

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

Present:

Mrs S Allfrey (Chairman)
Mr R Worley
Mr G Southgate
Mr J Philp
Mr I Higgins
Mrs J Hart
Mr H Johnson
Mrs L Moffat
Mrs W Scattergood

Members of the public: Mr P Schwier Great Maplestead Parish Council

In attendance: Mr K M King (Parish Clerk)

Item 1. Apologies for non-attendance: Mr Pewter. Pc D Coghill.

Item 3. Vacancy on Parish Council: One application to be co-opted to fill the vacancy had been received from Mr M Scrivens. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Scrivens met the necessary eligibility criteria. Appointment of Mr Scrivens was proposed by Mrs Allfrey, seconded by Mr Southgate and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Scrivens. The Clerk will forward necessary paperwork to Mr Scrivens.

Item 5. Police Information / Report: A written report has been received. In the last two months there has been a theft of metal at the Colne Valley Railway and also a burglary at the Castle. In respect of the latter case suspects were arrested. Anti-social behaviour has been occurring around the tennis courts late on Friday nights and police patrols in the area will address this.

Item 7.4. Works in Cemetery: Rubbish signs have now been erected.

Item 7.5. Castle Hedingham Booklet: Mr Southgate reported that he is currently working through various amendments, work on going.

Item 7.6. Parish Footpath Maps: A request has been made to Essex CC for part funding of a re-print; a reply is awaited. Mr Worley has made an application to Greenfields for part funding.

Item 7.7. Planning:

- a) Old YMCA Falcon Square- Damaged Wall. The Parish Council noted that the wall had been repaired but with modern and incorrect cement. The wall was now being re-erected using correct lime cement.
- b) Old Curatege – Queen Street-dormer window. Still not replaced. An enforcement order has been issued and the Braintree District Council enforcement Officer has the case.
- c) Tradewind, Kirby Hall Road. Work continues on this site and parishioners understand from workmen on the site that a caravan park is planned. The case has previously been reported to Braintree District Council Planning Enforcement Officer who has said that works requiring planning approval, which had not been given had been carried out and he was pursuing the matter with the landowner. Mrs Scattergood in her role as Chair of the Planning Committee said she would speak to the Enforcement Officer for details of current position and enforcement action necessary.

Item 8.1. Registration of Village Greens: Papers to register the greens have now been received from Land Registry/Solicitors. They were passed to Mr R Worley for consideration and signature on behalf of the Parish

Item 11.1. Braintree DC Report: Mrs Scattergood reported that she would be actively supporting Hedingham scouts and guides who were doing some excellent work at the Wethersfield animal sanctuary.

She said Braintree District Council had allocated a fund of £500,000 for community group projects. Details of eligibility and conditions were currently being drawn up. She considered that this fund offered an opportunity for Castle Hedingham Parish council to apply for fund to buy land for a playing field/Parish council building. However an early application for funds would be essential. The meeting agreed that they would like to pursue this opportunity and it was decided to hold an early meeting of the Playing Field sub-committee to progress.

Mr Johnson said that he fully supported Mrs Scattergood's comments in respect of the work by the scouts and guides and the community funds. He also said that the health walks in Castle Hedingham on Tuesday mornings had been excellent to date. However they had been poorly attended and he encouraged more to attend.

Item 13. Consideration of red phone box in St James Street: The Parish Council agreed in principle to buy the red phone box in St James Street for £1 from BT and then transfer ownership/responsibility for it to the Bell Public House group who wish to maintain and use the box. Before proceeding, the Parish Council wishes to receive confirmation of the following:

- a) A properly constituted body is formed by the Bell PH Group and
- b) The use(s) the group wishes to make of the box.

Item 14. Consideration of Minor Works: It was agreed that a low branch on Crouch Green should be trimmed and weed spraying should take place in the cemetery. The Parish Council agreed that in future minor works may be authorised by the Chairman.

Item 15.1. Speed gun: Mr Southgate reported that the speed gun has finally been returned to the parish but the new arrangements for use of the gun are likely to involve an on-going subscription payment by the Parish to use the speed gun. Mr Southgate said that he felt there was no value in continuing to be part of the speed watch scheme as the gun was rarely available and there was little or scant evidence of follow up enforcement action by the police. He proposed, seconded by Mrs Allfrey that the Parish Council withdraw from the scheme. This was agreed.

Item 15.2. Closure of Queen Street: The Parish Council noted the closure of Queen Street from 25 June for 7 days for cable laying. The contractors are storing materials without permission on Forge Village Green; the clerk has spoken to the contractor/Essex CC Highways and the contractor has agreed to remove the material and re-instate the green. Works also started early 8:00 am on Sunday 12 June, the contractor has agreed that this was too early and there should be no repetition.

Item 15.3. Overhanging Vegetation: Mr Pewter had noted that vegetation on the Castle Estate is overhanging the footpath on Sudbury Hill causing a hazard for pedestrians. The Clerk has written to the castle asking that it be cut back.

Item 16.1. Bingham Pottery: Mrs Moles has suggested that the Parish owned pieces of Bingham pottery currently held in a locked cupboard in Doctor's surgery could alternatively be displayed in either: a) a glass fronted cabinet behind the post office counter or b) the base of the village embroidery showcase in the church. It was agreed that Mrs Moles should be thanked and that her suggestions would be carried forward and considered within the discussion on the development of a Parish Council building.

Item 16.2. Public Toilets: The Clerk reported that he and Mrs Hart had attended a meeting with Braintree District Council regarding the responsibility for the public toilets in the village. Currently the costs are met by the District Council. The District Council intends making an offer transferring all responsibility to the Parish Council. Funding would continue for a limited period only, probably 12 or 18 months, after which the Parish Council would meet the costs. There is a question of who owns the

toilets currently. The District Council will investigate this issue and then come back to the Parish Council.

Item 16.3. Annual general Meeting: Mrs Moffat said several parishioners had asked that amplification be used for speakers at the annual meeting. This was agreed.

Item 16.4. Application for Funding: Mr Worley proposed that when considering the potential application for funding for the purchase and development of a playing field, the Parish Council should also consider building a Parish Council building - office, meeting room, and museum. It was agreed that this should be considered at the next meeting.

Item 17. Date and Time of next meetings: 07.45 p.m. 13 July 2011, 15 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November at the Memorial Hall.