Local Restrictions Support Grant. Also, £1.1bn is being given to Local Authorities, distributed on the basis of £20 per head, for one-off payments to enable them to support businesses more broadly.

# Mortgage Holidays

Mortgage payment holidays are extended. Borrowers who have been impacted by coronavirus and have not yet had a mortgage payment holiday will be entitled to a six month holiday, and those that have already started a mortgage payment holiday will be able to top up to six months without this being recorded on their credit file.

# Business Grants

Businesses required to close in England due to local or national restrictions will be eligible for the following:

* For properties with a rateable value of £15k or under, grants to be £1,334 per month, or £667 per two weeks;
* For properties with a rateable value of between £15k-£51k grants to be £2,000 per month, or £1,000 per two weeks;
* For properties with a rateable value of £51k or over grants to be £3,000 per month, or £1,500 per two weeks.

 **Illegal Rave near Ridgewell Airfield**

A huge illegal rave took place near Ridgwell Airfield on Saturday 31st October. Local residents say that cars were parked on verges along various small country lanes. Police arrived at the event around 11.30pm to assess how dangerous it was both for those attending and local residents. They ordered the attendees to leave but residents say it continued until 7.30am Sunday morning. Two people in their 20’s were treated at the scene after falling ill. A 24 year-old man remains in hospital in a life-threatening condition. A 21 year old woman, who was also rushed to hospital after becoming ill, has since been discharged. Officers confirmed that public order was maintained at the unauthorised music event. A spokesperson for Essex Police said “A decision was made to prevent further people attending and a direction

given to those present to leave … officers remained at the event to maintain public order”. Locals say that they

left a terrible mess behind and people slept in various places including fields and bus shelters. Apparently some

went into a local village shop later on Sunday morning to ask where the nearest train station was …. I expect

they had a long walk!

# How to Stop Unwanted Calls

Robocallers have increased during lockdown, as they do not rely on human call centres. Many of these calls are computer generated, making them cheap and difficult to trace. The pre-recorded messages are often designed to scare people into handing over money or personal details; this includes the Amazon Prime scan and HMRC scams. These calls will often ask you to ‘Press 1 to speak to someone’.

* BT: The free BT Call Protect service monitors nuisance calls and sends them straight to junk voicemail. BT says it blocks 99 per cent of pest calls.
* Sky: Free service Talk Shield stops fraudsters by insisting all callers provide a name.
* TalkTalk: CallSafe screens and blocks unwanted calls for free.
* Plusnet: Call Protect is free and blocks unwanted calls from a list that you can add to.
* EE: Landline customers can block up to ten numbers at a time using the free Choose to Refuse option, which bars the last call answered. Dial 14258 and press \*\* when asked to confirm.
* Virgin: You may be able to blacklist, silence or block calls, depending on your phone.
* Mobile phones: Download free apps such as Truecaller, Whoscall and Hiya to block dodgy calls and alert firms to possible scammers.
* Complain: By making a complaint about a robocall, you can help to stop them. Experts recommend directing complaints to three bodies: the ICO, by calling 0303 123 1113, visiting ico.org.uk/make-acomplaint, or writing to ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF; the Telephone Preference Service, by calling 0345 070 0707 or visiting tpsonline.org.uk/complaint; or Ofcom, by calling 0300 123 3333 or visiting ofcom.org.uk/complaint

Cllr. Diana Garrod

District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

Appendix 2



Appendix 3 – Clerks Report

