

Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Monday 23 July 2012.

Present: Mrs S Allfrey (Chairman)
Mr R Worley
Mr I Higgins
Mr M Scrivens
Mr G Pewter
Mrs L Moffat
Mrs J Hart
Mr G Southgate
Mr J Philp
Mr D Finch (from item 6)
Mrs W Scattergood (from item 6)
Mr H Johnson (from item 6)

Members of the public: None

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance: None

Item 4. Police Report: None received. However the Parish Council was concerned that in the last month there has been:

- a) A serious burglary in the village and
- b) At the beer festival at the Bell PH there had been reported issues of littering, poor parking, noise and an assault.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Police asking for their comments on both matters. The Clerk was also instructed to write to the Bell PH proprietors bringing to their attention the complaints received and asking that the Parish Council be contacted prior to any future event to discuss parking arrangements and clearance of litter.

Item 6.1. Disabled Parking Provision in Falcon Square: Essex CC Highways has advised that the works should be completed by the end of September. A parishioner has complained to Essex CC about the loss of parking spaces to residents and has suggested that the disabled spaces only be in force during surgery hours.

Item 6.2. Registration of Village Greens: Necessary papers in respect of land registry have now been submitted to the Land Registry. A Land Registry Surveyor will conduct an inspection for which an additional fee of £30 is payable.

Item 6.4. Parish Council Web-site: The Parish Council has paid for, and now owns the Castle Hedingham web domain site. The Parish Clerk will be given training on its maintenance later in July and will aim to have the site running in the autumn.

Item 6.5. Repairs to Tombs & Tree works St Nicholas Churchyard: The first tranche of repairs to tombs have been completed.

The schedule of works to trim dead wood, overhanging vegetation was agreed. This will include the tree on Church Lane that is growing through telephone line. Timing is to be agreed with the tree surgeon.

Item 6.6. War Memorial: A quote has been received from a local stone mason for £6,871 to repair the memorial. Quotes are being sought from other specialist masons.

Mr R Worley said that in 2014 lottery funds would be available for the restoration/repair of memorials.

Item 6.8. Litter Picking Schedule: This has been agreed with the Contractors.

Item 6.9. Dog Fouling: Braintree DC will carry out a survey to determine if it considers a further bin at the church gates is necessary.

Item 6.11. Pesticide Leak at Toppersfield Brook: Mr R Worley asked what the status of this was. Mrs W Scattergood and Mr H Johnson said that nothing further had been heard from the Environment Agency and it was understood that the brook had been satisfactorily cleaned. Mr H Johnson said that various checks on water quality had been carried out and there were signs of recent otter feeding. Matter now closed.

Item 7.1. Essex CC report: Mr D Finch gave the following report:

- a) Work is continuing on introducing fast broadband to rural areas of the County. He encouraged users to let Essex CC know their broadband usage and he issued survey cards for this purpose.
- b) Essex CC slight overspend 1st quarter 2012/13 was not a concern. He outlined various areas of Essex CC business where there had been a significant fall e.g. around 8% of users of library services.
- c) Essex Highways on survey ranked in top 25% of roads across the country- this is not reflected in the public's perception which ranks them near the bottom.
- d) He continues to actively report potholes for action including several in the village.

Item 7.2. Braintree DC report: Mrs W Scattergood and Mr H Johnson said that they had attended a joint working party of County Councillors, District councillors, Parish councillors to discuss National Grids proposals re siting of a sub- station. They summarised the main points made:

- a) Formal consultation process not yet announced by National Grid.
- b) New substation would require 18 acres of land, and the structure would be 16 metres high, possibly with 50 metre high pylons either side of it.
- c) Access roads would need to be upgraded – the transformer weighs about 250 tonnes.
- d) National Grid has not costed the necessary infrastructure changes that would be necessary of the three alternative sub-station sites proposed. They were also unaware that roads to two of the sites are totally inadequate.
- e) No costing has been done on the negative impact on tourism.

An alternative would be to install cable underground to the existing substation at Braintree and build a new sub-station alongside the existing. Advantages - would need only a relatively modest underground trench, no road upgrading, land already owned by National Grid at Braintree, little negative visual impact. Next stage is to get Braintree District Council fully in support of this proposal.

