

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 September 2011.

Present: Mrs S Allfrey (Chairman)
Mr R Worley
Mr I Higgins
Mr M Scrivens
Mr G Southgate
Mr G Pewter
Mrs L Moffat
Mrs W Scattergood (from item 6)

Members of the public: Mr M Jones and 10 of his neighbours from Rushley Green

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)
Revd L Bond

Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance: Mrs J Hart, Mr J Philp, Mr H Johnson

Item 3. Public Forum: Mr M Jones spoke on behalf of the parishioners attending. He said that they wished to complain about the music event held at Hedingham Castle on the 3rd September.

The parishioners said that their peace had been disturbed throughout the day by a) the volume of the noise from the music event itself; b) the duration of the noise pollution - from 08:30 to 23:30; and c) the noise of traffic leaving the grounds at the end of the event. In addition to the upset felt by themselves, livestock in the area had also been seriously disturbed.

Mr Jones said that whilst the specific current issue was the event on 3rd September, other events which are regularly held at the Castle, such as weddings and jousting tournaments, had also previously been the cause of noise pollution. Mr Jones said he had already complained to the responsible officer at Braintree District Council and the other parishioners said that they would now also do so. The support of the Parish Council in the complaints was sought.

The Parish Council instructed the Clerk to express its concern to Braintree District Council regarding the problems caused by the 3rd September event and overall noise issues arising at events at the Castle. This letter will be copied to the owner of Hedingham Castle.

Item 4. Police Information / Report: PC D Coghill has told the Council that she has been temporarily transferred to Halstead and that for the duration of this posting of a few months there will be no local officer for the Hedinghams. This will mean that no police report will be available to the Council for this period.

Item 6.3. Castle Hedingham Booklet: The booklet has been checked by Councillors and will now be printed and distributed.

Item 6.4. Parish Footpath Maps: 2,000 copies have now been printed and are available.

Item 6.5. Registration of Village Greens: All papers have now been lodged with Solicitors to enable action to be completed.

Item 6.6. Consideration of red phone box in St James Street: The Bell PH group has now formed a committee to take on responsibility for the telephone box in St James Street and abide by the conditions laid down by BT. The Bell PH Group proposes to initially refurbish the box. It then has a number of ideas for its use:

- a) Tourist Information Point;
- b) Book Exchange;
- c) Local art Gallery;
- d) Working Phone Box.

BT has said it will remove telephone equipment and disconnect the power and therefore item d) will not be allowable.

As the box is in a conservation area it will need be refurbished in the correct colour scheme.

The Parish Council agreed the Bell PH proposals in principle. They also agreed to pay insurance costs (structure/public liability) and business rates. However before contracts are drafted with BT and with the Bell PH group, the Council wish to be given more details regarding the use to which the box will be put. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Bell PH Group updating them on the decisions made by the Council and extending an invitation for them to present their proposals to the next Parish Council meeting.

Item 6.7. Closure of St James Street: Damage caused by contractors to curb edging at Forge Green still not properly repaired. A meeting will be arranged with Contractor and Essex CC Highway Engineer.

Item 6.9. Pavements:

Station Road & Bayley Street: Work to cut back vegetation /soil encroachment on both roads has been completed.

Sudbury Hill: The Clerk was instructed to ask the Council's contractors to give a price for clearing back vegetation on the pavement from the footpath which starts in Bayley Street to the end of the path near Rosemary Lane. Any such work will be without prejudice in respect of landowners' responsibilities to clear and cut back over hanging vegetation.

Item 6.10. Footpath 7: The Castle Estate has been asked to remove a fallen branch that is causing an obstruction.

Item 7. Planning: The Parish Council agreed to hold a meeting on Friday 7th October to discuss in detail any changes to the village envelope and development site allocations prior to its meeting with Braintree District Council in respect of the District Council's strategic planning development plan.

Item 9.2. Braintree District Council report: Mrs Scattergood gave the following report:

- a) A 'meet the funders' event is to be held at Braintree Museum on 6 October which will outline what grants and funding are available. Mr Southgate and Mr Scrivens said they will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b) Sceptic tanks must be registered with the Environment Agency by 1 December 2011; fines of up to £20,000 for failure to comply. This will be published in the next Parish Magazine.

- c) The Stour Undergrounding Group is holding a public meeting at Wickham St Paul on 14 September. Much good work is being done by this group to oppose National Grid's proposals and force through a proper evaluation of the undergrounding option.

Mrs Scattergood said that originally National Grid had said that there were two power lines currently in position on the Option 2 route and that should this route be selected larger pylons would replace one line and the other line would be removed. Option 2 route has been selected but it is now known that National Grid do not own one of the power lines and are therefore not able to remove it. The whole validity of the options consultation exercise is now being questioned.

Item 13.1 AOB: Mr Worley said that a Jubilee oak some ten feet high will be planted in the cemetery. The tree has been donated by Essex County Council.

Item 13.2 AOB: Mr Worley said that sight lines over the Nunnery Street Bridge were obscured by an elder tree. Mrs Allfrey will speak to the landowner, Mr A Crowther, and will ask him to cut it back or remove it.

Item 13.3 AOB: Mrs Moffat said that a parishioner had asked her when the remaining telegraph poles in the village centre would be removed following the recent underground cabling work. Mrs Moffat was told that the poles will remain as the cabling was additional work. She will tell the parishioner.

Item 13.4 AOB: Mrs Moffat said that dog fouling in the village centre was again a problem. If those responsible are identified she will report them to the dog warden.

Item 13.5 AOB: Mr Southgate asked that the very large volume of leaves along Crown Street be cleared and the house owner at Astles be asked to pollard and cut back his trees to alleviate this on-going issue. The Clerk will commission the works and write to the home owner.

Item 14. Date and Time of next meetings: 07:45 Memorial Hall on 10 October and 14 November.