

**Steeple Bumpstead Annual Village Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021**  
**By zoom call due to COVID-19 restrictions**  
**DRAFT M I N U T E S**

**Chairman: Cllr Kerry Barnes**

**Attendees: Cllr David Finch, Cllr Jon Borges, Cllr Colin Rust, Cllr Ian Mackenzie, Cllr Sophia Girvan, Cllr John Fellows, PC James Draper and Julia Howard (Parish clerk).**

**Members of the Public/ Speakers (by approximate number only): 6**

**Total attendees: 15**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Hill, Cllr Diana Garrod & Lady Rosella Taylor.

**2. Welcome from the Chairman – See Appendix 1 for the PowerPoint of the AVM.**

The chairman introduced himself and welcomed the participants, then ran through some brief rules of engagement to ensure the meeting proceeds well. Minutes from the last meeting were circulated 2 years ago, Cllr Borges proposed to accept these as a true reflection of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Girvan

**3. Catesby Estates Presentation – Haverhill Vales**

This presentation is available from the Parish Council and on the website for you to review. Ed Barrett talked us through a high-level presentation explaining the proposal for development on the border of Haverhill. The earliest point for this development to progress is 2027.

**4. County & District Councillor's reports**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Finch for all the work he has done in and for our Village and wished him well in his future endeavours as he steps down from 20 years of being a County Councillor

Cllr Finch spoke about Essex County Council being in the top 10 of County Councils. 90% of Essex Schools are rated as Good or above and 96% of applicants got their first or second choice of school. Rolling out broadband across Essex.

In 2019 ECC set up a Climate Commission, under the chairmanship of Lord Randall and have been exploring their ideas and proposals, which has produced an ambitious report aiming to bring the County Council into being Carbon Neutral well before the Governments planned date. Rolling out LED lighting, switching to more environmentally friendly building options and making school extensions carbon neutral.

A full report will be provided to the Parish Council after the purdah period has elapsed.

An education task force has been set up to bring up education standards. 4 Community projects of £125k each will go to communities who want to bid for this money for Carbon Footprint reducing projects.

Cllr Finch went on to speak of Policing and grants being provided and the construction of a new railway station and railway line for the Beaulieu Park developments in Chelmsford.

Cllr Garrod sends apologies but the Chairman summarised her report (please see appendix 2 for the full report)

May elections are on 6<sup>th</sup> May, and include the Police and Fire Commissioner elections. Voters are asked to bring their own pen or pencil please as a COVID safety measure.

Business restart grants are available via BDC.

Covid twice weekly lateral flow tests are free to everyone in the UK, to break the train of transmission.

#### 4. Chairman's report

The chairman discussed each of his PowerPoint slides, firstly starting with how money has been spent, explaining also that the Parish Council have been working hard to save funds towards repair / replacement of the Church yard wall which is expected to cost many thousands of pounds (quoted up to £75k) as it is a listed wall.

He then moved on to what has happened over the last 2 years. Lots of the Fido bins were replaced and 2 new ones were installed with our thanks to the hard work of Cllr Peter Hill.

3 large horse chestnut trees on the Camping close are now going to have an inspection and survey by an arborculturalist who has already been appointed. Camping Close play equipment has had significant repair works done, our thanks to Cllr Mackenzie for his efforts here, which continue with regular risk assessments and planning for new pieces of equipment and general maintenance.

Footpaths and green areas are trimmed regularly, and the Dedham Vale volunteers and Steeple Bumpstead Wildlife and Environment Group help to keep it looking wonderful.

Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Network (SBNN), The Parish Council were involved in the starting of this, but Catherine Condie will tell you more shortly.

Water Lane development update– Cllr Borges, Cllr Fellows and Cllr Barnes form the Planning Group and make comment on applications unless there is a clear reason why it is inappropriate and then advise to reject the application.

Litter picking and bin emptying, the Village Wombles and our handyman help to keep this under control, all working hard.

The Church yard wall is in need of remediation works, the PC have been unsuccessful in getting a grant for this, but will approach this with renewed vigour in the coming year.

