



- Development continuing unchallenged with no idea what are the plans for the future of the site. This may be much more difficult to rectify at a later date if not challenged now.
- Visibility and safety for vehicles turning at the junction is compromised, at a location where there have already been accidents and near misses over recent years.
- Braintree Planning Enforcement's response that the height of the fence is a "minor infringement" was regarded as an insult by residents, who suspect they wouldn't be granted the same leniency if they built a structure that was 20% larger than permitted by planning law.
- It was noted that Anglian Water are installing a stand pipe, so must have details of the owner to invoice for the work

**Action:** The clerk will make the Forestry Commission and Planning Enforcement officers aware of this as a possible way to identify the landowner.

The Parish Council shared with parishioners the responses they had received so far from the authorities, and committed to continue to keep chasing up action on this issue. Braintree District Councillors were asked for their comments, and agreed with concerns raised about the way this has been done. Cllr Beavis had contacted the BDC Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Gabrielle Spray, and reassured residents that breaches of planning law do get resolved in the end, including through the High Court if necessary.

## 5. PROGRESS CHECK

**5.1 Forge Green:** Damage reported to Anglian Water following recent works has been made good, but another large vehicle has subsequently left tyre ruts on the green on the newly seeded section.

**Action:** The clerk will ask Village Maintenance to rake the area and re-seed if necessary

**5.2 Sudbury Road:** Illegal tree and hedge clearance and erection of a 2.4m fence around the site: This was discussed during the public forum item 4.

**Action:** Cllr Doe suggested that all Councillors should ensure their understanding of planning law is up to date in order to respond effectively as a Council. The clerk will continue to monitor social media posts and direct people towards the appropriate authorities to make a complaint if they wish to do so.

## 6. HIGHWAYS

**6.1 Footpath bollard, Crouch Green:** Essex Highways may repair this as part of routine maintenance

**Action:** The clerk will chase this up and make them aware that the broken bollard is a trip hazard.

**6.2 Byway 27 Kirby Hall to Rosemary Lane:** The ECC Public Rights of Way Officer can organise delivery of old road planings to improve the surface. She has been put in contact with Hewsons Farm to arrange this as they have the necessary licences and permissions to be able to spread the planings.

**6.3 White lines at St Nicholas Church, Falcon Square:** An apology has been received from Essex Highways that these have not yet been replaced following resurfacing. They are liaising with the churchwarden to do this as soon as possible as weddings and other events are now booked at the church.

**6.4 Bollards, Village Park** Possible installation of lockable bollards at the Memorial Hall end of the path/dropped kerb to prevent unauthorised vehicle access will be looked into by the Village Park group.

## 7. REPORTS

**7.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch:** A recent Police report had been forwarded to Councillors. Cllr Southgate had written to the Chief Constable to report residents' concerns about drug dealing and details of vehicles involved near the Scout Hut and at the junction of Queen Street and Sheepcot Road. The co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page sent a written report, advising that he will now only be posting NW approved notifications as a result of escalating demand to report unsubstantiated scare stories about dog thefts, many of which have a racist tone and are not backed up by police reports.

**7.2 Essex CC report:** Cllr D Finch ECC apologised for absence due to conflicting meetings.

**7.3 Braintree DC report:** Cllr Beavis reported:

- **Return to face-to-face meetings:** Like the Parish Council, Braintree District Council are considering how to safely return to face-to-face meetings and are awaiting further guidance.
- **Elections 6<sup>th</sup> May.** This is a particular challenge due to Covid restrictions. Instead of one counting house, there will be 7 and the counting will go on for 3 days to meet requirements of various ECC, BDC, Police Fire & Crime Commissioner, and local elections across the district.

- **BDC Extraordinary meeting, Green agenda:** Cycling, improved air quality, growing more trees, funding for conservation of the River Colne and dealing with litter were all discussed at the meeting
- **Section 2 Local Plan:** This will give the district protection against speculative development, including situations such as raised at item 5.2, and is expected to be completed during 2022.
- **Resident concerns:** Many emails sent by residents to Cllr Beavis raise the concern of speeding vehicles in the Heddinghams.  
**Action:** The clerk will forward information and requirements for a village speed watch to Councillors for consideration. *Agenda item for May or June meeting.*

Cllr Johnson reported:

- **Travellers at Memories Car park:** This caused widespread concern, they have now moved on
- **Drug taking:** Cllr Johnson has observed cars meeting up and deals being done
- **Potential dog thefts:** Advice is available for owners to protect themselves against dog theft
- **BDC meetings:** Smaller committee meetings are resuming face-to-face at BDC.

