

Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Monday 14 January 2013.

Present: Mrs S Allfrey (Chairman)
 Mr R Worley
 Mr I Higgins
 Mr M Scrivens
 Mr G Pewter
 Mr G Southgate
 Mrs J Hart
 Mr J Philp
 Mr D Finch (items 7 & 8)
 Mr H Johnson (from item 7)

Members of the public: Mrs T Harper

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies for non-attendance:** Mrs L Moffat. Mrs J Beavis. Mrs W Scattergood.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Public Forum:** Mrs T Harper said that the new postmaster will be taking over the sub post office on the 4th February. She thanked the Parish Council for its support in keeping the post office open during the transfer of the business and gave the Parish Council a letter of thanks.
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - 6.1 **Registration of Village Greens:** It was agreed to seek legal advice from Essex County Councils legal department on the status of ownership of the sub soil beneath the by way on Rushley Green.
 - 6.3 **Tree works St Nicholas Churchyard:** Planning Permission has now been granted. The tree surgeon will now re-commence the works.
 - 6.5 **Dog Fouling:** The dog waste bin on Station Road will shortly be moved to Chapel Green.
 - 6.6 **Weight Restriction on B1058:** This has now been approved by the Local Highways Panel.
 - 6.7 **Village Flag Pole:** Contractor currently carrying out the necessary remedial works.
 - 6.9 **Parking on grass verges:** Essex CC Highways has reported that the verge in St James Street beside the tennis club has highway rights across it but no owner is registered for the land. The Clerk was instructed to ask Essex CC highways what the likely costs would be of removing the rights.
 - 6.11 **Premdor Development.** A meeting is to be held 17 January in Sible Hedingham to discuss provision of a health centre on the site. Castle

Hedingham Parish Council has been invited to this meeting and will attend.

7. Essex CC and Braintree Reports:

7.1 Essex CC report: Mr D Finch reported ;

- The County Council has underspent its 2012/13 budget by around £25 million. This will be used along with £8 million from reserves to meet reduction of £33 million in funding from Central Government for 2013/14.
- No increase in Council tax for 2013/14.
- No cuts in services provided by the County Council.
- Will need to make major savings over coming 5 years to meet Central Government targets.
- Essex 1 of 4 counties short listed for County of the year.

7.2 Braintree DC report: Mr H Johnson reported:

- Representatives will shortly be in contact with the Parish regarding provision of superfast broadband.
- There continue to be a lot of burglaries and car thefts in the area.
- Police and Community Support Officers are to meet with residents at Crouch Green regarding the continuing problems of parking on the grass verge.
- Serious problem with litter along Brick Lane. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Parish Council's Contractors to clear it.

8. National Grid Proposals: Mr D Finch said Essex and Suffolk County Councils were united in continuing to press for undergrounding along the whole of the route of the new line.

9.5 Site Allocation and Development Management Plan.

Public exhibitions throughout the District during January and February.

11.3 Precept 2013/14.

Following changes by Braintree District Council to the allocation of funds it was necessary to re-submit the Precept request. The amended request and budget was agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

13. War Memorial: The Parish Council agreed that the quote from Bakers of Danbury offered the best solution. The Clerk was instructed to ask Bakers for a current quote for the works and if it had a reference site where it had done similar work that could be inspected by the Parish Council.

14. Consideration of application for dog waste bin on FP11 on Nunnery Street: The Parish Council agreed that there was a need for a dog waste bin in this location and the Clerk was instructed to request one from Braintree District Council.

15. Any Other Business:

15.1 Mr R Worley said there were gaps in the trees planted by the Parish council along Sheepcot Road and that consideration should be given to planting new trees to fill these gaps. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

15.3 Mrs J Clark said that there was a blocked gulley beside Chapel Green

that was causing problems. The Clerk was instructed to report it to Essex CC Highways.

15.4

Mr M Scrivens commented on the poor state of the wall surface alongside the tennis club - this is due to weathering.

16.

Date of Next Meeting: 11 February 2013 at 07:45.