

## Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Monday 15th April 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  
 Mrs L Moffat  
 Cllr D Finch items 1 – 7.4 and item 8.1  
 Cllr W Scattergood item 8.2 to item 10

Members of the public: None

In attendance: Mrs C Waters (Parish Clerk)

- |     |  | Action |
|-----|--|--------|
| 1.  | <b>Apologies for non-attendance:</b> Cllr J Beavis, Cllr H Johnson   |        |
| 2.  | <b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None  |        |
| 3.  | <b>Public Forum:</b> None  |        |
| 4.  | <b>Police Report:</b> PCSO Kim Chapman attended briefly before the start of the meeting to report that there had been no crime since the last meeting.   |        |
| 5.  | <b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting.</b> The minutes were proposed by Mr R Worley seconded by Mr I Higgins and signed by the Chairman.  |        |
| 6   | <b>Clerk's Report</b><br><br>A new format of reporting matters which do not require decisions from Councillors was tried. This was agreed to be worth continuing to save time in future meetings   | CW     |
| 7.  | <b>Matters Arising from the Minutes:</b>   |        |
| 7.1 | <b>Registration of Village Greens:</b><br><br>The advice from Essex County Councils legal department on Rushley Green has been forwarded to the solicitor, with a request to confirm what was originally registered in the Village Green 1965 registration.  | CW     |
| 7.2 | <b>Tree works St Nicholas Churchyard:</b><br><br>TPO No. 05/2013/TPO notice received from Richard Parmee. Section 201 of the Town and Country Planning act applies, which means that the Order took effect provisionally on 13 <sup>th</sup> March and will continue for 6 months, or until the date on which the order is confirmed. Notice of the making of the order has been served on the owners/occupiers. |        |
| 7.3 | <b>War Memorial:</b><br><br>Clerk to request extension on quotation from Bakers of Danbury and try to obtain funding for the project from various sources.   | CW     |

- 7.4 Dog Fouling:**  
 A decision was made to accept the Dog Waste Bin from Braintree District Council and ask Mortimers to fit it in a suitable location.  
 A decision was made to install a No Dogs sign at the Recreation Field. Clerk will contact De Vere School and the Dog Warden to initiate a project to design signs for the village, this could also include the sign at the Recreation Field and one for the Churchyard. Cllr Southgate also requested a replacement litter bin in Church Ponds, as it is near a local resident's kitchen window. CW
- 7.5 Village Flag Pole:**  
 Cllr Pewter requested that a flag be installed in time for St George's Day. The clerk apologised but it will not be possible to complete this in time.
- 7.6 Transfer of toilets to the Parish Council :**  
 A Service Level Agreement is being drawn up by BDC Legal Team in preparation for the transfer. An accurate map of the position of the toilets has been supplied by a surveyor. Cllr Southgate will meet with Jason Lindsay by to clarify the map will be the revised footprint of the Memorial Hall lease and the clerk will contact Braintree District Council to request support from the legal department in drawing up a supplementary lease. Cllr Pewter suggested that each side bears their own legal costs. GS  
 CW
- 7.7 Parking on grass verges:** Application needs to be submitted with types of plants proposed and the quantity. Cllr Philp will try to locate a large stone horse trough. Written consent of any landowners whose property fronts on to the verge would be required. Clerk to apply for permission to install a planter with seasonal planting. JP  
 CW
- 8. Essex CC and Braintree Reports:**
- 8.1 Essex CC report: Cllr David Finch**  
**Weight Restriction on B1058:** Cllr Finch reported that the Braintree Local Highways Panel has allocated £5000 of funding this year to a revision of the weight restriction on the B1058 Castle Hedingham to A131 Bulmer Tye, to prevent HGVs using the road illegally. Madam Chairman offered to host a meeting with neighbouring Parish Council clerks and Councillors to agree where the signs should be placed.  
**Revised speed policy.** Decisions to reduce speed to 20mph in certain areas, particularly near schools, have been delegated to the Local Highways Panel. Cllr Southgate asked about the possibility of a reduction of the speed limit from Queen Street to Station Road from 40mph to 30mph, to improve safety for the school children. Cllr Finch will supply details for application.  
**Local Authority Mortgage Scheme.** Essex County Council is part-funding up to 15% of 20% mortgage deposits for young people. The scheme will start in May.  
**Pot Holes** Now that the weather has improved, 44 gangs are out in the district dealing with all the pot holes. Councillors were told to report pot holes directly to Cllr Finch as he could get them done quickly. A multinational company is now being used with advanced technology to speed up repairs. The failure rate of repairs is around 1%, and a pot

