



Parish of Castle Hedingham

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 21st AUGUST 2017 AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.45PM

Present: Cllrs Higgins, Moffat, Southgate, Scrivens, Toocaram, Worley
In the Chair: Cllr Southgate
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: District Cllr Johnson, County Cllr Finch
2 parishioners

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hood, Pewter and Philp. Apologies for absence were also received from District Cllrs Beavis.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 24th July 2017 were approved as a correct record of events and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Toocaram **Seconded:** Cllr Higgins Agreed unanimously

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Scrivens declared an interest in item 9.2 as Parish Council representative and Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1. The clerk and Chairman had met with Richard Bass, head of Refuse Collection at BDC. A replacement litter bin has been agreed near the bus stop near the Rising Sun at Nunnery Street and a new litter bin by Crouch Green near the footpath past Memories. A new dog waste bin close to the start of footpath 11 from Nunnery Street to the Colne Valley Railway will be installed. All will be emptied weekly by BDC refuse crews.

5.2. Overgrown foliage was noted at the river by Nunnery Street and Station Road bridges. It has been 2 years since this was last cleared.

Action: Clerk to contact Environment Agency

5.3. Fallen straw from harvest vehicles is in danger of blocking drains at Bayley Street and elsewhere.

Action: Clerk to contact BDC to ask for a repeat of the parish sweep when harvest is finished.

Action: Clerk to contact Hedingham Castle to ask for their trees at Bayley Street to be cut back to prevent so much straw falling from lorries next year.

5.4. The new Business Development Manager from Colne Valley Railway had met with the clerk to request support of the Parish Council in publicising events. The railway was registered as a charity in 2015, and one of the requirements of their Heritage Lottery Funding is to increase visitor numbers.

RESOLVED: To permit the CVR to erect advertising posters for special events only at Crouch Green, as long as it does not obstruct sightlines of vehicles exiting Nunnery Street and is removed promptly once the event is over.

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

6. HIGHWAYS

6.1 A letter from Cllr Finch had been circulated to Councillors reporting the result of his investigation into Kirby Hall Road. Four of the major potholes had been repaired on August 2nd, these were the only defects which met the current criteria for intervention. Further consideration is being given as to whether Kirby

Hall Road will be included in the Capital programme for resurfacing at a later date. Cllr Finch reported that due to the narrow width of the road beyond the school and the lack of proper structure beneath the road it is particularly being damaged by heavy vehicles. He suggested BDC is contacted to ask that the smaller dustcarts used for the centre of the village are also used for collection at Kirby Hall Road. Cllr Toocaram informed Cllr Finch that vehicles are now using the road at Rushley Green as an alternative to Kirby Hall Road, and so causing increased damage to Rosemary Lane. Cllr Finch agreed to look at the length of the road from the school along Kirby Hall Road and Rosemary Lane himself.

Action: Clerk to contact BDC about smaller dustcarts for Kirby Hall Road.

6.2 Essex Highways diversion signs have not been removed from Crouch Green since the roads were resurfaced in November 2016. Cllr Finch will investigate and ask for their removal.

6.3 A broken footbridge at footpath 16 by Maiden Ley Farm has been reported to the Public Rights of Way team, as has a broken finger post at footpath 37 from Pye Corner.

6.4 Cllr Moffat reported that a disabled resident of Church Lane is finding it difficult to park, and requested that the Keep Clear signs be extended or a disabled bay marked out. Cllr Finch suggested contacting North Essex Parking Partnership to ask for a disabled bay. The alternatives would be requesting residents' parking or installing yellow lines, which the Parish Council does not support.

6.5 Advice had been sought from County Cllr Finch and Essex Highways about the use of a thermoplastic line marker kit for replacing worn or damaged line markings, rather than waiting for it to be done by Highways contractors. Cllr Finch agreed to chase up a response from Highways.

6.6 An elder tree is blocking sight lines at Nunnery Street bridge.

Action: Clerk to contact landowner and suggest is cut back by our Village Maintenance operative when he is clearing nettles in the area.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Police/Neighbourhood Watch: None.