Mrs W Scattergood said that the local MP, Mr B Newmark, has been fully briefed on the proposals and will be objecting to the current proposal.

Item 8.1. Planning Applications Received: Braintree District Council has advised that they have received the following applications:

- 12/00679/FUL Erection of extension to side of the dwelling **and** installation of dormer windows at 4 Pye Corner – this has been rejected.
- 12/00901/FUL. Erection first floor extension at 6 Castle Close.

Item 8.3. Planning Enforcement: The Enforcement Officer, Braintree DC is investigating the erection of a building at Four Winds, Kirby Hall Road. It has two other cases on hand:

- Use of barn at Astles at Pye Corner for retail purposes - the owner has been advised to make a retrospective planning application.
- Work on a listed building at 7 Falcon Square - the Historical Buildings Officer is to visit and assess.

Item 8.4. LDF Meeting Braintree District Council 25 July: This meeting will discuss the designation of the playing field and old allotments on Church Lane in the development framework strategy and the village envelope line at Nunnery Farm. Mr R Worley and Mr I Higgins will attend with Mr R Worley speaking in support of the retention of informal recreation space status for the playing field. Braintree District Council is proposing to remove this designation.

Item 8.5. Recording of Needs for Section 106 Funds: The Braintree District Council return has been completed to indicate the Parish Council's wishes in respect of the provision of open space and recreational facilities funded by any Section 106 funds (paid by developers on new housing projects) that may become available in the future.

Item 10.4. Annual Audit Report: The Clerk reported that the Audit Commission had passed the Council's Annual Accounts as satisfactory with no queries or comment.

Item 11.1. Footpaths: New Park to Pottery Lane. Complaints are continually received about the state of this path. Prompt action has been taken to clear the path; the Clerk has recently asked one landowner to cut back over hanging vegetation and this was quickly done. However it was considered that there is an on-going need for a general upkeep of this path - removal dead leaves, nettles etc. - and the Clerk was instructed to ask the Council's contractors to include this within their regular work schedule.

Item 12. Consideration of support of Sible Hedingham Parish Council's proposed Sible Hedingham to Sudbury Bus Service: The Parish Council agreed that it supported this proposal.

It is proposed that a mini bus will run three times a day to Sudbury via Castle Hedingham - twice in the morning and once late afternoon, and two times a day return - at lunch time and early evening. Timings would be co-ordinated with train times. Additional evening services from Sudbury to Sible could be provided using a Demand Responsive Transport service. The Clerk will tell Sible Hedingham Parish Council of its support.

Item 13. Consideration of flag pole in village: Mr R Worley said that there was already an existing flag pole in St Nicholas Churchyard. Mrs L Moffat said it was in a somewhat poor condition. It was agreed that Mrs L Moffat will investigate ownership and responsibility for the pole so that the Parish Council can consider further any action.

Item 14. Petition for Hedingham Surgery: Sible Hedingham Parish Council is running a petition to Braintree District Council calling for the District Council to discuss and support the building of a new surgery to serve the Hedinghams on the proposed development at the Premdor site. At present there is no funding available for the construction of a surgery although land is being made available by the developer. It was proposed by Mr G Southgate, seconded by Mr M Scrivens and agreed. The Clerk was instructed to tell Sible Hedingham Parish Council that is organising the petition. Mr I Higgins said he would collect signatures in the village.

Item 15.1. AOB: Parking Issues: Mr I Higgins said that parking continued to be an issue particularly on St James Street and Falcon Square. Parishioners on St James Street have asked if people parking all day could be asked to park further away to allow short term parking for visits to businesses on St James Street. The Parish Council agreed that it has no power/authority to do this.

Item 15.2. AOB: Rubbish Bag Collection Point: Mr I Higgins said that the siting of rubbish bags prior to collection, by the graveyard gate was very unsightly. It was agreed that a possible solution would be the construction of a bin store inside the cemetery by the water tap and therefore out of sight. The Clerk was instructed to pursue this.

Item 16. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 20 August, 24 September at 07:45 pm.