hole repair should last 2 to 3 years. If a road has multiple pot holes, then it should be re-surfaced.

The issue of vehicles ripping up verges was also discussed. Any vehicles doing so should be reported to Essex County Council and they will be fined.

Cllr Finch left.

## 8.2 Braintree DC report: Cllr W Scattergood:

**National Grid Proposals** Braintree District Council is confident that a pretty good case has been put together to reject the National Grid Proposals for a substation in any one of the three proposed locations. BDC has also asked for a full transport analysis, since National Grid had not approached Halstead Town Council as part of the consultation. Essex County Council and other consultees have responded the same way. Cllr Scattergood will conduct a review of all the work done to date by National Grid to ensure that the damage to roads and other locations is repaired. National Grid has now come back to BDC to ask which would be the preferred route for undergrounding from Braintree – via fields (would be more expensive) or roadside (will disrupt traffic). This may indicate that the option of expanding the Braintree substation and cabling underground to Rushley Green is at last being considered. UKPN has now agreed to take down existing 132Kv power lines if the cable is run underground.

**Local Development Framework.** Cllr Worley understands that the Premdor/Rockways site proposal has been withdrawn. Cllr Scattergood reported that The application was withdrawn at Officers request because Bloor Homes were making so many amendments to the original application that the whole process was becoming confused. Bloor Homes are now going to submit a new application covering all the amendments.

## 9. Planning:

### 9.1 Applications received:

13/00225/LBC Orbell House 8 St James Street. Replacement of rotten bow window (with identical window using same materials). No objections

### 9.2 Applications granted/refused:

12/01392/FUL The Barn 1 Pye Corner. Change of use of domestic to retail and external signage Application GRANTED 04/04/2013

Listed building consent application for proposed signage is still under consideration. Councillors requested in their response to this application that gates should be open when the barn is open, to prevent parking on this dangerous corner. Clerk to check conditions of the consent to this application

12/01311/FUL Land South of Rosemary Farm, Rosemary Lane. An appeal has been lodged to the Secretary of State following Braintree District Council's refusal of this application. Clerk to respond by 9<sup>th</sup> May reiterating the original objections from the Parish Council.

CW

### 9.3 Planning enforcement

Case 13/00041/UBW3 8 Queen Street Castle Hedingham Essex CO9 3EX

Breach/Action Various works being carried out – site visit reveals no

breaches of planning control.

Date Received: 21/02/2013 Case Status: CLOSED

10.

**Correspondence:**

**Items for Consideration.**

**Sible Hedingham Parish Council.** Request for commitment to developing a business case for a new combined surgery and medical centre in Sible Hedingham housing Castle Hedingham and Sible Hedingham GPs. Financial support is requested for consultancy fee.. It was agreed unanimously that Castle Hedingham Parish Council cannot give the commitment requested and should not provide a contribution to consultancy fees. Clerk to respond.

CW

**Local Government Boundary Commission** Formal announcement of the start of the electoral review of Braintree District Council, following a request from BDC to review council size. It is proposed to reduce the number of District Councillors from 60 to 50. Feedback is requested by 7 May 2013 at [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or to The Review Officer (Braintree), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, and 76 – 86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG. Cllrs Allfrey and Scrivens suggested that the current number should be maintained, at least in rural areas. Cllr Scattergood said that the current workload with 3 District Councillors is pretty hard going, and the Boundary Commission would decide where the splits are located. Proposed by Cllr Allfrey, seconded by Cllr Pewter and agreed unanimously that we should retain the current number of District Councillors. Clerk to respond.

