

Castle Hedingham Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council of Castle Hedingham held in Memorial Hall Castle Hedingham on Wednesday 13 July 2011.

Present: Mrs S Alfrey (Chairman)
Mr R Worley
Mr G Pewter
Mr J Philp
Mr M Scrivens
Mrs J Hart
Mrs J Beavis

Members of the public: None

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance: Mr Higgins, Pc D Coghill, Mrs Scattergood, Mr Finch.

Item 4. Police Information / Report: A written report has been received. Two incidents were highlighted in the month 13 June to 13 July: a). A barn on Sudbury Road was broken into and three bronze statues stolen. B). An untaxed vehicle reported several times in the village. The vehicle is insured and the owners are from London and are believed to be 'weekenders'. The police have written to the owners asking them to remove the vehicle from the highway.

Item 6.2. Disabled Parking Provision in Falcon Square: Essex CC has advised that the job is listed but it is not in a position yet to give a completion date; there is a backlog of work.

Item 6.5. Parish Footpath Maps: Essex CC has granted £250 for part funding of a re-print. Greenfields has also granted £250. The Parish Council agreed to fund the remaining £250 cost of a re-print of 2,000 maps. Mr Worley will now organise the printing.

Item 6.6. Registration of Village Greens: Mr Worley will be visiting solicitors to make the necessary declarations to complete the registration process.

Item 6.9. Closure of St James Street: The works have been completed however the contractors have not properly made good damage they caused on Forge Green. The Clerk was instructed to pursue the matter.

Item 6.10. Vegetation on Sudbury Hill: The Castle Estate has said that it will cut back the overhanging vegetation.

Item 7.1. 11/00097 - Four Winds. Kirby Hall Road: Planning Permission was refused for a caravan park. Ground works requiring planning permission have been carried out and a retrospective planning application for these works has been submitted, Braintree District Council Planning Enforcement Officer is monitoring.

Item 7.2. 11/00137- 7 Falcon Square: A basement has been converted for use a kitchen with a glass panel above and excavations carried out to provide external access. The Historical Buildings Officer has said that the work appears acceptable. A retrospective planning application has been submitted. The Planning Enforcement Officer is monitoring the situation.

Item 8. CH Parochial Charity: The Parish Council agreed to re-appoint Mrs K Pulton as its representative trustee on the Castle Hedingham Parochial Charity for a further 4 years.

Item 9.2. Braintree DC Report: Mrs Beavis reported;

- a) There has been considerable re-structuring and reduction in numbers of the structure of Braintree District Council. She now has responsibility for “communities”.
- b) She has spoken to the Asset Management Section of Braintree District Council regarding the pump house land; there are no plans at present to sell it but this may change. Mrs Beavis has asked that Asset Management give Castle Hedingham Parish Council first opportunity to buy.
- c) A community project fund with a budget of £1/2 million will be launched in November this year.
- d) A cluster meeting for North Essex parishes will be held on 10th November.
- e) On 12th July National Grid announced its corridor for the new power line. This will cross Castle Hedingham Parish. In addition two of the three potential sites for a large new sub-station are in Castle Hedingham. Suffolk County Council and Suffolk parishes have already launched a major campaign of objection to the National Grid plans. Mrs Beavis said Essex should do the same; she will be investigating plans and taking action.

There was considerable discussion in respect of item e). The Council objects to the plans. It was also angry that National Grid was holding ‘consultation’ forums at very short notice and in the middle of the holiday season – the meeting for Castle Hedingham will be held at Wickham St Pauls on 19th July. The Clerk was instructed to write to National Grid, copied to local MP, Braintree District Council requesting: a) Undergrounding of cabling; and b) Sub stations not to be sited in the Parish.

Item 12.1. Highway Matters – Kirby Hall Road: A parishioner in Kirby Hall Road has complained about drivers delivering/collecting school pupils parking across the resident’s driveway. There are no parking restrictions on the section of road in question and therefore no parking offense is being incurred. Changes to parking regulations are the responsibility of Essex CC Highways and it would need to be asked to put in white lining/extend current restrictions to cover the roadway in front of the resident’s home. The Clerk was instructed to write to the parishioner accordingly.

Item 12.2. Highway Matters – Bayley Street: Mrs Allfrey has received a complaint from a parishioner in Bayley Street about other residents parking across the pavement making pedestrian passage difficult. Mrs Allfrey said she has spoken to all parties and there has now been some improvement in the parking. She will write to the parishioner who made the complaint confirming the action taken.

Item 13.1. Village Trees Check: Mr Pewter said that trees on the village green should be checked by a tree surgeon as the last check was 18 months ago. This was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to contact the Council’s tree surgeon.

Item 13.2. Nunnery Street Obstruction: Mrs Allfrey said that she would speak to the landowner of the meadow alongside the Nunnery Street bridge and ask him to cut back the elder tree that is obstructing motorists’ sight lines.

Item 15. Date and Time of next meetings: 07:45 Memorial Hall. 15 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November.