

Castle Hedingham Parish Council Annual Report 2017



Our **ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING** of the Parish Council will be held this year on **TUESDAY MAY 9TH** starting at 8pm at the Memorial Hall. **Please come along** to hear about the work of the Parish Council over the past year, to meet your Councillors and share your views about village life in Castle Hedingham.

In April we unveiled our **Talking Bench** in its permanent home at St Nicholas' Churchyard with support from Heritage Lottery funding and the Essex Records office. It plays three reminiscences about village life from local residents, and these can be added to in the future.

A **Memorial Bench** is being installed at Churchfield behind Bowman's Park, where walkers can sit beneath the oak trees planted in memory of past Parish Council Chairmen James "Bram" Buckley-Saxon and Alan Shaw.



The Parish Council awarded a total of £173.50 in grants; £60 for the Remembrance Wreath, £13.50 for Neighbourhood Watch printing costs and £100 to the British Legion. Already agreed for 2017–18 is to grant £400 to the Bowls Club to improve the toilets, and an

amount to be confirmed to the Cricket Club to renovate the cricket square.

Individuals or organisations can apply for a grant, as long the funding will be of direct benefit to a part or the whole of the village community. Please send a letter or email to the Parish Clerk stating your request and how the funding will benefit the people of Castle Hedingham. Our Grant Awarding policy can be found on the website www.castlehedingham.org



Parish Council meetings are normally on the 4th Monday every month at Castle Hedingham Club, starting at 7.45pm. There is a **Public Forum** at each meeting when parishioners can speak for up to 3 minutes each on any matter that they wish to bring to the Parish Council's

attention. You can also contact the Clerk on 07845 056597 or at castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com to report any items or concerns. **The agenda** is posted a week in advance on our village noticeboards, and on our website at www.castlehedingham.org. **Minutes** of meetings and other Parish Council documents are also available on the website. **Everyone is welcome.**

Braintree District Council's Local Plan was published for full public consultation during June/July 2016. The final version of the Local Plan should be completed in 2018 and will determine which sites may be allocated for housing development during the period until 2033. More information can be found at www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/planning_policy/701/new_local_plan

The Parish Council is still trying to find a resolution to the lack of children's play facilities in the village. Despite objections from Councillors, as part of the Local Plan process Braintree District Council has removed the "informal recreation" designation from the land they own at New Park. However we are still hoping for support from BDC and will be actively pursuing this option.

Road re-surfacing took place this year – despite some communication problems at the start of the work this has been a great improvement. This year the Parish Council has requested a speed survey at Sudbury Hill and at Nunnery Street, both of which showed generally good compliance with speed limits. We have had good support from a Customer Services officer at Essex Highways which has improved communication. Please report any problems including potholes, blocked drains or pavement damage to Highways at <http://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>



Adam Redgewell looks after our **Village Maintenance** and this year has been joined by Alan Henry who occasionally helps Adam and also looks after the **Public Toilets**. If anyone notices a particular area of the village which needs attention could they please inform the Parish Clerk on 07845 056597 or at castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com. Our **Grass Cutting contractor**, Luke Pharaoh of M D Landscapes looks after the village greens, the playing field and the cemetery. We thank them all for their reliability and hard work.



We plan to organise another **Village Litter Pick** this year in May or June. Last year we spent a Sunday morning collecting over 20 bags of rubbish. Coffee/tea and cakes will be provided for volunteers at Castle Hedingham Club following the litter pick. Any volunteers will be most welcome to join us, look out for further details on noticeboards and the website.

High Speed Broadband should now be available for most central parts of the village through BT Fibre. There are still plans for a wireless broadband service to be transmitted from the tower at St Nicholas Church, this will hopefully reach those outlying parts of the village such as Rushley Green.

Our **Neighbourhood Watch** is in need of a new village co-ordinator to organise occasional informal meetings and keep other local NW volunteers informed of information and events. Please help keep the scheme going in the village – it would be good to hear from anyone who would like to be involved.

Our **Bingham Pottery Collection** is now in its permanent home in a smart display cabinet at Castle Heddingham Club and looks particularly effective when lit up. The Club will be pleased to welcome anyone who wishes to see it, contact the Parish Clerk to arrange a visit if the Club is closed.



The Parish Council accounts for 2016/2017 are summarised below. Copies of the full accounts are available at the Annual Parish Meeting, displayed in the St James Street notice board and on the website at www.castleheddingham.org

The precept is the Parish Council share of the Council Tax. The Localism Fund grant from Braintree District Council will reduce to zero by 2019/2020. The government may introduce referendum principles next year which would mean small parishes have to pay for a referendum to increase precepts by more than 2%. The Parish Council anticipated the reduction in funding by requesting a 5% increase in the precept this year which means an increase for a Band D property of 5p per household per week.

Grant income includes BDC street cleaning and ECC grass cutting grants. A grant of £150 was also received this year to cover the cost of the clerk's CiLCA registration as a qualified clerk.

INCOME	£
Precept and Localism Fund	27,399.00
Other Grant Income	5,495.97
Cemetery Income	5,140.00
VAT recovered	7,415.17
Other Income	4,132.81
Total	49,582.95
EXPENDITURE	
Village Maintenance	16,373.85
Village Infrastructure	3,317.24
Clerk, Administration etc	16,421.93
Magna Carta 2015 spending	1,187.37
Grants/Donations	173.50
VAT	2,702.11
Total	40,176.00
Net Income	9,406.95

Parish Council and other useful contact details:

Chairman

Mr Garry Southgate

14 Crown Street CO9 3DB

01787 461638

garry.southgate@icloud.com

Parish Clerk

Mrs Claire Waters

25 Bayley Street CO9 3DG

07845 056597

castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com

District Councillors

Mrs Jo Beavis

07771 984365

cllr.jbeavis@braintree.gov.uk

Mr Hylton Johnson

01787 463991

cllr.hjohnson@braintree.gov.uk

Braintree District Council

01376 552525

BDC planning applications:

<http://publicaccess.braintree.gov.uk/online-applications>

BDC Environment (fly tipping)

01376 552525

County Councillor

Mr David Finch

07834 252070

cllr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council

08457 430 430/01245 430 430

Essex Highways

0845 603 7631 (24 hrs)

<http://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>

Street Lighting

Bowmans Park

Greenfields: 01376 535 400

Abbey Cottages/Allfrey Court

Flagship Housing: 0808 168 4555

4 street lights New Park

please contact the Parish Clerk

Emergency Numbers

Braintree District Police

101 (or 999 for emergencies)

https://www.essex.police.uk/contact_us/online_services/report_non-emergency_crime.aspx

Essex Police Community

Messaging

<https://www.essex.police.uk/contact-us/essex-community-messaging/>

Anglian Water – report a leak

0800 771 881 (24 hrs)

<http://inyourarea.digdat.co.uk/AnglianWater>

UK Power Networks - power cuts and emergencies

0800 316 3105 (24 hrs)

<http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/power-cuts/report-it/>