

Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Wednesday 15 August 2011.

Present: Mrs S Alfrey (Chairman)
Mr R Worley
Mr I Higgins
Mr M Scrivens
Mr G Southgate
Mrs W Scattergood

Members of the public: None

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance: Mrs J Beavis, Mr D Finch, Mr H Johnson, PC D Coghill, Mr J Philp, Mrs Hart, Mr G Pewter

Item 4. Police Information / Report: A written report has been received. Two incidents were highlighted in the period: 13 July-9 August:

- a. A satellite navigation system was stolen from a car in Nunnery Street.
- b. Temporary traffic lights in Queen Street were damaged and the batteries stolen

Item 6.3. Castle Hedingham Booklet: The booklet is to be checked by Councillors, with any amendments to Mr Southgate. It will then be printed and distributed.

Item 6.4. Parish Footpath Maps: 2,000 copies are now being printed

Item 6.5. Registration of Village Greens: Papers have been completed for Forge Green, Chapel Green, Crouch Green, Pye Corner Green have been completed and forwarded to the Land Registry. A further declaration is being prepared in respect of Rushley Green.

Item 6.6. Consideration of red phone box in St James Street: Proposal has yet to be received from the Bell PH group.

Item 6.8. Closure of St James Street: Damage caused by contractors to curb edging at Forge Green still not properly repaired. Matter has been reported to Essex CC Highways who are dealing with this.

Item 6.9. Vegetation on Sudbury Hill: Overhanging vegetation has been cut back.

Item 6.10. National Grid Proposals: Two of three sites for proposed sub-station are in the parish - by Railway Lane and down Delvyns Lane. The sub-station will be the size of two football pitches, approx. 40 feet high, with a tower on top. A detailed plan of the proposed sites is to be supplied by National Grid to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will give National Grid a detailed response of objection.

Item 8.1. Correspondence: The Councillors declared a personal interest in that they know the parties involved in this item. A parishioner has complained about the unsightly state of a listed wall on St James Street. The wall has been partially demolished as it was in an unsafe condition due to undermining by tree roots. The Parish Council has been told by the property owner that it is his intention to have the wall rebuilt but he does not yet have a start date for the works. Braintree District

Council Planning has advised that whilst enforcement action is allowable under legislation it would be unlikely in these circumstances i.e. the wall is being taken down due to health and safety issues and an intention to rebuild has been confirmed. The Parish Council agreed not to take further action at this time but to closely monitor the situation. The Clerk was instructed to write to the parishioner who has complained, copied to the property owner, setting out the position in respect of enforcement action and the Parish Council's proposed action.

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

- a. The Government appointed independent inspector has confirmed that the Braintree District Council Planning Core Strategy is in accordance with Government policies. The Core Strategy will now be agreed by the full Braintree District Council in the autumn.
- b. Mrs Scattergood and other concerned Braintree District Councillors are meeting with National Grid in respect of the Bramford to Twinstead Project on 22nd August. She asked Parish Councillors to forward any questions/points they had for this meeting to her. Mrs Scattergood said that the Stour Valley Underground Association was doing excellent work in challenging National Grid's proposals. It had brought to National Grid's attention that Anglian Water had recently completed an undergrounding of water pipes in Lincolnshire at considerably less cost per km than costs quoted by National Grid,. A public meeting in respect of National Grid's plans is to be held at Wickham St Paul Village Hall evening of 14 September.
- c. A meeting is to be held 20 September at Wakes Colne Village Hall at 19:30 to discuss the establishment of the River Colne Trust. The objective of the trust is to work with other organisations to continue works previously funded by Braintree District Council along the River Colne. Mrs Scattergood urged support for the trust.

Item 12.1. Consideration and decision on tree work in Sheepcot Road: It was agreed to accept an estimate from E.F Mayes for tree work on Sheepcot Road.

Item 13.1. Consideration of offer by Bugle Telecomms to provide a Community Notice Board FOC: The Parish Council decided not to accept this offer as the noticeboard offered would not be in keeping in a conservation area.

Item 14. Highways: There are several pavements, specifically along Bayley Street and Station Road, where vegetation and earth encroachment is causing difficulties to pedestrians. The grass on the verge at Bayley Street/Castle Close also needs cutting. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk will meet with the Council's grass cutting contractors to discuss the work/costs.

Item 15.1 AOB: Mr Worley said a parishioner has reported a fallen branch across footpath 7. Mr Southgate said he would ask the Castle Estate Management to clear it.

Item 15.2 AOB: It was noted that the following are planned to celebrate the 60 Jubilee Year: The Parish Council plans to install a new bench on Forge Green and various events are planned in the village e.g. open gardens, events at the Castle and Bell PH.

Item 15.3 AOB: Mr Higgins said he had put parking notices on vehicles parked causing obstruction in Falcon Square and Pottery Lane.

Item 16. Date and Time of next meetings: 07:45 Memorial Hall. 12 September, 10 October, 14 November.