

## Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Monday 18 June 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 H Johnson  
Mrs W Scattergood  
Mr D Finch

Members of the public: Mrs Bishop

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

**Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance:** Essex Police.

**Item 3. Election of Vice Chairman:** Mr R Worley was proposed for the post of Vice Chairman by Mr I Higgins seconded by Mr M Scrivens and was elected.

**Model Code of Conduct.** Since the last meeting, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has also drawn up a draft model of conduct in addition to the previously received Braintree District Council model. Sible Hedingham Parish Council has carried out extensive research and comparison between the two models. They have concluded that the NALC model is superior, being more easily read and understood and better aligned with Central Government laid down requirements. Sible Hedingham Parish Council has therefore adopted the NALC model.

After discussion in respect of the models available it was proposed by Mr M Scrivens and seconded by Mr I Higgins, that Castle Hedingham Parish Council would adopt the Braintree District Council model conduct of conduct. This was agreed by the meeting.

**Item 4. Public Forum:** Mrs Bishop of 1 Falcon Square said that three yews in St Nicholas Churchyard adjoining her property were of concern as they had grown considerably and were nearly touching her property. They blocked light and would flatten her house should they come down in a gale. She therefore wanted them to be reduced in height. Mr W Worley told her that this matter would be dealt with under Item 7.5.

**Item 5. Police Report:** A written report was provided by the Essex Police regarding crimes reported recently in the parish: There have been no crimes in the period. It was also confirmed that the statistics reported for Castle Hedingham at the Annual Parish Meeting in May were incorrect because the report covered both Sible Hedingham and Castle Hedingham and not just Castle Hedingham.

**Item 7.1. Disabled Parking Provision in Falcon Square:** Essex CC Highways has confirmed that the work is still scheduled. The Statutory Notice will shortly be advertised.

**Item 7.2. Registration of Village Greens:** Rushley Green is still on-going.

**Item 7.4. Parish Council Web-site:** The owner of a general Castle Hedingham information site on the internet with the web address 'castlehedingham.org' wishes to give up the site and has offered the web address to the Parish Council for its website. The Parish Council decided to accept this offer. The cost will be approx. £150 for 5 years ownership of the web address.

**Item 7.5. Repairs to Tombs & Tree works St Nicholas Churchyard:** Repair works to tombstones will be carried out in June. Mr R Worley reported that he and a tree surgeon had inspected at length

the trees in St Nicholas Churchyard and had identified a number that, on health and safety grounds, needed work. This included one of the yews adjoining Mrs Bishop's property. It was considered that in light of Mrs Bishop's concerns the inspection should be extended to consider whether pruning/crowning was needed to the trees to improve light to Mrs Bishop's property.

**Item 7.6. Parish Magazine:** The Parish Council noted that content has improved. Item now closed.

**Item 7.7. War Memorial:** A quote is being obtained for renovation works.

**Item 7.8. Public Toilets:** Braintree District Council is to transfer ownership and responsibility for maintaining the toilets to the Parish Council. Prior to the transfer Braintree District Council will carry out deep cleaning and minor repair/re-decoration works to the toilets. It plans to carry out these works in July. The Parish Council's agreement to these works was required. The schedule of works was agreed by the Parish Council.

Braintree District Council, on transferring the toilets, will give the Parish Council a one off payment of £5,000 and cease payment of its annual grant of £1,792. There will therefore be an on-going cost to the Parish after approx. 2 ½ years of maintaining the provision of public toilets. The Parish Council agreed that it will continue to operate the public toilets.

**Item 8. Committees & Sub Committees:** The Parish Council agreed to maintain its current committee and sub-committee structure and memberships. The Halstead Traffic Management no longer operates and was deleted from the list.

**Item 9.1. Essex CC report:** Mr D Finch gave the following report:

- Essex CC had underspent its 2011/12 budget by £7 million.
- £815,000 had been made available to Braintree District Highway Panel for road safety improvement projects; projects identified by the Panel must be approved by Essex CC.
- An additional £3m for potholes and £8m for road re-surfacing for 2012/13 has been allocated by Essex CC.
- Essex CC is working closely with District Councils to make significant changes necessary to the administration of, and funding of Council Tax Benefits following cut in grants from Central Government.