Cllr Rust, one of our newer Councillors has undertaken to survey all the footpath signs around the village and is in the position to start replacing / repairing these in the coming year.

Street lights, Cllr Fellows led on the project to update our PC owned street lights to LED lamps, approx. 2 years ago, ahead of the County Councils project. A number of vehicles are causing a noise nuisance and likely driving too fast, the Chairman is working with a group of other Parish Councils to tackle this problem. We are considering noise activated cameras. This is an ongoing project.

The Parish Council website is undergoing improvement and the clerk can now add things here. The PC also has a Facebook page which the Chairman usually updates and Cllr Irwin is going to be leading on our Social Engagement working group.

*Dave Kuyper raised a point that the vegetation on the north side is becoming over grown towards the graves. The PC undertakes the minimum, to cut the grass, as we have no duty to do so. Rev Johnathan mentioned he is aware of this but not sure where the earth came from – the scouts would like to help deal with this and will liaise with each other.*

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for all their efforts, they all volunteer their time and do a really wonderful job.

#### 5. Presentation from Guest Speakers

**PC James Draper – The community Engagement and Safety team.** Introduced himself and said he welcomes contact from the Parish Council, especially to ‘truth check’ any rumours or things that are seen on social media.

This year the **Bumpstead Ward** has had 95 incidents / calls compared to 103 last year. This year 109 crimes compared to 123 crimes last year. A trend downwards. He then asked for any further questions – there were none.

**Catherine Condie – Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Network (SBNN)** - shared a presentation (see appendix 4) and explained how SBNN began and

some information and statistics about what has gone on in the past year. With thanks to Cllr Garrod for the DC Grant, and the PC for supporting SBNN. SBNN is having difficulty accessing the patient's forum as they have some suggestions and would like to be involved more with Unity.

**The Steeple Chasers Running Group – Kerry Barnes.** The group have been unable to do anything this year. The 10k was cancelled, but the year before (2019) there were 598 participants, the most they have ever had. A great event for the village and provides useful funds for the preschool.

**The Bowls Club – Dave Kuyper** – although the club has been closed, improvements have been made and a new storage container has been sourced. 20 new trees and 20 new hedging plants were planted, a new flag pole with a Steeple Bumpstead Bowls flag flying has been installed and a sit on roller purchased to help with the Green. There are plans for a new patio. There have been meetings by Zoom and hoping to resume play from mid-May but the club house will remain closed for the moment.

The Bowls Club is Open for new members and looking forward to meeting you.

**Revd Sophia Girvan – Congregational Church** – please see the report in Appendix 5. Revd Girvan spoke about their YouTube channel and the changes the past year has seen and now having re-opened the congregational church.

**Cavell Community Choir - Revd Theresa Lowe** – the choir hasn't been able to meet and to sing together but the sense of community has been wonderful. When we can meet again, we will do, on Tuesday evenings 8-9pm at St Mary's Church.

**1<sup>st</sup> Steeple Bumpstead Scout Group - Chris Bailey** – please see appendix 6 for the report.

Regular Zoom Scout meetings have been a success, unfortunately it hasn't been possible to deliver Beaver meetings by zoom.

Cubs have been engaged by working away from screens to earn badges, which is great as they have been engaged on screens for much of their lockdown schooling.

**Steeple Wombles – Debbie Hartshorn** – we have a new litter picking group! Over the lockdown we have noticed an increase in litter and as a keen walker Debbie wanted to help to clear it up and keep it tidy. The Parish Council has provided equipment and the Wombles have been using WhatsApp to keep in touch and plan the cleaning.

The main concern is fly tipping at 3 laybys surrounding the village. If you see this happening, please report it.

More volunteers are welcome, regular or adhoc are both welcome.

**Revd Jonathan Lowe – St Mary’s Church** Echoing much of what Sophia has said, we wanted to bring together the six churches across our local area. We have embraced zoom, but also continued with other options and for those wanting to see the zoom but without zoom access we have been able to drop off a DVD or audio version for them to use in their own home.

