



Castle Hedingham Parish Council

May 2015

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Report

You are invited to attend our **Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday May 21st at 8.00 pm** at the **Memorial Hall**. Our activities over the past year are summarised in this report.

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are held monthly on a Monday evening at the Castle Hedingham Club, starting at 7.45pm. There is a Public Forum as the first agenda item at each meeting, when parishioners are very welcome to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any matter that they wish to bring to the Parish Council's attention. Alternatively you can contact the Clerk on castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com or on 07845 056597 to report any items or concerns. The agenda for each meeting is posted a week in advance on our village noticeboards, and on our website at www.castlehedingham.org

Parish Councillors

Sonia Allfrey, our Chairman since 2003, is retiring after many years' service to the Parish Council. Her skills in managing the team will be greatly missed. The death of Councillor Jackie Hart was a sad loss to all who knew her. We are delighted to welcome two new Councillors to the new term in May; Mr Trevor Hood and Mrs Jill Tocaram.

Magna Carta 2015

In June 1215 Robert de Vere of Castle Hedingham, one of the 25 rebel barons, forced King John to accept fundamental principles of democracy and law. Over the next 800 years this contributed to the basis of modern democratic government all over the world. Parish Councillors and other members of the Magna Carta Committee have created an exciting programme of events and activities to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. A heritage walk linking the castles at Clare and Hedingham launched on **April 25th**, with over 140 people taking part. On **14th May** you can learn more about our rebel baron when our local historian Charles Bird gives a talk at the Memorial Hall, starting at 7.45pm. From **13th June to 24th July** our new Magna Carta 2015 village embroidery and exhibition will be on display at St Nicholas' Church, and will then move to Hedingham Castle. Riotous Assembly, our talented local music group, will perform "Magna Carta and All That" on **13th June** at St Nicholas' Church at 7.30pm. On **June 14th** there will be LiberTEAS at the church and a peal of bells to mark the signing of Magna Carta. A performance of "Chaucer Made Modern" by the Castle Players with the Essex Girls runs from **18th to 20th June**, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. And finally, we are all invited to the Magna Carta Mid-Summer Medieval Picnic & De Vere School Pageant on **21st June**, at Hedingham Castle, 12.00 noon-5.00pm - look out for your free entry ticket in the Parish Magazine. All details are on the website at www.castlehedingham.org

High Speed Broadband

The application by County Broadband to install a transmitter on St Nicholas' Church is in its final stages. We hope to shortly be able to bring news of their wireless high speed broadband service to all interested parishioners.

Castle Hedingham Post Office and Surgeries

There was good news this year as our village Post Office found a new home next door to Buckley's, and the surgeries succeeded in retaining their ability to dispense to residents. The Parish Council believes these services are vital to the life of our village.

Colne Valley Railway

The Parish Council is keen to support the Colne Valley Railway in their aim to stay at their current site, or find a suitable alternative site locally. Their contribution to the history, community and economy of our village is highly valued and would be huge loss to the parish. The Parish Council will strongly oppose any proposed development on the land occupied by the railway.

Braintree District Planning Policy

The Parish Council comments on all planning applications before final decisions are made by BDC. Braintree District Council's Local Plan has been delayed due to government's demand for new housing allocation. The Local Plan will determine areas in the village which can be used for building development over the next 15 years, and areas which are to be kept as open spaces. A list and maps of sites submitted in the recent call for sites can be viewed at https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/planning_policy/701/new_local_plan/3

BDC Waste Collections and Parish Sweeps

You will all know that the waste collection days have changed to Tuesdays for the narrow roads in the centre of the village and Mondays for everyone else. This has caused some confusion with residents and dustmen, and the Parish Council is in discussion with BDC about improving the service. The Parish Sweep schedules are sent to the Parish Clerk in April every year, and the dates are posted on www.castlehedingham.org, so that residents may move their cars to enable our kerbsides and drains to be cleaned.

Village Maintenance

Again this year we would like to thank Mortimers, our village contractor, for emptying the village waste bins, litter picking, grass cutting and other village maintenance jobs. The Parish Council would appreciate the support of all residents in keeping local areas clean and tidy. We are having problems with overloaded street waste bins particularly at St James Street by the phone box. These can't cope with large volumes of litter, which should be taken home and put in household grey bins or recycling sacks.

Daily 333 bus service to Sudbury

Sible Hedingham Parish Council has funded a new Monday to Friday bus service between Great Yeldham and Sudbury. 3 buses a day now go to and from Sudbury, stopping at Memories and Bowmans Park. Please support this service if you can to keep it going.

Police Support

Further cuts to police services means we see less of our local police officers on the street, and they are not able to attend meetings or deliver reports. Local crime statistics are reported at the end of each month at http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/braintree_district/hedingshams/hedingshams-2.aspx Halstead Police can be contacted by telephone on 101, and as always use 999 for emergencies.

Grants and Donations

The War Memorials Trust awarded us a grant of over £12,000 this year, to be paid on completion of the works. A lottery fund grant of £9,700 was awarded towards the Magna Carta 2015 celebrations, and a grant of £2250 towards the Magna Carta village embroidery. The Parish Council made the following donations in the 2014/15 Financial Year: Castle Heddingham Tennis Club for repair of wall: £4,000, Magna Carta 2015 celebrations: £1000, Memorial Hall for new sound system: £1000; British Legion Remembrance Wreath - £60.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Worley
Vice-Chairman

Accounts

The Parish Council precept was calculated this year to represent a 0% increase in our share of the Council Tax. The budget agreed by the Parish Council this year reflects current economic difficulties, and priority will continue to be given to matters of importance to our parishioners. Copies of the full accounts are available at the Annual Meeting, are displayed in the St James Street notice board near Buckley's Tearooms and on the website at www.castlehedingham.org.

Summary of Parish Council income and expenditure for 2014/15 (including Magna Carta 2015 funds which will be spent during the 2015/16 financial year):

Income:	
Precept and Localism Fund	£28,038.00
Other Grant Income	£17,145.63
Cemetery Income	£3,771.00
VAT recovered	£2,646.32
Other Income	£753.05
Total	£52,354.00
Expenditure:	
Village Maintenance	£10,470.35
Wages/Administration	£13,421.17
Magna Carta 2015 funding	£12,925.00
Other Donations	£5,060.00
VAT	£1,972.25
Total	£43,848.77
Net Income	£8,505.23
	£52,354.00

Contacting the Council:

Vice Chairman

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Parish Clerk

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District Councillors:

Mrs J Beavis	07771 984365	cll.r.jbeavis@braintree.gov.uk
Mr H Johnson	01787 463991	cll.r.hjohnson@braintree.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Mr David Finch	07834 252070	cll.r.david.finch@essex.gov.uk
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Other useful contacts:

Braintree District Council	01376 552525
View or comment on planning applications at: http://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications	
BDC Environment (Fly Tipping)	01376 552525
Essex County Council	08457 430 430/01245 430 430
Essex County Council Highways	0845 603 7631 (24 hours)
or https://secureweb1.essexcc.gov.uk/Highways/Report-a-highway-problem.aspx	
Street Lighting (Bowmans Park)	Greenfields: 01376 535 400
Street Lighting (Abbey Cottages/Alfrey Court)	Flagship Housing: 0808 168 4555
Street Lighting (4 street lights along New Park)	please contact the Parish Clerk
Halstead Police	101 ext. 407102