## 8. PLANNING

*Applications received*

**21/00401/HH** Proposed two storey side extension and single storey front extension

4 Crouch Green CO9 3DY

*No objections*

**21/00729/HH** Erection of outbuilding for use as home gym and office

32 Crouch Green CO9 3DY *Some Councillors had not seen this. Clerk to re-send. Deadline 22<sup>nd</sup> April.*

*Applications determined:*

**20/02010/DAC** Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 4 & 7 of approved application 18/01680/FUL

Land South of Rosemary Farm Rosemary Lane

Application *PERMITTED*

**20/02024/LBC** Installation of security cameras

Astles 1 Pye Corner CO9 3DE

Application *PERMITTED*

## 9. FINANCE

**9.1** The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation. The bank reconciliation was checked and signed via email by Cllr Gransden.

**Proposed:** Cllr Veater

**Seconded:** Cllr Toocaram

Agreed unanimously

Apr-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£31.23
DD	Bulb	Electricity Toilets	£12.54
DD	Invoco (GOCARDLESS)	Portable telephone number	£1.33
B/P	King & Co	3 x Root rain irrigation systems	£43.56
B/P	Silverton Ltd	Play Sand & post mix Village Park	£173.21
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI March month 12	£81.62
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office March	£75.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses Feb 8th to March 8th	£34.16
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£11.40
B/P	M D Landscapes	Grass cutting March	£1,190.40
B/P	Darkins Supply Stores	Padlocks & Grass seed	£90.72
B/P	EALC	NALC/EALC Affiliation Fees	£364.25
B/P	EALC	Youth Engagement Conference WD	£60.00
B/P	EALC	Youth Engagement Conference CW	£60.00
B/P	Turner Tool Hire	Wood Chipper Hire, fuel, PPE hire	£201.48
B/P	Branson Leisure Ltd	4 x Benches, plaques & delivery	£3,492.00

B/P	Braintree District Council	Rent, Pump House	£30.00
B/P	Braintree District Council	Rates, Pump House	£5.42
B/P	Abacus Accountancy	Payroll Jan Feb March 21	£43.20
B/P	The Bell Inn	Thank you Plumbing help	£20.00
B/P	The Bell Inn	Thank you Village Volunteer helpline	£20.00
B/P	908 Ltd	Tree Labels Village Park	£79.80
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£6,121.32</b>

<b>Apr-21</b>	<b>Receipts in Month</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
06-Apr	J Rulten	Sponsorship Village Park tree	£139.30
07-Apr	Essex County Council	Grass cutting grant 2020-2021	£207.15
12-Apr	J Hendry	Purchase EROB Grave 295	£242.00
12-Apr	J Hendry	Sponsorship Village Park tree/general	£200.00
12-Apr	G Jones & family	Sponsorship Village Park seat	£600.00
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£1,388.45</b>

<b>Mar-21</b>	<b>Payments in Month</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£28.20
DD	Bulb	Electricity Toilets	£18.81
DD	Invoco (GOCARDLESS)	Portable telephone number	£1.39
DD	B&CE Holdings	Peoples Pension	£67.80
DD	Wave	Wave Water toilets	£52.95
DD	Wave	Wave water cemetery	£10.33
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,538.95
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI Feb month 11	£84.22
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office March	£75.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses Feb 8th to March 8th	£115.87
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£11.40
B/P	M D Landscapes	Cemetery level graves and lay turf	£150.00
B/P	Janitorial Direct Limited	Toilet Rolls and Disinfectant	£104.00
B/P	Darkins Supply Stores	Village Maintenance & Public Toilets	£63.60
B/P	Kevin Shears	Fencing Village Park/Ruffles Yard	£656.00
B/P	D J Donoghue	Grave EROB fee refund	£297.00
B/P	Associated Systems Gosfield	Storage Container Village Park	£3,450.00
B/P	King & Co	3 x Trees Stakes & Ties Village Park	£450.00
300365	Hedingham British Legion	Donation 2020 Remembrance Wreath	£60.00
	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	£18.00
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£7,253.52</b>