Coffee mornings continued by zoom.

With the Church being closed we were able to progress the works and now have a working toilet in place.

We open again this Sunday but will continue with zoom as we have reached more people and picked up an extra parish.

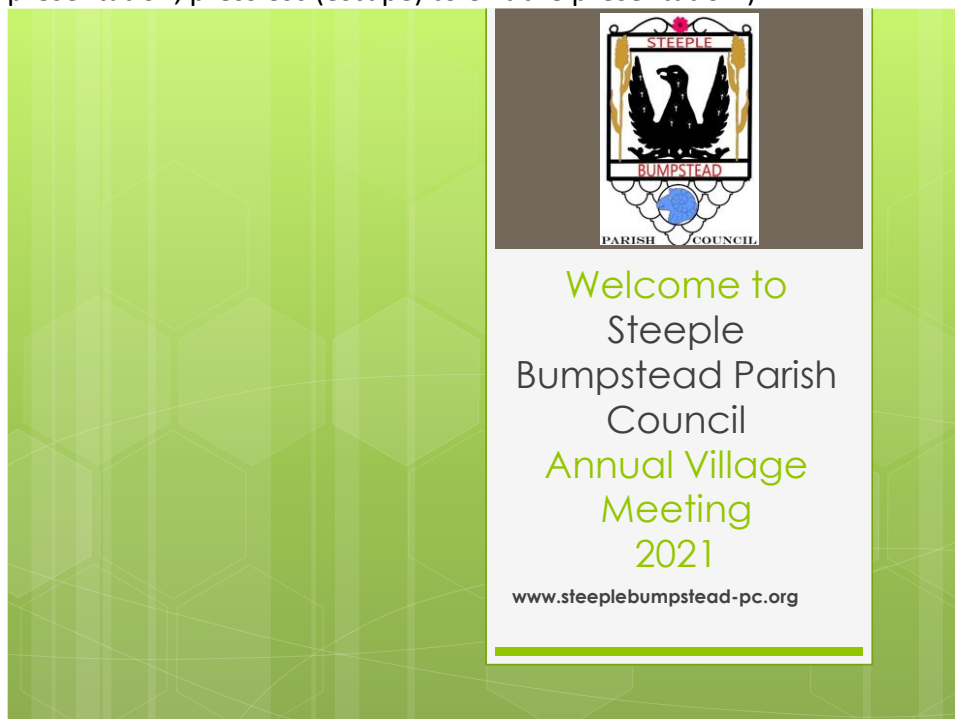
**Reports for absent speakers – please see reports within the presentation (appendix 1).**

7. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022

8. Chairman closed the meeting at 21.34

By saying that what really comes through in this meeting is what a lovely community this is and we are all a bit better at IT now too. We are looking forward to being able to meet in person as normality resumes.

Appendix 1 – PowerPoint Presentation of the AVM (click on the image to enter the presentation, press esc (escape) to exit the presentation.)



## Appendix 2 - District Councillors report



DC report 09.04.21 SB,H,B.pdf

## Appendix 3 – Haverhill Vales Report



Catesby Estates Haverhill Presentation April 2021.pdf

## Appendix 4 – SBNN Report



- Launched 12 April 2020
- 3 village leaflet drops, 15 village posters
- 3 focused WhatsApp groups for volunteers
- 278 Facebook Group members, 641 information posts, 529 comments
- Links with Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council, Braintree DC, Essex CC, Essex Coronavirus Action, Citizens' Advice Bureau, St Mary's Steeple Bumpstead, and more

- Publication of Network Guidelines and online Safeguarding training for volunteers
- Grant funding support from Braintree District Council for IT and other projects
- Dedicated email and telephone line, working alongside the street volunteer system

Steeple Bumpstead  
Neighbourhood Network 

## Appendix 5 – The Congregational Church



Congregationl Church AVM report april 2021.pdf

## Appendix 6 - Scouts Speaker Report



1st Steeple Bumpstead Scout Group Report to SB Village Hall Meeting 2021.pdf