



**Action:** The leader of Braintree District Council, Cllr Graham Butland, has still not responded to a letter from the Chairman asking for clarification of his offer of funding. This will be followed up

**5.3 Woodyard, Station Road:** The Chairman updated Councillors on the actions taken to identify the owner of the property and to secure the site at Station Road, following damage to fences and trespass at the site. The police have been informed and asked to keep an eye on the location on their patrols

**5.4 Tree and hedge clearance, Sudbury Road.** Concerns had been raised about large scale clearance of mature trees and hedges. This has been reported to Braintree District Council and then to the Forestry Commission who are investigating, as the area cleared is in excess of the legal amount allowed without a felling licence.

## 6. HIGHWAYS

**6.1 Station Road pedestrian crossing:** Cllr Finch confirmed that the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Station Road near Hedingham School is being chased up.

**6.2 Drainage issues:** Anglian Water work at Sudbury Hill and St James Street is underway. Other blocked drain issues including Queen Street and Station Road have been reported to Essex Highways

**6.3 Retaining wall, Queen Street footpath:** This work was scheduled for March 2020 but has not been started. Cllr Finch agreed to chase this up with Essex Highways

**6.4 Bollard request, Falcon Square:** Following damage for the second time by a delivery vehicle to a house in Falcon Square, the clerk has requested guidance from Essex Highways through Cllr Finch about possible installation of a protective bollard at the corner of Falcon Square and Castle Lane.

## 7. REPORTS

**7.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch:** A recent Police report will be forwarded to Councillors.

**7.2 Essex CC report:** Cllr D Finch ECC reported:

- **National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Tee network upgrade:** Cllr Finch and other Essex & Suffolk Councillors attended a meeting with National Grid last week. There may be plans to put cables underground in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but supersized pylons are planned for the rest of the route, including phase 2 which will eventually go as far as Rayleigh. He questioned why cables cannot be run under the sea from Ipswich to Southend and also raised this option at a meeting with Essex MPs. See also item 11
- **Laptop schemes** have given 5000 children in the county laptops for home schooling. An extensive testing programme is underway to enable children to return to school safely.
- **Essex Climate Action Commission** strategy is being prepared to enable Essex to be carbon neutral by 2030. The UK Government target is 2050
- **Beaulieu Park station.** £300million has been granted by UK Government to build a railway station outside Chelmsford serving new homes and linking with Witham, Braintree and Liverpool Street.
- **A120/A133 extension planned** together with a Rapid Transport System in the Colchester area to ease traffic congestion has been granted £90million funding

**7.3 Braintree DC report:** Cllr Beavis apologised for absence due to a conflicting meeting at Sible Hedingham. Cllr Johnson reported:

- **National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Tee network upgrade:** he will be attending meetings about the proposals but is pleased to see there are no plans for a substation in Castle Hedingham.
- **Riverside Walk Sible Hedingham.** There are ongoing discussions with Sible Hedingham Parish Council and BDC planning officers. It now appears that the surfacing of the walk is not the responsibility of Bloor Homes, but there is funding available and the situation looks promising.
- **Kirby Hall Road, Four Winds:** Concerns have been raised about caravans being used as permanent accommodation, also noise disturbance from racing quad bikes. The clerk said that questions had been raised with BDC planning enforcement who had replied to say they would not accept any more reports without different evidence. The Chairman asked Cllr Johnson if he could raise this with BDC directly.
- **Local Plan:** Section 1 was adopted in February and it is now hoped that BDC can move on quickly with Section 2
- **Crouch Green verges:** Vehicles are continuing to damage the greensward at Crouch Green.
- **Verge Cutting:** No reply has been received from BDC about proposals to cut verges only once a year in autumn. The Parish Council has asked to be informed of the scheduled dates of any cut of the

protected verge at Edeys Lane so that volunteers can rake away cuttings promptly to protect rare plant species. Cllr Johnson will follow this up with the cabinet member involved.

## 8. PLANNING

### *Applications received*

**21/00422/FUL** Erection of new barn to replace demolished barn following a fire  
Milestone Barns Sudbury Road CO9 3AD *No objections*

**21/00155/HH** Side Extension and Alterations to existing dwelling.  
7 Park Vale Close CO9 3DS *No objections*

### *Applications determined:*

**20/02003/FUL** Subdivision of the site and creation of a new dwelling  
The Coach House Rear Of 37 St James Street CO9 3EW *Application REFUSED*

**20/01676/HH & 20/01677/LBC** Application for a dropped kerb to create new access following removal of existing low brick wall.  
120 Nunnery Street CO9 3DR *Application PERMITTED*

## 9. FINANCE

**9.1** The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation. The bank reconciliation was checked and signed via email by Cllr Gransden.

**Proposed:** Cllr Veater                      **Seconded:** Cllr Toocaram                      Agreed unanimously

Mar-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£28.00
DD	Invoco (GOCARDLESS)	Portable telephone number	£1.39
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office March	£75.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses Feb 8th to March 8th	£115.87
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£11.40
B/P	M D Landscapes	Cemetery level graves and lay turf	£150.00
B/P	Janitorial Direct Limited	Toilet Rolls and Disinfectant	£104.00
B/P	Darkins Supply Stores	Village Maintenance & Public Toilets	£63.60
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£549.26</b>

Mar-21	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£0.00</b>

Feb-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£31.23
DD	Bulb	Electricity Toilets	£18.36
DD	Invoco (GOCARDLESS)	Portable telephone number	£1.48
DD	B&CE Holdings	Peoples Pension	£67.80
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,531.70
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office February	£75.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses Jan 11th to Feb 8th	£28.89
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£11.40
B/P	Abacus Accountancy	Payroll Oct, Nov, Dec 2020	£43.20
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£1,809.06</b>



pursued in the new proposals, and no further pylons are proposed in Castle Hedingham. See also ECC report and BDC report item 7.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

**EALC: Micro Grant Communication & Technology Support Fund launch.** Grants of up to £500 are available to help support grass roots organisations responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, who largely rely on volunteers to deliver their projects and have no infrastructure to support communications and technology.

**EALC: Youth Engagement Conference 9.30am-2.30pm 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom, cost £50+VAT**  
The attendance of at least one Councillor would be welcomed.

**Action:** The clerk will forward details of the conference to Cllr Dover who offered to attend.

## 13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Agenda items for the April meeting to be notified to the clerk by 9am on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: All meetings to be held via Video Conferencing until further notice**

<b>Monday 12th April 2021</b>	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Zoom video conferencing
<b>Monday 10th May 2021</b>	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
<b>May 2021</b>	7.30pm	Annual Parish Assembly	Event to be confirmed

**The meeting closed at 8.55pm**

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE