



Parish of Castle Hedingham
Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL,
HELD ON MONDAY 20th AUGUST 2018 AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.45PM**

Present: Cllrs Higgins, Hood, Moffat, Southgate, Worley, Veater
In the Chair: Cllr Southgate
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: BDC Councillor Johnson
ECC Councillor Finch

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Philp, Toocaram and Scrivens for absence. Apologies for late arrival were also received from District Cllr Beavis.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 23rd July 2018 were approved as a correct record of events and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed: Cllr Hood Seconded: Cllr Worley Agreed unanimously

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1 Community Access Defibrillators. The next Community Awareness Event will be held at Memories, Crouch Green on Monday 15th October starting at 7pm. All residents are welcome

5.2 A resident has reported cars blocking the footpath at Queen Street and New Park causing pedestrians to walk in the road. Cllr Worley also reported the return of inconsiderate parking at Crouch Green along the A1017 blocking sightlines of traffic exiting Nunnery Street.

ACTION: Clerk to report problems at Crouch Green to the North Essex Parking Partnership and copy in Cllr Finch. A letter will be written from the Parish Council to residents of Queen Street and New Park.

6. HIGHWAY

6.1 St Nicholas Church main entrance. Essex Highways confirms this area is publicly maintainable highway. Report submitted and an inspection expected before 28th August.

ACTION: Cllr Finch has offered to expedite the request. Clerk to send details and report number

6.2 Cllr Toocaram submitted a written Footpath report highlighting some maintenance issues. Some clearance has already been undertaken by village maintenance, other issues to be raised with landowners.

6.3 Heavy traffic over the 7.5t weight limit has been passing through the village filling in a hole.

ACTION: The clerk to request Highways carry out a bridge inspection for Nunnery Street and Station Road when the work is completed.

6.4 Diversion signs at Crouch Green are still in place, despite roadworks being complete.

ACTION: Clerk to send information to Cllr Finch who will chase up their removal

7. REPORTS

8.1 Police/Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Finch offered to chase up police responses with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hurst, if the Parish Council is not satisfied.

8.2 ECC Report: Cllr Finch reported:

Highways: Reorganisation of Cabinet members, with two roles now combined and taken on by Kevin Bentley who is aiming to make the Highways contractors more responsive and to devolve (with money)

some jobs to parishes to complete themselves. He has already started regular communications with parishes and wishes to consult with Parish Councils via EALC in September/October 2018.

Budget: ECC is looking for the best approach to save £40 million next year and £100 million for the two years after that. The Government is making vague promises about business rate retention; at the moment they take 50% of business rates. By 2021 it was suggested that 100% should be retained by County Councils, this has now been changed to 75%. Work will be attached to it so it is not free money. Also with the increase in online shopping, footfall is being reduced and business are suffering so the offer is not that generous.

Social Care: 22% of the Essex population is over 65, this will increase to 32% over the next 10 years. The number of over 80s in the county will double over the next 5 years. There is also inward migration of older people into the county. Relocation of troubled families from London boroughs is also proving a challenge, putting pressure on social care, children's services and the police. Increasingly aggressive gangs moving into London are causing other London gangs to move out to Braintree and every other district in the county.

Education: A level results were better than expected, and 95% of schools in the county are rated by Ofsted as Good or Outstanding.

The challenge in the budget is to retain services – a number of councils in the country are looking to move to “core services” i.e. only delivering the essential Statutory services. Essex are hoping to be able to provide lower cost but more effective services by working with local partners.

8.3 BDC Report: Cllr Johnson reported that crime is still a problem including a recent theft of a motor home from Maplestead. He urged residents to be vigilant and pay careful attention to security. He also asked the Parish Council if they had been contacted about the “Tommy” campaign – lifesized silhouettes of WWI soldiers to be purchased at £750 each with a proportion of the money going to charity. The Parish Council had not been approached, but has already planted a memorial avenue along Sheepcot Road with one tree planted for each of the fallen from the village during both World Wars. A Commemorative Board has been commissioned with the support of the Heritage Society and British Legion, and will be unveiled at 10am at the Cemetery entrance at Sheepcot Road on Sunday 11th November before the Remembrance Service at St Nicholas Church.

ACTION: Confirmed details of the parish Remembrance Sunday activities to be supplied to the clerk in time for the October Parish Magazine copy deadline of 15th September

Cllr Beavis arrived: The draft Local Plan for housing development was discussed at the last Full Council meeting of BDC, and Councillors were urged to watch the webcast of the meeting where the Leader of the Council, Graham Butland, spoke at length. Following the report from the Planning Inspectorate, it appears that BDC are taking the option to look at the plan again and provide more information on the plan for Garden Villages across the district, some in conjunction with Uttlesford, Colchester and Maldon. BDC does not have a 5 year supply of housing, and without a Local Plan in place developers are at liberty to appeal against planning refusal and will probably win. Oak Road in Halstead was cited as an example.

8. PLANNING

Applications received:

None

Applications determined:

18/00786/LBC Repainting of exterior

Eagle House 6 Falcon Square CO9 3BT

Application GRANTED

9. FINANCE

9.1 The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation.

Proposed: Cllr Moffat

Seconded: Cllr Hood

Agreed unanimously

9.2 Consideration of requests for grant funding from Castle Hedingham Tennis Club: £424.43 on new specialist tennis balls for the junior coaching and £240 to replace a broken spectators bench

RESOLVED: To grant £240.00 to cover the cost of the spectators' bench as this is a fixed asset and more appropriate to fund than consumables. The agreed Parish Council budget for grant funding has now been spent for 2018-2019 so any further grant applications would have to be funded from reserves.

Proposed: Cllr Hood

Seconded: Cllr Worley

Agreed unanimously

9.3 Consideration of request for grant funding from Support4Sight, an Essex based charity which helps visually impaired people to live independently in their home. In the absence of information about how many parishioners may be assisted by this charity, the item was deferred to a future meeting.

Aug-18	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Anglian Water	Water Cemetery	£23.89
DD	Anglian Water	Water Toilets	£66.75
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£25.29
DD	British Gas	Electricity Toilets	£10.68
DD	BCE Holdings Ltd	Peoples Pension	£40.67
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,352.18
B/P	Alan Henry	Village Maintenance Expenses	£28.49
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office August	£40.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses	£77.08
B/P	C H Club	Meeting Room Hire	£20.00
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge July	£10.08
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI	£139.93
B/P	M D Landscapes	Grass Cutting July	£312.00
B/P	Start Traffic Ltd	Line Marker Supplies	£181.02
B/P	OCS	Sanitary Disposal	£53.38
TOTAL in month			£2,381.44

Aug-18	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		
TOTAL in month			£0.00

Accounts balances at 20 August 2018

Unity Trust Current account	£21,149.98
Unity Trust Deposit account	£25,268.23
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£56,585.93
Nationwide Treasurers Trust	£20,127.46
	£123,131.60

10. CASTLE HEDINGHAM RECREATION FIELD

To decide on next actions following correspondence from Mr Jason Lindsay dated 18th July 2018.

RESOLVED: Following advice from the legal team at the National Association of Local Councils, it was agreed to take legal advice in responding to the letter.

Proposed: Cllr Hood

Seconded: Cllr Worley

Agreed unanimously

11. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

ECC: CIF (Community Initiatives Fund) information available at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/Business-Partners/Partners/Community-initiatives-fund/Pages/Default.aspx>

RCCE: Oyster Magazine with details of Village of the Year winners and runners up

12. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

None

13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Resolution to authorise Cllr Veater as as signatory to the bank account

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 17 September 2018 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club
Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 22 October 2018 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club
Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 26 November 2018 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE