

## Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Monday 21 November 2012.

Present: Mrs S Allfrey (Chairman)  
Mr R Worley  
Mr I Higgins  
Mr M Scrivens  
Mr G Pewter  
Mrs L Moffat  
Mr G Southgate  
Mrs J Hart  
Mr J Philp  
Mrs J Beavis (to item 15)  
Mrs W Scattergood.  
Mrs K Chapman, Essex Police

Members of the public: Mr Buckley-Saxon.

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

**Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance:** Mr H. Johnson.

**Item 2. Declarations of Interest:** Mr J Philp in respect of planning application 12/01508/FUL Kirby Hall Farm.

**Item 3. Public Forum:** Mr Buckley-Saxon gave the Parish Council the petition he had collected asking for the removal of redundant power/telephone poles in the village. He asked that it be passed to the relevant bodies. He also said that progress was very slow in extending the weight restrictions on HGVs through the village.

**Item 4. Police Report: Police Report:** PCSO Chapman said no crimes had been recorded in the parish for September and October. However in November five burglaries have already been recorded, four of which involve domestic premises and one an outbuilding. In response the police had deployed extra patrols and deployment of specialist resources. The overall operation is being led by a Detective Chief Superintendent. The increase in domestic burglaries is not confined to the Parish as there had also been a number in adjoining areas.

There has been a review of the new structure and organisation of Essex Police following the 1 April 2012 re-organisation. The result had been an increase in crime officers at Halstead but a reduction in the number of neighbourhood officers. Response and other specialised units were now based at Braintree Police Station.

**Item 6.1. Registration of Village Greens:** The Land Registry has raised two further queries regarding registration of parts of Rushley Green to which the Parish Clerk will reply to these questions.

**Item 6.2. Station Road Waste Bin:** This has now been installed. Item now closed.

**Item 6.3. Web-site:** The maintenance and set up of the web site will be considered further when the new parish clerk has been appointed (see item 14 below).

**Item 6.4. Tree works St Nicholas Churchyard:** Due to a misunderstanding planning permission was not applied for and the works were halted. The correct application has now been made.

**Item 6.5. War Memorial:** A third quote has now been received. Work has commenced on evaluating the quotes. A decision on how to proceed will be made at the next meeting.

**Item 6.6. Dog Fouling:** A parishioner living at the old Police Station has asked if the dog waste bin outside her property could be moved due to the smell and some waste meant for the bin being thrown in her garden. The parishioner has offered to arrange for the moving of the bin. The Parish Council agreed that the bin could be moved to a pole on Forge Green.

**Item 6.7. Flag Pole:** The contractor has inspected the pole and has reported that there is no pulley but he believes he will be able to thread a rope so that the pole can be used. The Parish Council agreed to these works.

**Item 6.8. Weight Restriction on B1058:** Nothing to report.

**Item 6.11. Transfer of toilets to the Parish Council** Braintree District Council has advised that the Castle, which owns the land on which the toilets sit, has suggested a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss how to move forward in respect of a lease.

The Parish Council decided that the current position with existing leases should be clarified and confirmed prior to meeting with the Castle. Mrs J Beavis said she would take this up with the appropriate officers at Braintree District Council.

**Item 6.12. Consideration of potential Parish Office on site of former Sun Public House, Nunnery Street:** Mr R Worley said that no funding would be available and that this item is now closed.

**Item 6.13. Parking on grass verges:** The Clerk reported that Essex CC Highways has been asked if it will sell the verge in St James Street to the Parish Council. A reply is awaited.

**Item 6.14. Donated Bench:** A faculty will be required for the placement of a new bench in St Nicholas churchyard. This bench is to be donated from the estate of a parishioner. The Clerk is currently discussing details with the executor of the parishioner's estate.

**Item 7.1. Essex CC report:** Mr D. Finch sent a written report which was presented to the meeting by the Clerk.

**Item 7.2. Braintree DC report:** Mrs J Beavis reported:

A planning application for the re-development of the Premdor site is expected to be made in December. Approximately 200 houses are planned of which 30% will be social housing. There will be an employment hub and other provision of community assets such as allotments. The developer plans to complete all works within 3 years with the first phase being completed by September 2013. Land will be made available for a new health centre to serve the Heddinghams. The local health authority has no funding/plans for this health centre; Braintree District Council is currently challenging this.

A planning application is expected for the Tanners site in Sible Heddingham. Braintree District Council wishes to see provision of employment opportunities and will resist plans for housing.

The new Police Commissioner for Essex is planning rural forums to hear the views of rural communities on policing in the County.

The Parish Support Grant will continue for 2013/14 but is to be reviewed. A Parish summit is planned for 31 January 2013 when views on it should be expressed.

A review January-March 2013 of district ward boundaries will be held. This will not affect parish boundaries but may change the number of district councillors representing individual parishes.

Braintree District Council is in a strong budget position.

**Item 8. National Grid Proposals:** Mr G Pewter reported that the next round of public community forums hosted by National Grid will be held at 18:30 at:

- a) 5 December Twinstead Village Hall, Church Road, Twinstead.
- b) 6 December. Burstall Village Hall, The Street, Burstall.
- c) 11 December. Stoke by Nayland Village Hall, Church Street, Stoke by Nayland.
- d) 12 December. Hadleigh, Venue to be confirmed.

**Item 9.1. Planning Applications Received:** Braintree District Council has advised that they have received the following application:

12/01508/FUL. Kirby Hall Farm. Application to replace existing planning permission for demolition of single storey rear extension and replacement with new rear extension.

**Item 9.2. Applications granted/refused:**

12/01252/LBC. Permission Granted for internal alterations to existing windows and door openings at 67 Nunnery Street.

12/00242/TPO. Permission Granted for tree work at Bailey Lodge, Pye Corner.

12/01242/FUL. Permission Refused for erection of new side extension to side and installation of new dormer window at 4 Pye Corner.

**Item 11.1 Accounts:** The half year audit has been completed. There were no issues arising.

**Item 11.2. 2013/14 Budget:** Braintree District council has advised that the Parish Support Grant will be maintained at the same level in 2013/14 as the current year.

The Parish Clerk stated that for the year 2012/13 the Parish Council will again add to its financial reserves, which are healthy.

The planned budget for 2013/14 shows that, due to planned expenditure on renovating the war memorial, annual expenditure will exceed income by about £5000. However this forecast does not take into account any potential grants or donations that may be received for this work.

**Item 12. Consideration of Mortimers Prices for 2013:** Mortimers has advised an average price increase of 1.3% on its fees for grass cutting and 0% for its litter picking prices. The Parish Council agreed to accept these rates.

**Item 13. Parking on Bayley Street:** Mr I Higgins reported that a parishioner had raised concerns regarding sight lines due to parking on the road outside the new housing development. The cars are parked legally and there was no desire for yellow line parking restrictions. It was agreed to take no further action.

**Item 14. Staff Issues:** The Parish Clerk has resigned and will leave the post when a new clerk is appointed, which is expected to be in January 2013. The vacancy will be advertised in village noticeboards and the Parish Magazine.

The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for his 4 years of service.

**Item 16.1. AOB:** Mr Worley said that there was a need to cut back vegetation on Bayley Street by the junction with Sudbury Hill. The Parish Clerk was instructed to arrange for the works.

**Item 16.2. AOB:** Mrs L Moffat reported that extensive building works were being carried out at St James House which is a listed building. The Parish Clerk was instructed to contact Braintree District Council Planning to confirm whether planning permission had been given.

**Item 16.3. AOB:** Mrs L Moffat said she would be travelling outside the UK for 3 ½ months from January 2013 and she was given leave of absence for the meetings scheduled during this period.

**Item 16.4. AOB:** Mr G Southgate said he had received complaints from parishioners living in Ruffles yard about damage to their properties from a firework display held at 1 Pye Corner. The parties involved have agreed resolution of the issues however it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should write to the householder at 1 Pye Corner asking that any future displays are held further away from adjoining properties.

**Item 16.5. AOB:** Mr M Scrivens reported that the Hedingham School was planning to raise funds for a new Community Sports Centre at the school. Sible Hedingham Parish Council has pledged support.

**Item 17. Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 7.45 p.m. on 14 January 2013 at the Memorial Hall.