7.2 ECC Report: Cllr Finch reported on the following:

- Education – 94% of Essex schools are good or outstanding by OFSTED, and SATS results are above national average.
- Budget – ECC has to find £44m to balance the books for 2018, and £146m for each of 2019 & 2020
- Childrens services - these are viewed as exemplary but an increasing number of children are entering care from the older age groups. This is thought to be as a result of gang activity moving from London
- Economic growth – a new STEM college is being jointly financed by ECC at Stansted, specifically for aircraft apprenticeships
- Garden villages – these are in progress for Rayne, Colchester and the Colchester/Tendring border and will take into account the need for infrastructure and community, not just satellite housing.
- Parish Support - A project will be launched by EALC in September/October offering match funding if parishes wish to bid for any works.

7.3 BDC Report: Cllr Johnson reported continued work at a number of houses at Crouch Green with building materials and vehicles causing damage to verges and obstructing sight lines exiting Nunnery Street onto the A1017. Grass verges are now encroaching onto the footpath in many areas.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Braintree Planning and Street Scene officers.

Action: Clerk to add trimming back the verges to clear the footpath to the list of Village Maintenance jobs

8. PLANNING

Applications received:

17/01468/OHL Overhead line refurbishment | Lippingwells Farm Castle Hedingham 11K OHL
(for information only, comment not required)

17/00242/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Lime tree at end of the drive carry out a reduction/ structural pollard by 2 metres off the top and 2 and a half metres from sides, works to be carried out in late summer/autumn.

22 Queen Street Castle Hedingham Essex CO9 3EZ

No objections

It was asked if replacement UPVC windows in the Conservation area needed planning permission.

Action: Clerk to check with BDC Planning

Applications determined:

None

9. FINANCE

The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation.

Proposed: Cllr Toocaram

Seconded: Cllr Moffat

Agreed unanimously

9.1 A letter of thanks from Castle Heddingham Tennis Club for the Parish Council grant for court scorers was received and noted with thanks.

9.2 Consideration of financing external painting and repairs to Memorial Hall/Club premises. The clerk confirmed to Councillors that this was not a grant application but consideration of the Parish Council's responsibility for the buildings.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will take responsibility for this building work to Hall and Club.

Proposed: Cllr Higgins

Seconded: Cllr Worley

Agreed unanimously

Action: Cllr Scrivens will liaise with Cllr Hood as Club committee representative, and the Memorial Hall treasurer, to obtain more detailed quotes for external painting, and include repair to a window. It was suggested that the work is done before October if good painter/decorators are not already booked up, otherwise book the work for spring 2018. Three carpenters were suggested for window replacement work.

9.3 Consideration of grant application to fund tennis coaching qualification for village resident.

RESOLVED: This grant application cannot be supported as it benefits an individual and so does not meet the criteria of the Grant Awarding policy. Cllr Scrivens suggested directing the applicant to the Earls Colne educational charity.

Proposed: Cllr Scrivens

Seconded: Cllr Higgins

Agreed unanimously

9.4 Decision on appointment of tree surgeon to carry out tree work in the village, including raising the crown of the oak tree at Crouch Green and work at the cemetery. Cllr Worley had met with three tree surgeons to discuss works required and obtain quotes. Price and quality of work were considered.

RESOLVED: To request that Graham Nicholl carries out tree work on behalf of the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Scrivens

Seconded: Cllr Higgins

Agreed unanimously

9.5 Consideration of grant application for renovation of cricket square for Castle Heddingham Cricket Club. Since this grant was approved in principle at the January 2017 meeting of the Parish Council, and the quoted cost is less than the expected amount due to the Cricket Club using a non-profit contractor, this was accepted for a decision despite being a late addition to the agenda.

RESOLVED: To approve the grant of £556.25, payable on receipt of an invoice for the work.

Proposed: Cllr Scrivens

Seconded: Cllr Moffat

Agreed unanimously

Aug-17	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Anglian Water	Water Cemetery	£21.99
DD	Anglian Water	Water Toilets	£89.38
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£22.26
DD	British Gas	Electricity Toilets	£9.01
DD	BCE Holdings Ltd	Peoples Pension	£15.78
B/P	BDC	Rates Pump House Sept	£5.00
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,251.92
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office Aug	£40.00
B/P	EALC	Data protection briefing	£45.00
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£10.08
B/P	E C Waters	Expenses	£26.35
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI	£71.37

