

Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Monday 13 February 2012.

Present: Mrs S Allfrey (Chairman)
Mr I Higgins
Mr M Scrivens
Mr G Pewter
Mrs J Hart
Mr G Southgate
Mr J Philp
Mr R Worley
Mrs L Moffat
Mrs J Beavis (for items 5 & 6)

Members of the public: None

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance: Mr D. Finch, Mr H. Johnson

Item 5.2. Braintree DC Report: Mrs J Beavis reported:

- a) Braintree District Council has now set its budget for 2012/13. There will be no increase in Council Tax. Parish support grants will remain. However future funding will be very tight and further cuts may be necessary.
- b) Following the Localism Bill various complex changes are being made to the system of Local Government funding.
- c) Various changes are being made to Causeway House; one floor is now vacant and will be occupied by Essex CC - Adult Social Services.
- d) Sible Hedingham Parish Council continues to have discussions with the new developer for the Premdor/Rockway site and continues to press for provision of job opportunities as part of the development. Mrs J Beavis said Castle Hedingham Parish Council would continue to be involved/consulted.
- e) Central government funding has been made available for improvements to Broadband provision in rural areas of Braintree District.

Item 6.2. Registration of Village Greens: Forge Green and Chapel Green have now been fully registered with the Land Registry. Pye Corner registration is proceeding; the Electricity Board has the right to pass and re-pass cables, lines, conduits, and pipes over part of this green. The Land Registry raised one requisition on Crouch Green which resulted in an additional plan being obtained from Essex County Council and supplied to the Land Registry. This should result in registration being completed.

Item 6.4. National Grid Proposals: Several Councillors had attended the latest National Grid presentations and they reported that nothing new had been forthcoming. Mr R Worley had received detailed maps of possible locations for a new substation; two of these sites are in the village. The substation will be very large covering several acres - equivalent to two football pitches. Mr G Pewter said National Grid was proposing to install a "standard size" substation, which would be larger than actually required. Mr R Worley said he understood that power lines could be run into the substation at Braintree removing the need for a new substation. Mrs J Beavis said that Braintree District Council was continuing to oppose National Grid's proposals, Mrs I Parker was very expert on the issues and Mr Beavis suggested that Mrs Parker be invited to a Castle Hedingham Parish Council meeting.

Item 6.5. Planting Queen's Jubilee Oak Tree in Cemetery: Two local funeral directors had been asked to quote for installation of a memorial plaque. One has said it will install a simple granite tablet with inscription in the ground. The other has suggested a plaque on a stake and has quoted a price of around £200. The Parish Council decided to accept the offer of a free tablet. The Clerk was instructed to arrange for its order and installation.

Item 6.7. Cemetery Water Supply: The two taps have been replaced with push down water saving taps and their supports also replaced. Item now closed.

Item 6.8. Adoption of red telephone box in St James Street: Contract still not returned from BT. Clerk was instructed to progress chase again.

Item 6.9. Village Entertainment/Fete: A response has been received from the Castle to the letters sent 10 January 2012 and 15 November 2011, asking for permission to install a new piece of play equipment on the playing field. Permission has not been granted as the Castle says that the installation of new equipment would not be cost effective should permission be given for development of the planning field. The Castle continues to wish to develop the playing field but is prepared to discuss development of the land around the Memorial Hall as an alternative planning field.

Item 6.10. Station Road Waste Bin: Mr G Southgate said the best site for a new bin was on the bus stop sign Station Road/Queen Street. The Clerk was instructed to pursue installation with Braintree District Council.

Item 6.11. Trees on Sheepcot Road: Essex CC has said that it believes the dead trees are not on the verge and therefore are not owned by them. They have asked for a Land registry search to confirm this. The new owner of the Meadows on whose land the trees may be has told the clerk that he is aware of the situation and will be getting the dead trees removed. The Clerk was instructed to progress chase Essex CC as the trees remain in a dangerous state.

Item 6.12 Advertising Signs Castle Lane: The sign at the top of the lane has now been removed. Braintree District Council Planning Enforcement Officer has visited the site and says the other sign in the lane does not contravene planning regulations. Item now closed.

Item 10. AOB: Consideration and agreement of donation to Castle Heddingham Tennis Club: The Parish Council agreed to make a donation of £ 300 towards the cost of equipment and training of junior players.

Item 11. Queen's Jubilee:

- **New Bench on Forge Green:** Prices for a replacement teak bench were compared from a number of suppliers including one local (Braintree) and other national suppliers. Best value was for a bench at around £400 from a supplier in Surrey. The Clerk was instructed to order the bench and get a quote for an inscription for the bench. Mr J Philp said he would look to removing the old bench to the Councils new agreed site for it on the playing field. The Clerk will arrange with the councils contractors for it to take delivery of the new bench and fit it.
- **Location of Beacon:** The Parish Council decided that Scotch pastures would be the most suitable location. Mrs J Hart will seek the landowner's permission.
- **Other:** The Parish Council decided that it will not spend any further money on Jubilee celebrations.

Item 12. Highways: The Clerk had arranged for the Council's contractors to clear ice/snow in Falcon Square following a number of complaints by people using the Doctor's surgeries in the Square. It was agreed that the Square, King Street and Majendie Lane, should be cleared of snow and ice in the future as the need arises. The Chairman will take the decision to request contractors to do the work. The Clerk was instructed to get details of costs from the Council's contractors.

Item 13. Date of annual meeting. The Parish Council agreed that this will be 17 May 2012.

Item 14 AOB: Mr J Philp reported a number of potholes on Kirby Hall Road by the school. The Clerk will give details to Essex CC Highways.

Item 15. Date and Time of Next Meetings: 12 March 2012, 16 April at 07:45 p.m.