

Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Monday 12 March 2012.

Present: Mr R Worley (Chairman)
Mr I Higgins
Mr M Scrivens (from item 9)
Mr G Pewter
Mrs L Moffat
Mrs W Scattergood (until item 4)

Members of the public: Mr A Crowther, Mr Van-Dyken.

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance: Mrs S Allfrey, Mr G Southgate, Mrs J Hart, Mr J Philp, Mrs J Beavis, Mr H. Johnson

Item 3. Public Forum: Mr A Crowther said he had attended the previous Parish Council meeting and had objected to the Parish Council recommendation to the Braintree District Council Strategic Core Planning Review that his property at Nunnery Farm be placed outside the village envelope. Mr Crowther felt that the Parish Council had been confused on the issue and not clear on its reasons for its decision. He felt that the minutes of the meeting did not fully reflect his points. He repeated his offer of considering making some of his land available for allotments.

Mrs W Scattergood said that the Braintree District Council Planning Core Strategy Review reflected only the recommendations from the Parish Council. She said that any changes should be submitted as soon as possible. Mrs W Scattergood also said that she felt that the Parish Council should, as a minimum, have advised Mr A Crowther of its submission regarding the planning designation of his property.

The Parish Council confirmed that a) Its recommendation to Braintree District Council regarding Nunnery Farm was a true and accurate reflection of its decision at their meetings in October and November and b) the minutes were accurate.

The Council did however feel that it had made an error in the designation of what it intended to be included or excluded within the village envelope in respect of the Nunnery Farm site. It was therefore decided that it should re-visit this at its April meeting to which Mr A Crowther was invited.

Item 5.1. Disabled Parking Provision in Falcon Square: The Parish Clerk has asked Essex CC Highways for an estimated installation date.

Item 5.3. Closure of St James Street: The Parish Clerk has arranged a further meeting with Essex CC Highways to progress chase the works.

Item 5.4. National Grid Proposals: Mr G Pewter said that local landowners have been approached by UK Power Networks to place low voltage electric wires currently on poles underground. This will make refurbishing the existing National Grid pylons easier.

Item 5.5. Planting Queen's Jubilee Oak Tree in Cemetery: The celebration tablet has now been ordered.

Item 5.7. Adoption of red telephone box in St James Street: The signed contract has now been received from BT. Next stage is for BT to remove the telephone equipment. An Agreement has been drafted by the Parish Clerk between the Parish Council and the Bell Inn Phone Box Committee and this will be reviewed by Mr Pewter prior to being sent to the Committee for their acceptance.

Item 5.9. Station Road Waste Bin: Braintree District Council has agreed to install a new waste bin.

Item 5.10. Trees on Sheepcot Road: Essex CC has agreed that certain trees are in a dangerous condition and are its responsibility and it will take the necessary action. Item now closed.

Item 5.11. New Bench on Forge Green: A bench to celebrate HM Queen Diamond Jubilee has now been ordered.

Item 5.12. Jubilee Beacon: Mrs J Toocaram of Rushley Green Farm has offered her land as a venue for the beacon. She and the Parish Clerk have agreed a location in Castle Field. Mr G Pewter will build a plinth for the beacon and transport it and the beacon onsite.

Item 6.0. Planning: The Parish Council agreed to invite Mr J Lindsay of Hedingham Castle to its next meeting to discuss the Parish Council's submission to Braintree DC Strategic Core Planning Review in respect of the designation of the playing field and old allotment site.

Item 7.0. Correspondence: The Parish Council has objected to Essex Police/Essex Police Authority's plan to close and dispose of Great Yeldham Police Station resulting in the police for the area being based at Halstead. The Parish Council said this could lead to slower response times.

Item 10. Consideration and agreement of donation to Hedinghams' Parish Magazine: It was proposed by Mr G Pewter and seconded by Mr M Scrivens that the Parish Council should make a donation of £400 towards the on-going cost of the publication of the magazine. This was agreed.

Item 11. Decision on setting up Parish Website: The Parish Council agreed in principle to setting up a website. Mr I Higgins will investigate costs.

Item 13.1. Highways: The Parish Council agreed that the Councils contractors will be instructed to grit Falcon Square, King Street and Majendie Lane at a cost of £30-£35 +VAT as and when required.

Item 13.2. Highways: There are continuing problems with vehicles parked on verges at Crouch Green obscuring sight lines at the junction of Nunnery street with the A1017. There have been serious accidents here in the past. The Clerk was instructed to bring the matter to the attention of Essex CC Highways.

Item 13.3. Highways: The road gutters along St James Street North from the Vines to the Moot House need clearing of gravel/rubbish. The Parish Clerk was instructed to get a quote from the Parish Council's contractors.

Item 13.4. Highways: The Parish Clerk was instructed to tell the Parish Council's contractors to delay grass cutting at the locations in the village where daffodils have been planted.

Item 13.5. Highways: Mr I Higgins gave details of the recent training event on the changes to planning that he had attended (details of the presentation have been sent to Councillors). Mr I Higgins said that from the event the following points were worthy of note:

- a) Village Design Statements were still extant and were taken into consideration,
- b) Braintree DC had some £1.8 million in funds as a result of Section 106 agreements. These funds could be called on for suitable projects,
- c) Turn round target for planning applications should be 13 weeks.

Item 14.1. AOB: Mrs L Moffat said that various tombs in the churchyard were in need of repair and were currently a health and safety hazard. The Parish Clerk is obtaining quotes for the works required.

Item 15. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 16 April at 07:45 p.m.