CW

**EALC** Request to renew membership for 2013/2014. Cost £318.01, due 1 June 2013. Proposed Cllr Worley and seconded by Cllr Allfrey, agreed unanimously that membership should be continued.

CW

**C Mortimer Ground Maintenance** offer to buy mower and strimmer kept in Pump House. Also report on condition of bins with suggestions for improvement to 3 bins in cemetery and 3 other locations: Forge Green, Bayley Street and Church Lane opposite Memorial Hall. It was agreed unanimously to offer to swap the equipment for a new bin fitted at Forge Green. Clerk to confirm costs of conservation area bins from Braintree District Council for other locations by May meeting.

CW

**Castle Hedingham Tennis Club.** Request for financial support in rebuilding of the historic brick wall on St James Street and help with finding sources for grants. Item will be on agenda for May meeting. Clerk to research potential grant providers, contact Angela Verghese at Braintree District Council on advice of Cllr Scattergood, and respond to Mr Hatfield.

CW

**St Nicholas Church.** Request from Revd Laurie Bond for a letter of support from the Parish Council for an application to Essex Environment Trust for a grant to fund repairs to chancel roof. Clerk to respond.

CW

**Footpaths** A request was received from the Public Right of Way officer for information about donated gates. Clerk has responded that these were installed on Footpath 25 and no other have been received.

JP

GP

Mr Trevor Hood has reported issues on Footpaths 3, 24, and 19. Cllrs Philp, Pewter and Worley will look at these issues and take appropriate action.

RW

**Other**

**Colne-Stour Countryside Association** Request for new members.

Invitation to Annual General Meeting 7.30 for 8.00 pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013 at Ferriers Barn, Bures. Invitation to Annual Summer Party at Colne Park, Colne Engaine on Tuesday 9th July 2013 6.30 to 8.30 pm.

**Braintree Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group.** Invitation to AGM and Conference Monday 29th April at the Howard Hall, 36 Bocking End, Braintree CM79AA, commencing at 7 pm.

**St Nicholas Church.** Invitation to contemporary civic service to Remember and Thank Those who serve the Local Community. 10.05am for 10.30am start, Sunday 21st April 2013. Councillors G Southgate and L Moffat will attend.

**12. Budget 2013/2014:**

The budget was proposed by Cllr Worley, seconded by Cllr Scrivens and accepted unanimously. Cllr Higgins requested the clerk research burial fees to identify if an increase is appropriate.

CW

**13. Pay Review 2013/2014**

Clerk left the room. Councillors proposed a bonus for all employees rather than a pay increase.

CW

**14. Disabled Parking at Memorial Hall** Cllr Scrivens reported there is no disabled parking close to the entrance, and the disabled space markings in the car park need renewing. Clerk to investigate the options via Braintree District Council, Essex County Council Highways and private contractors. For decision at May meeting

CW

**15. Any Other Business:**

Cllr Worley asked that Mr Alan Shaw, who is leaving the village, be recognised for the work he has done for the Memorial Hall. Cllr Higgins has already purchased a leaving gift on behalf of the Memorial Hall. Councillors unanimously agreed to contribute £40 towards the cost of this gift.

A white van continues to park at Crouch Green on the edge of the highway, obstructing views. Clerk to report

CW

Cllr Philp would still like a meeting with Highways outside De Vere School at drop off or pick up times, to discuss problems. Clerk to chase request.

CW

Cllr Scrivens reported from meeting about Superfast Broadband.

An initial design for the Castle Hedingham website was approved by Councillors. Clerk to request the project now proceeds to the next stage.

CW

**16. Date of Next Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 07:45.

**Annual General Meeting** 3 May 2013 at 8.00pm at the Memorial Hall

Signed:

Mrs S Allfrey  
Chairman