**Item 9.2. Braintree DC report:** Mrs W Scattergood gave the following report:

**National Grid:** A joint meeting had been held of all Councils in Suffolk and Essex affected by National Grid Bramford to Twinstead Project. It had been a very positive meeting with agreement of all on a joint strategy/response. All will be pressing for undergrounding of the total route, not just sections in the east. An announcement on the sub-station is to be made on 27 June 2012. BDC are pressing for a forum to be set up for Councils that will be affected, including Castle Hedingham. A publicity group is also to be set up. Mr H Johnson added that local MPs were also being closely involved.

**Planning:** Mrs W Scattergood said that Braintree District Council was working to ensure that its planning policy and strategy were consistent with nationally laid down requirements. This process had to be completed by March 2013.

**Item 10.1. Applications received:** Braintree District Council has advised that permission has been granted for the following applications:

- 12/00497 Erection of a 2 storey rear extension at 24 Crouch Green;
- 12/00500 Erection of 2 storey rear and side extension at 22 Crouch Green;
- 12/00541 Erection of 2 storey side extension at 3 Park Vale Close.

The following application was refused:

- 12/00556 Internal alterations to existing window and door openings at Wood Hall, 67 Nunnery Street.

**Item 10.2. Premdor Master Plan:** The developer, Bloor Homes, has now produced an overview of its plans. Details can be found at Braintree District Councils website. Briefly, it proposes to build approximately 200 dwellings, including affordable housing, a community hub with office and light industrial space, public access to the riverside nature reserve, additional public open space and children's play area, refurbished bank building for community use and opening of the culvert running through the centre of the site. A new health centre originally included in the plans has been dropped. Sible Hedingham Parish Council is holding a public meeting on 25 June at Sible Hedingham Village Hall at 19:30 to discuss the plans and has invited Castle Hedingham Parish Councillors to this meeting.

**Item 11. Correspondence:** A letter of thanks has been received from the Scout Group for the £120 paid to it for delivering the Parish Council Annual Report to parishioners. Mrs J Hart said she would attend the Scout AGM on 5 July.

**Item 13. Highways:** Mrs J Hart said she had reported a number of potholes to Essex CC Highways.

Councillors identified a number of works that are required:

- Grass cutting in Park Vale,
- Pavement clearance in Nunnery Street by the bridge and Bayley Street by the castle,
- Re-affixing street signs in Sheepcot Road,
- Cutting back bush that is obscuring sight lines at Nunnery Street Bridge.

The Clerk was instructed to commission the works with the Parish Council's contractors, with the exception of the bush at Nunnery Street Bridge which will be taken up with the landowner.

**Item 14. Consideration of schedule litter picking:** The following schedule was agreed by the councillors:

Every week between 1 May and 30 September, and every two weeks between 1 October and 30 April:

- empty bins and litter pick St James Street, Church Lane, Churchponds, Castle Lane, Crown Street, Nunnery Street, Sheepcot (to 30 mph sign), Queen Street, Station Road (to bridge), Falcon Square, St Nicholas Churchyard.

Every two months:

- litter pick Rosemary Lane (to common), Kirby Hall Road (to Fourwinds), New Park, Bowmans, Sudbury Road, Pottery Lane, Deer Park Close, Park Vale Close, Castle Close, Sheepcot (to Parish boundary), Lane Coppingdown Farm towards Maplestead (to Poll Marris).

**Item 15.1. AOB: Pesticide Leak:** Mr R Worley reported that the Environment Agency reported a spill on 13th June of around 5,000 litres of pesticide from a farm trailer at Toppesfield Brook. The Brook was quickly dammed and cleaned out but there may be some contamination downstream to the River Colne.

**Item 15.2. AOB: Dog Fouling:** Mr G Southgate said that there needed to be an additional dog waste bin at the entrance to the Churchyard and sign(s) that dogs must be kept on a lead in the Churchyard. The Clerk was instructed to raise this request with Braintree District Council.

**Item 15.3. AOB: Donation of £750 to St Nicholas Church.** A parishioner has asked that as the donation was apparently made to support a light show at the Castle on the Queens Jubilee that for technical reasons had not taken place, should the money be returned. It was agreed that The Parish Council had properly made the £750 donation to the Friends of St Nicholas Church and not the Castle, as part of the Jubilee celebrations and it was not therefore appropriate to ask for it to be returned.

**Item 16. Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 23 July, 20 Aug at 07:45 pm.