B/P	C H Club	Meeting Room Hire	£20.00
B/P	M D Landscapes	Grass Cutting	£601.20
B/P	OCS Group UK Ltd	Sanitary Disposal	£10.76
B/P	CH Club	Grant for Shed repairs	£614.63
B/P	AGCA (D Westrop)	Brushcutter repair	£48.00
TOTAL in month			£2,902.73

Aug-17	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
01-Aug	Harvey Darke	Interment Ashes 43	£120.00
TOTAL in month			£120.00

Accounts balances at 21 August 2017

Unity Trust Current account	£16,510.43
Unity Trust Deposit account	£25,230.71
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£56,081.89
Nationwide Treasurers Trust	£20,107.35
	£117,930.38

10. VILLAGE SHOP

Consideration of issues involved in creating a Community Shop at the village shop premises. Decision on seeking community involvement and establishment of a Community Interest Company. The need for enthusiastic community involvement and the circumstances surrounding property ownership and the need for legal advice on Community Interest Companies were discussed. Cllr Southgate reported that there is potential interest in the shop from a private buyer. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda but take no action for the time being.

11. CASTLE HEDINGHAM RECREATION FIELD

Cllr Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, had met with Councillors in the village in June regarding leasing some of the BDC owned land at New Park for play equipment. Following this he met with Asset Management at BDC and visited the village again with officers. His response to the Parish Council of 11th August states that BDC Asset Management officers then had a dialogue with the landowner and suggest the Parish Council may be confused about what exactly would be on offer in respect of the old allotment field adjacent to the Memorial Hall. Cllr Butland's response does not answer the question about leasing an area of the BDC land at New Park. Instead he states that BDC officers will go back to the landowner and ask if they would be willing to write direct to the Parish Council setting out the exact piece of land that they would be willing to offer and on what terms. Councillors agreed that this response was disappointing, and it is apparent that dialogue is going on between the two landowners in private without involving the Parish Council. There is no confusion about the land or the terms on offer at the allotment field, this is recorded in meeting reports, maps and correspondence. The June meeting with Cllr Butland arose from removal of the "informal recreation" designation of the BDC land at New Park as part of the Local Plan process, and was specifically about using that piece of land for a play area.

Action: An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be arranged when all Councillors are available to attend, with this as a single agenda item.

Action: Clerk to respond to Cllr Butland expressing disappointment that the question has not been answered and makes no reference to the BDC land which was the subject of the request for a play area.

12. CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

The annual update of the Parish Emergency Plan is requested by 25th August 2017. Some minor changes to contact details will be updated and the statement about availability of bus parking near the Memorial Hall will be removed. A map of Emergency Evacuation routes gives the primary evacuation route as via

Sudbury Hill to Wickham St Paul village hall, and the secondary evacuation route up Sudbury Hill turning right to Great Maplestead village hall.

Action: Clerk to respond with updates and suggesting a third evacuation route is added to Gestingthorpe

Action: Clerk to add a notice to the Parish Magazine informing parishioners of the emergency plan update.

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

ECC: Essex County Council Fostering Service is finding it increasingly difficult to recruit foster carers, meaning that they have to rely on independent fostering agencies which cost the taxpayer a lot more money. A big countywide recruitment push is planned over the coming months ahead of information events in September, with a particular focus on foster carers for sibling groups. Local events are at Colchester on Saturday 23 September 2017 (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM) and at Chelmsford on Saturday 16 September 2017 (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM). For more details visit <http://www.essexadoptionandfostering.co.uk/fostering/>

RCCE: Rural Community Council of Essex Annual Review 2016-2017

UK Power Networks: Roadshow in Colchester on Monday 2nd October 2017. In light of past proposed changes to power lines and substations which were postponed to 2017, the clerk will attend.

Action: The clerk will forward the email to Cllr Wendy Scattergood whose ward is also affected.

14. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

High Speed Broadband: Superfast Essex Public Consultation about the next phase of works ends on 31st August. Details can be found at <http://www.superfastessex.org/whats happening next> It appears that some areas including Rushley Green will not be eligible for state funding.

15. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Replacement trees needed for October/November planting
- Permanent home for Magna Carta artefacts
- Progress on faculty application at St Nicholas for wireless broadband transmitter
- Condition of land at Woodyard at Station Road, and future plans for the site by landowner.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 25 th September 2017 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club
Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 23 rd October 2017 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club
Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 27 th November 2017 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club
Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 22 nd January 2017 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE