

Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Monday 10 October 2011.

Present: Mrs S Allfrey (Chairman)
Mr R Worley
Mr I Higgins
Mr M Scrivens
Mr G Southgate
Mr G Pewter (from item 5)
Mrs L Moffat
Mrs J Hart
Mr J Philp
Mr H Johnson
Mrs W Scattergood

Members of the public: Mrs P Doe

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance: Mrs J Beavis. Mr D Finch

Item 3. Public Forum: Mrs Doe said that she was representing the Bell PH Red Telephone Box Group. She said it was the group's intention to:

- a) Completely restore the box in its original livery- possibly as it was built in the 1930s.
- b) If possible replace the Perspex windows with original glass panels.
- c) Have tourist information in the box.
- d) Maintain a security watch on the box.

The Parish Council agreed to proceed with adoption of the box from BT. The box will then be transferred to the Bell PH group.

Item 5.3. Castle Hedingham Booklet: This has now been re-printed and will be distributed along with the monthly Parish Church Magazine. In recognition of this service by the Church a donation of £100 was made to it.

Item 5.4. Registration of Village Greens: The Parish Council does not hold title deeds for the greens. To prove ownership it will be necessary to base the applications on long use. Legal advice is in the first instance to submit the evidence already compiled i.e. the Statutory Declaration and Commons Registration to the Land Registry. The Parish council decided to accept this advice and the Clerk was instructed to ask the Parish Council's solicitor to so proceed.

Item 5.5. Closure of St James Street: Essex CC Highways has advised that the contractor has recognised liability for damages caused by its works. The Clerk will meet with Essex CC Highways to agree remedial works to edging stones around Forge Green 13 October.

Item 5.6. National Grid Proposals: The Chairman has written to Mr Newmark MP asking that he support and vote for the Private Members Bill, Electricity Transmission (Protection of Landscape 2010-11), that has its second reading on 25th November. This bill would require undergrounding. Mr G Pewter agreed to represent the Parish at the Community Forums organised by National Grid. The next meeting will be at Twinstead Village Hall 27 October at 7 pm. The public are encouraged to attend to observe.

Item 5.7. Planting Oak tree in Cemetery: Delivery of the tree is awaited and planting is planned for November.

Item 5.9. Footpath 7: The obstruction has now been cleared by the Castle Estate, item now closed.

Item 5.10. Noise at the Castle - Big Bear Festival 3rd September: The Parish Council understands this festival will not be repeated.

Item 6.1. Site Allocations - Braintree District Council Core Strategy. The Parish Council has been asked by the District Council for its comments on a range of options in respect of the village envelope and the designation of land for open market residential development, open space designation, industrial use etc.

After lengthy discussion, the Parish Council felt that the existing village envelope and current designations should be maintained with the following exceptions:

- a) The village envelope to the rear of properties 132 to 118 Nunnery Street should be amended to run 5 metres from the rear of the existing properties; and
- b) Nunnery Farm should be removed from the village envelope and therefore the village envelope ends at 95 Nunnery Street.

In reaching this conclusion the Parish Council felt that:

- There had been very considerable new housing development in the village over the decades from the 50s. In the very recent past some 12 new houses had been added to the village stock.
- Brownfield site at Bayley Street had been fully developed.
- There was very little open space in the village and the 2 existing open spaces on St James Street and Church Lane should be fully maintained.
- Open space behind Railway was not suitable for development as it was on a flood plain.
- Open land of Kirby Hall Road was unsuitable due to access issues and overall lack of infrastructure.

Item 8.2. Braintree District Council report: Mrs Scattergood gave the following report:

- a) Braintree District Council core strategy has been adopted. Now in a 6 week period when any challenges can be made to it. During this period any planning applications must be considered under the previous strategy/plan.

- b) Several meetings attended with Councils in Essex and Suffolk affected by National Grid project. Braintree District Council to date has done less work in opposing plans than other councils particularly those from Suffolk. Now changing with all Councils working together. Mrs Scattergood said she remained very concerned at the lack of appreciation of the very detrimental impact that the proposals would have on the western end of the proposed corridor e.g. in and around Castle Hedingham. The planned sub-station of which 2 of the 3 possible sites, is in Castle Hedingham, will be large and in industrial. She said undergrounding of the whole route is required. She urged all to continue to keep involved and petition National Grid, MPs etc.

Mr Johnson gave his full support to Mrs Scattergood's report and comments.

10. Consideration of Capital Expenditure: Clearance of vegetation/earth from pavement on Sudbury Hill. The Parish Council agreed to do this work at a cost of £280.

11. Highways: The following were noted:

- a) Need to clear vegetation from footpath - Memories to School; and
- b) 2 potholes on Bayley.

Both items to be reported to Essex CC Highways.

Item 12.1 AOB: Mr Scrivens said that he and Mr Southgate had attended a funding event run by Braintree District Council. He said that a) only small amounts of funding for projects was now available. b) Any applications for funding must be well founded and robust.

Item 12.2 AOB: Mr Southgate proposed that the Parish consider employment of a part time handyman to do odd jobs around the Parish. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the meeting.

Item 12.3 AOB: Mr Higgins said that a parishioner had reported the poor state of the two taps in the cemetery. The Clerk agreed that they needed replacing. He also said that the water charges seemed high which may be due to a leak. It was agreed that after the tap supply was turned off at the end of October, consumption will be monitored and then a decision taken on whether further work, in addition to the replacement of the taps, was needed.

Item 12.4 AOB: Mr Higgins said a parishioner had complained about the parking, over a long period, of a large 4x4 pick-up vehicle in Falcon Square. It was noted that a) the vehicle is properly taxed) owned by a parishioner; and c) parked legally. No further action.

Item 13. Date and Time of next meetings: 07:45 Memorial Hall on 14 November.