<b>Mar-21</b>	<b>Receipts in Month</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11-Mar	E of England Co-op	Interment/Transfer EROB Grave 222	£231.00
19-Mar	Stonewriters	Memorial Grave 256	£132.00
26-Mar	Toocaram	Sponsorship Village Park seat	£850.00
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£1,213.00</b>

### Accounts balances at 12th April 2021

Unity Trust Current account	£15,517.64
Unity Trust Deposit account	£10,466.77
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£34,502.31
	<b>£60,486.72</b>

**9.2** Receipt of the 2021-2022 Braintree District Council Street Cleaning Agreement was noted and will be completed by the clerk. A community litter pick was discussed in conjunction with this and Cllr Beavis suggested a joint Hedinghams Litter Pick with Sible Hedingham, theirs is planned for the afternoon of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Hi vis vests, litter pickers, gloves and bags will be available to collect from the Village Shop. The clerk will forward risk assessment information from previous community litter picks to Cllr Beavis and liaise with the clerk at Sible Hedingham.

**9.3** Draft income and expenditure summaries for 2020-2021 had been forwarded to Councillors. Full year end accounts in preparation for internal and external audit are being prepared by the clerk.

*Cllr Doe expressed an interest in item 9.4 and left the meeting.*

**9.4** Thank you to volunteers: A gift of £20 each to two volunteers who have given their time to support the village was proposed, in the form of money behind the bar at the Bell where they are both regular customers. This would come from the Chairman's expenses budget which will be underspent this year.

**Proposed:** Cllr Southgate                      **Seconded:** Cllr Jordan                      Agreed unanimously

*Cllr Doe rejoined the meeting*

## 10. CASTLE HEDINGHAM VILLAGE PARK

**10.1** Cllr Jordan as Chairman of the Village Park group gave an update on progress since the March meeting. 4 oak benches have been installed around the play area and feedback from visitors to the park is very positive. 3 new silver birch trees have been planted alongside the path. All benches and trees have now been sponsored, but further tree planting and seating is planned for the autumn and a number of residents have expressed an interest in sponsorship in memory of a loved one. All the cleared wood and brambles have been put through a wood chipper and the remaining mulch will be used for the community garden area. The sand pit at the play area has been filled up. When it can be arranged to move them, the logs up the hill at the Queen Street side of the park will be moved to the opposite side. A lockable outside tap has been installed at the Public Toilets. Neighbouring residents who expressed concerns about work proposed have been contacted by members of the Village Park group and an acceptable work plan has been agreed for the Queen Street boundary.

**10.2** The grant award of £1000 from Tesco Bags of Help was noted with grateful thanks for their support of the Community Garden/Allotment project. This needs to be spent within 12 months of the award.

**Action:** Members of the Village Park group will meet to plan next steps.

**10.3 Picnic Benches:** Councillors were asked to visit the manufacturer in Pebmarsh to look at the quality of the benches, which are available for £1,500 (£300.00 discount) for 3 smaller benches and £900.00 for one larger one which could be adapted for wheelchairs. *Agenda item for May meeting*

**10.4 Dog Fouling** this has been monitored since the March meeting and the problem has reduced since the weather has become less cold and wet.

**Action:** Following a suggestion from Cllr Doe, dog poo bag dispensers will be considered. These could be useful if non dog owners with children are at the park and want to remove dog mess themselves.

**10.5 Next actions** – A meeting of the Village Park group will be organised to plan next steps

## 11. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

None

## 12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Annual Parish Council meeting: Election of Chairman, groups and representatives
- Review of financial regulations, asset register and insurance
- Agenda items for the May meeting to be notified to the clerk by 9am on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: All meetings to be held via Video Conferencing until 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

<b>Tuesday 4th May 2021</b>	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
<b>May 2021</b>		Annual Parish Assembly	EVENT CANCELLED

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm**

SIGNED  
(CHAIRMAN)

DATE