



# Castle Hedingham Parish Council Annual Report 2018

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Please come to our  
**ANNUAL PUBLIC ASSEMBLY**  
at the Memorial Hall on  
**THURSDAY MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
starting at 7.30 for 8pm

Village groups and clubs have been invited to join us this year, and there will be an informal get together with light refreshments after the meeting. We are hoping this will become a regular feature of the annual meeting, to celebrate and foster the community spirit in our lovely village.

**Please join us** to hear about the work of the Parish Council over the past year, to find out what activities are available in the parish and share news and views about Castle Hedingham.



Community Access Defibrillator



Community Run Village Shop

## **THE ROLE OF YOUR PARISH COUNCIL IS TO:**

- Represent the views of the people who live in Castle Heddingham
- 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 and the playing field
- Maintain grassed areas, village greens, footpaths and roadside verges including 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

All your Parish Councillors are volunteers. There are three Parish Council staff; the clerk and our two village maintenance operatives Adam and Alan. Alan also looks after the public toilets daily. We also employ a grass cutting contractor who looks after the village green areas including the playing field and the cemetery.

Parish Council meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday every month except December at Castle Heddingham Club, starting at 7.45pm. 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 [castleheddinghamparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:castleheddinghamparishclerk@gmail.com) to report any items or concerns.

The agenda is posted a week in advance of each meeting on our village noticeboards, and on our website at [www.castleheddingham.org](http://www.castleheddingham.org). 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 including a list of income and expenditure and the balances of current and deposit accounts. The accounts are audited every year by internal and external auditors, and the full accounts published on the website at [www.castleheddingham.org](http://www.castleheddingham.org) and the St James Street noticeboard. A printed copy of the accounts will also be available at the Annual Parish Assembly on May 10th. A short summary of the accounts for 2017-2018 can be found on the last page of this report.

# GRANT FUNDING

**The Parish Council awarded a total of £2,058.27 in grants this year:**

- £84.00 Neighbourhood Watch “No Cold Callers” stickers for every household
- £60.00 Village Shop leaflet delivery
- £60.00 British Legion Remembrance Wreath
- £297.75 Tennis Club for new nets and court scorers
- £402.04 Bowls Club to improve the toilets
- £599.85 Cricket Club to renovate the cricket square
- £614.63 Castle Hedingham Club for repair of the shed
- In the 2018 – 2019 financial year, a grant of £1,000 has already been approved to the Scouts towards the renovation of Wooding Lodge
- The Parish Council is also paying for external paintwork and repairs this spring to Castle Hedingham Club and the Memorial Hall at a cost of £1,660



**Individuals or organisations can apply to the Parish Council for a grant**, as long as 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](http://www.castlehedingham.org)

**We would like to thank the following organisations for grant funding awarded to Castle Hedingham Parish Council in 2017-2018:**

## BIG LOTTERY FUND

£7115 for 3 Community Access Defibrillators for use in a cardiac emergency

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL: Local Services Fund

£5162 for provision of an enhanced Village Maintenance Service in 2018

## BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL: Councillors Community Grant

£616.20 for the bench at Churchfields in memory of past Parish Council chairmen Bram Buckley-Saxon and Alan Shaw

Our newly planted Memorial Avenue of trees at Sheepcot Road in memory of those men of the village who served and fell in the two World Wars will be inaugurated in November this year with a Memorial Board at the Cemetery entrance. This is a joint project with Hedingham Heritage Society, Hedingham School and the Hedingham branch of the British Legion.

**Braintree District Council's Local Plan** will determine which sites may be allocated for housing development during the period until 2033. The final version expected in 2018 was delayed, but is now with the Planning Inspectorate. More information can be found at [www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/planning\\_policy/701/new\\_local\\_plan](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/planning_policy/701/new_local_plan)

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee in all planning applications in Castle Hedingham. Land inside the “village envelope” has a presumption in favour of development but other considerations are taken into account including the Village Design Statement and policies in the National Planning Policy Framework and BDC's draft Local Plan.

The Parish Council is still trying to find an appropriate location with long term security of tenure to site play equipment in the village. A further meeting is being held in April between representatives of the Parish Council and the landowners at New Park, Braintree District Council and Hedingham Castle. We were grateful to the 100 or more residents who attended our public meeting in January to find out more about the current situation and put their own views to the Parish Council, Braintree District Council and Hedingham Castle. We are hoping for more progress to be made at the April meeting with landowners.

**Highways issues** are dealt with by Essex Highways. 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>

Thanks to the **Essex County Council Local Services Fund**, we are able to provide an enhanced Village Maintenance service during 2018 with additional hours for our part time Village Maintenance operatives and the purchase of line marking equipment for carrying out urgent repairs. 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](mailto:castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com).

We have installed planters at Crouch Green to prevent a large area of the grass being destroyed by vehicles, and are grateful to the Gardening Club for agreeing to design an attractive planting scheme giving all year round colour at this entrance to our village. We are also trying to restore the green verge by the tennis courts at St James Street which was routinely being damaged by parked vehicles.

