

Dear Parishioners

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Report

The Parish Council would like to invite you to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday May 17th at 8.00 pm** at the **Memorial Hall**, Castle Hedingham. Please find below a summary of the Parish Council activities during the past year:

Public Forum

The Parish Council has a Public Forum as the first agenda item at each meeting. The Councillors invite you to take the opportunity to address the Council on any issues you may have.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council reviews and comments on all planning applications made within the village boundary. They make recommendations to Braintree District Council Planning but all final decisions are made by Braintree. Details can be found on Braintree District Council's website.

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/planning/ViewPlanningApplicationsOnline.htm>

The Parish Council have been asked by Braintree to provide their views on the village envelope and identify whether any land should be re-designated for development or as open spaces. The Council has taken the view that it generally opposes new development in and around the village and it noted that considerable new housing development had taken place since the 1950s with 12 new houses being added to village housing stock in the recent past.

Cemetery

Repairs were carried out to a damaged grave during the year. The taps were replaced and general works were carried out to improve the appearance of the cemetery.

It is now necessary to carry out repairs to St Nicholas Church cemetery and the Parish Council is obtaining quotations for this work.

Adoption of the BT Telephone Box in St James Street.

The Parish Council have purchased the BT kiosk in St James Street and have agreed with the Bell Inn Phone Box Committee to transfer operational responsibility of the kiosk to them. They intend to refurbish the kiosk and make use of it to provide services to the village and its visitors.

BT has advised that they will be removing the telephone kiosk in Nunnery Street.

Registration of Village Greens.

The Parish Council has registered Forge Green, Chapel Green, Pye Green and Crouch Green as Village Greens with the Land Registry. The registration of Rushley Green is in progress.

Footpath Maps

The village footpath maps have proved very successful and a new reprint of 2000 was necessary this year. Essex County Council and Greenfields both made a donation to cover part of the printing cost.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Preparations

A new bench has been bought and will be installed on Forge Green with a plaque celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. An oak has been planted in the cemetery with a plaque. A beacon has been bought and will be lit as part of the nationwide event on 4 June. The beacon will be located on Rushley Green Farm.

National Grid Proposals

Throughout the year a number of meetings have been held to discuss the National Grid's proposals to build a new sub-station and erect additional pylons. The Parish Council has joined with Braintree District Council and Essex County Council in rejecting the pylons for the alternative option of undergrounding. The major concern remains that two out of three proposed locations for the sub-station are within Castle Hedingham and the most probable site is on the A1071 near Colne Valley Steam Railway because of access considerations. The proposed sub-station may be the size of two football playing fields and approximately 40 feet high.

Police Support

The police station at Great Yelham has been closed as part of the Essex Police Force restructuring and cost cutting exercise. Therefore Castle Hedingham is now supported by Hedingham and Yeldham Neighbourhood Policing Team who are located at Halstead Police Station in Trinity Street. The new team of Belinda Ruffle and Kim Chapman have introduced themselves to the Parish Council and will now make regular reports at the monthly parish council meeting. They can be contacted by telephone on the numbers listed below or by email at belinda.ruffle@essex.pnn.police.uk or kim.chapman@essex.pnn.police.uk

Yours sincerely,

Sonia Allfrey
Chairman

Donations

The Council made the following donations in the 2011/12 Financial Year: Castle Hedingham Parish Magazine - On-going operational costs - £400; British Legion - Wreath - £60; Castle Hedingham Tennis Club - Equipment and training of juniors - £300; St Nicholas Church - repair of church clock - £1000; St Nicholas Church - for the distribution of parish booklet - £100.

Accounts

Below is a summary of the Parish Council income and expenditure for 2011/12. Copies of the full accounts will be available at the annual Meeting and are displayed in the St James Street notice board near Buckley Tearooms.

Income:

Precept and Parish Support	£28,548.00
Other Grant Income	£4179.03
Burials	£2906.00
VAT recovered	£1,298.93
Other Income	£4728.51
Total	£41,660.47

Expenditure:

Village Maintenance	£18,255.48
Administration	£10,240.79
Donations	£1086.00
Other Payments	£4,776.27
Total	£35,132.54
Net Income	£6,527.93
	£41,660.47

Contacting the Council:

A/Chairman

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Southern
37 Bayley Street
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Tel. 01787 461108

Parish Clerk

Mr K M King
The Cottages, Coppingdown Farm
Sudbury Road
Castle Hedingham
CO9 3AG
Tel. 01787 463482

Other useful Numbers

Braintree District Council	01376 552525
Braintree District Council Environment (Fly Tipping)	01376 552525
Essex County Council	08457 430 430
Essex County Council Highways	0845 603 7622
Street Lighting Outages (Bowmans Park and Allfrey Court)	0845 6037631
Street Lighting Outages (New Park)	please contact the Parish Clerk
Hedingham Police Community Support Officers	101 ext. 407102 or 07855781127