



Castle Hedingham Parish Council Annual Report 2019

**Please come to our
ANNUAL PUBLIC ASSEMBLY
at the Memorial Hall on WEDNESDAY MAY 22ND starting at 7.00 for 7.30pm.**

Village groups and clubs have again been invited to join us this year, and there will be an informal get together with light refreshments after the meeting. Please join us to hear about the work of the Parish Council over the past year and share news and views about our village of Castle Hedingham. Our District and County Councillors also plan to attend.

THE ROLE OF YOUR PARISH COUNCIL IS TO:

- Represent the views of the people who live in Castle Hedingham
- Raise issues of public concern with other authorities, for example Braintree District Council, Essex County Council and Essex Police
- Comment on planning applications and other proposals which affect the village – Braintree Planning has the final say on all planning applications
- Provide and/or maintain public areas and facilities, including the public toilets
- Maintain grassed areas, village greens, footpaths and roadside verges, some on behalf of Essex County Council
- Keep streets clean and collect litter on behalf of Braintree District Council
- Maintain the closed churchyard at St Nicholas Church, and carry out repairs and maintenance to the church clock
- Manage and maintain the cemetery at Sheepcot Road
- Undertake other projects and obtain grant funding to support the parish, e.g. the Community Access Defibrillators

All our Parish Councillors are volunteers. There are three Parish Council staff; Claire who is Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, and our two Village Maintenance Operatives Adam and Alan. Alan also looks after the public toilets daily. A local grass cutting contractor mows the village green areas, St Nicholas Churchyard and the cemetery. If you notice any area of the village which needs attention, please contact the Parish Clerk.

We look forward to the coming year when our biggest project will be to develop a Community Open Space next to the Village Hall and Social Club. Our most urgent priority is to install a play area for children and young families, but we are working to integrate plans for the whole space so it is well used and enjoyed by everyone.

Our work in 2018 to 2019 included the completion of the Memorial Avenue of trees at Sheepcot Road and installation of a Memorial board at the Cemetery in remembrance of those men of the village who gave their lives in the two world wars. We have developed better communication with local police officers who have successfully dealt with criminal activity in the village. We continue to represent the village in Highways matters and planning issues and with your support aim to ensure Castle Hedingham keeps pace with modern life without losing its special charm and character.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Following the retirement of Cllrs Ian Higgins, John Philp, Miles Scrivens and Rob Worley and the recent unexpected loss of Cllr Lynne Moffat, there is a different team at the Parish Council from May 2019. We are grateful to Rob Worley who will continue to support the Parish Council as tree warden. We thank all retiring Councillors for their many years of committed service and support for the parish, and greatly mourn the loss of our dear friend and colleague Lynne.

From May 2019 your Parish Councillors will be:

Penny Doe, landlady of the Bell Inn and new Councillor from May 2019

Trevor Hood, resident of Pottery Lane. Current Chairman of Playing Field Committee. Parish Council representative on the committee of Castle Hedingham Club.

Garry Southgate, resident of Crown Street. Parish Council Chairman and member of Playing Field group, Planning Committee and Burial Board.

Tony Tassell, resident of Park Vale Close and new Councillor from May 2019

Jill Toocaram, resident of Rushley Green. Member of Playing Field Committee, Parish Paths Partnership Co-ordinator (footpaths) and transport representative.

Jessica Westrop, resident of Rushley Green and new Councillor from May 2019

Mary Veater, resident of Nunnery Street. Member of Playing Field Committee and representative on the Village Hall Committee

There remain two vacancies on the Parish Council and we hope to co-opt 2 Councillors to join us in the near future.

At our **Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday May 20th**, the first item of business is to elect a chairman for the coming year and allocate responsibilities and membership of committees.

Parish Council meetings are held every month except December at Castle Hedingham Club, starting at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend. 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. A calendar of meetings for 2019-2020 will be posted on village noticeboards and on the Parish website at www.castlehedingham.org.

The agenda is posted no later than 3 working days in advance of each meeting on our village noticeboards, and on our website. Minutes of meetings and other Parish Council documents are also available on the website. Financial information is reported every month in the Parish Council minutes.

GRANT FUNDING 2018-2019

The Parish Council awarded local organisations a total of £1,750 in grants this year:

£60.00	British Legion Remembrance Wreath
£240.00	Tennis Club for new Spectators bench
£450.00	Village Shop towards fridge & freezer
£1000.00	Hedingham Scouts, renovation of Wooding Lodge

The Parish Council is planning to complete the external painting and repair of the Memorial Hall, Social Club and Public Toilets this summer

Individuals or organisations can apply to the Parish Council 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 FINANCES 2018-2019

INCOME

Precept and Localism Fund	£26,524.00
Agency Grant Income	£5,542.77
Cemetery Income	£3,190.00
VAT recovered	£3,821.67
Other Income (inc Grants)	£940.06

Total	£40,018.50
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EXPENDITURE

Village Maintenance	£15,651.96
Village Infrastructure	£6,438.32
Clerk, Administration etc	£18,230.40
Grants/Donations	£1,750.00
VAT	£2,730.12

Total	£44,800.80
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Net Income 2018-2019	-£4,782.30
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The precept is the Parish Council share of the Council Tax. This is decided by the Parish Council each year at the budget setting meeting in January. The reduction in funding from government means the Localism Fund grant from Braintree District Council has reduced to zero in 2019/2020. This represents a reduction of about £5,000 in Parish Council funding over the last 5 years.

In January 2019 the Parish Council requested an increase in the precept of 5% to £54.55 per year for a band D property. This equals an increase of £2.60 per year, or 5p per week for each Band D household.

Agency grant income includes BDC street cleaning and ECC grass cutting grants.

Parish Council and other useful contact details:

Chairman

Mr Garry Southgate

14 Crown Street CO9 3DB

01787 461638

garryschpc@gmail.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/Alfrey Court

Flagship Housing: 0808 168 4555

4 street lights New Park

Castle Heddingham Parish Council 07845 056597

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

105 (24 hrs)

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