Parking at De Vere Primary School is an ongoing problem at drop off and pick up times, and we organised a visit by the North Essex Parking Partnership who will hopefully be able to provide support and re-paint the yellow zig-zag lines this year.

## **COMMUNITY ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS**



Funded by the Big Lottery Fund and supported by the Community Heartbeat Trust, our three new defibrillators are in operation. They are sited in the telephone kiosk at St James Street, on the outside wall of Memories at Crouch Green and at Rushley Green Farm barn and available for anyone to use.

Come and find out more at a seminar on **Monday 11th June at Castle Hedingham Club, starting at 7pm.** The Community Heartbeat Trust will be demonstrating the use of our defibrillators and the benefits to the community in saving precious minutes in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. The more people that know how to use our portable defibrillators, the more chance there is of saving a life. Everybody is welcome and no special skills are required, just your willingness to play an important role in the event of a medical emergency.



## CASTLE HEDINGHAM VILLAGE SHOP

Thanks to the Braintree District Community Interest Company and the hard work of Jo Beavis and Julia Allen-Crockett, our community run village shop opened in November 2017 with enthusiastic local support. Our volunteers are our best asset and deserve a huge “thank you” from us all for their tremendous commitment and hard work over the past six months.

Stock levels are building up gradually based on customer feedback and our footfall continues to grow. We are all learning and trying to respond promptly to feedback and it is heartening to receive compliments and see the social benefits for both customers and volunteers.

If you do have a few spare hours each week and would like to join our team of volunteers we would very much like to hear from you. Please do just pop into the Village Shop and we will find you a slot.

**BRAINTREE DISTRICT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY.**  
**COMPANY NUMBER: 9889242.**



We have several residents interested in **Neighbourhood Watch** but have had nobody yet step forward to be the volunteer village NW Co-ordinator. This would involve organising occasional informal meetings and keeping other local NW volunteers informed of news, information and events. If anyone has the time available to take on this role, the Parish Clerk is able to put you in touch with the Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Chairman. This year the Parish Council funded 560 “No Cold Callers” stickers, enough for all the houses in the village. Many of these have been distributed by volunteers, the remainder are available for collection from the village shop if you need one.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

- **Ian Higgins**, resident of Pottery Lane. Member of Playing Field committee, Planning Committee and staff appraisal committee. Past Chair of Memorial Hall Committee and Playing Field Committee
- **Trevor Hood**, resident of Pottery Lane. Chairman of Playing Field Committee. Parish Council representative on the committee of Castle Hedingham Club.
- **Lynne Moffat**, resident of Crown Street. Footpath warden, transport representative, member of Burial Board and Planning Committee.
- **Guy Pewter**, resident of St James Street. Member of Planning Committee and Playing Field Committee.
- **John Philp**, farms at Kirby Hall. Footpath warden and tree warden
- **Miles Scrivens**, resident of Nunnery Street. Member of staff appraisal committee and Burial Board. Chairman of Memorial Hall Committee
- **Garry Southgate, Chairman**. Resident of Crown Street. Member of Playing Field Committee, Planning Committee, staff appraisal committee and Burial Board
- **Jill Tocaram**, resident of Rushley Green. Member of Playing Field Committee, Parish Paths Partnership Co-ordinator (footpaths) and transport representative
- **Rob Worley, Vice Chairman**. Resident of Nunnery Street. Member of Planning Committee, Burial Board, footpath and tree warden.

## PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 2017-2018

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.castlehedingham.org](http://www.castlehedingham.org)

**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 our Localism Fund grant from Braintree District Council will reduce to zero in 2019/2020. This represents a significant reduction to Parish Council funding. The government is also considering introducing referendum principles which would mean small parishes have to pay for a referendum to increase precepts by more than 2%. In January 2018 the Parish Council requested an increase in the precept of 2% to take into account inflation and the reduction in the Localism Fund. This represents a precept of £51.95 per year for a band D property, an increase of £1.02 per year.

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

## Parish Council and other useful contact details:

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### Chairman

Mr Garry Southgate

14 Crown Street CO9 3DB

07905 628117

[garry.southgate@icloud.com](mailto:garry.southgate@icloud.com)

### Parish Clerk

Mrs Claire Waters

25 Bayley Street CO9 3DG

07845 056597

[castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com)

### District Councillors

Mrs Jo Beavis

07771 984365

[cllr.jbeavis@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jbeavis@braintree.gov.uk)

Mr Hylton Johnson

01787 463991

[cllr.hjohnson@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hjohnson@braintree.gov.uk)

Braintree District Council

BDC planning applications:

01376 552525

<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](mailto:cllr.david.finch@essex.gov.uk)

Essex County Council

Essex Highways

08457 430 430/01245 430 430

0845 603 7631 (24 hrs)

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

### Street Lighting

Bowmans Park

Abbey Cottages/Allfrey Court

4 street lights New Park

Greenfields: 01376 535 400

Flagship Housing: 0808 168 4555

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](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/>





