



Parish of Castle Hedingham

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 23rd JANUARY 2017 AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.45PM

Present: Cllrs Moffat, Higgins, Hood, Pewter, Philp, Scrivens, Southgate, Toocaram, Worley
In the Chair: Cllr Southgate
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: Cllr H Johnson BDC (to item 13)
Cllr D Finch, ECC (to item 7)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 28th November 2016 were approved as a correct record of events.

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1. Action: Clerk to chase up confirmation that the verge at Edey's Lane will not be cut by BDC or Essex Highways

5.2. Action: Clerk to chase up BDC Dog Warden to arrange for him to attend a meeting.

5.3. Action: Clerk to ask the Vicar if a decision has been made regarding permanent display of Magna Carta artefacts in St Nicholas' Church.

5.4. Damage to Crouch Green- we could apply for a licence from Highways to install plant troughs to prevent further vehicle damage. Agenda item for February meeting

5.5. A tree is blocking the footpath at Bayley Street. Hedingham Castle have been informed but it is causing pedestrians to walk in the road.

Action: Clerk to ask the Village Maintenance operative to cut it back to clear the footpath.

6. HIGHWAYS

6.1 Closure of Kirby Hall Road still continues and work is progressing slowly.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways to confirm what is happening with these roadworks.

Action: Clerk to request primrose lines are repainted at the Kirby Hall Rd/Nunnery St junction

6.2 Works at Church Lane have been carried out with good support from Morrisons the contractor to help maintain access for residents, visitors and deliveries to the Hall and Club and for emergency vehicles. These works are due to end soon. BT fibre broadband should then be available for all central areas of the village.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways to ensure Keep Clear signs are reinstated for emergency access

6.3 A speed survey by Highways at Sudbury Hill recorded good compliance with the 30mph speed limit. The average speed recorded was under 30mph in both directions

Action: The clerk has asked Highways to confirm the schedule for the mobile 30mph flashing sign at New Park which is shared with other locations, and when it will return to Sudbury Hill.

6.4 Consideration of request by resident for traffic calming measures at Nunnery Street.

Action: Clerk will submit a request to Highways for a speed survey by the Rising Sun

6.5 A resident of St James Street reported that the white line across their dropped kerb had been repainted following the road re-surfacing, but has since been removed by Highways who say it is against Highways policy since it is unenforceable. Vehicles previously respected the white line but are now parking too close to the dropped kerb are making access difficult and dangerous.

Action: Clerk to pass on information to Cllr David Finch who will deal with this matter.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Police: None. Residents have reported concerns about a man behaving suspiciously at Castle Lane. A postal delivery worker was attacked in her van at Little Maplestead in an attempt to steal her mobile phone. She sustained a head injury and attended hospital.

7.2 ECC Report: Cllr David Finch reported on a number of County Council issues:

- The Government Social Care precept and its imposition on home owners as a tax. He is pushing for this 3% precept to be treated like the NHS income.
- The County Council is investing in schools to meet the demands of the large increase in the child population and expand the first class capacity in the county
- £180m is to be invested in Highways over the next 3 years.
- A major computer systems refresh and improved digital solutions is underway to make work more efficient
- Community Agents enabling people to remain independent in their own homes are to be expanded

Cllr Scrivens asked that a compliment be recorded and confirmed the appreciation from schools for the support given by ECC.

7.3 BDC Report:

Apologies were received from Cllr Beavis due to a conflicting meeting.

Cllr Hylton Johnson attended a Local Highways Panel meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

- A 40mph Speed Indicator Device for the A1017 at Crouch Green has been given the go-ahead but there is no decision on when funding might be available to install it.
- Concerns had been reported about a camera near the football ground at the junction with Station Road, pointing towards Sible Hedingham. Nobody seems to know who has installed this camera and investigations are in progress.

Cllr Toocaram reported problems with many delivery vehicles arriving at Rushley Green who had been given the wrong postcode for Finch Walk in Sible Hedingham, part of the new housing development. Cllr Finch advised writing to the main Post Office in our area.

Action: Clerk to write to the Post Office on behalf of the Parish Council

8. PLANNING

Applications received:

16/02085/LBC Proposed replacement of two side windows and garage door

Rose Cottage 9 Pye Corner CO9 3DE

No objections

16/02079/FUL & 16/02080/LBC Sub-division of existing dwelling into 1 no. one bed dwelling and 1 no. two bed dwelling

1 Queen Street CO9 3EX

Objection submitted

It was noted work has already begun on this property before permission has been granted.

Applications determined:

16/01787/PLD Application for a proposed lawful development certificate - proposed conversion of garage to annexe

5 Priory Wood CO9 3DU

Application PERMITTED

16/01589/OUT Outline application for the erection of 2 no. two bedroom detached bungalows with parking
Land Rear Of Beechings And Bridge House Nunnery Street *Application REFUSED*

9. FINANCE

The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation.

Proposed: Cllr Hood **Seconded:** Cllr Worley Agreed unanimously

9.1 The budget for 2017-2018 was approved, pending enquiries suggested by Cllr Pewter about Small Business Rate relief for the public toilets which currently costs £900 per year.

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

9.2 To make a precept claim of £24,523 for 2017 – 2018. This represents an increase in the parish rate on a Band D property from £48.50 to £50.93 per year, an increase of 5p per household per week. This is in light of the reduction in Localism Fund (a 33% reduction in 2017-2018, reducing to zero in 2019-2020) and the possible introduction of “referendum principles” to small parish councils in the coming year. If this is introduced a referendum would need to be held for any proposed precept increase over 2%. Referendum costs would be charged to the parish and would have to be recouped via the precept.

9.3 MD Landscapes have provided excellent service this year and it has been agreed for them to continue the contract for 2017-2018. No price increases have been proposed.

9.4 Consideration of request from Castle Hedingham Cricket Club for a grant towards renovation of the cricket square.

RESOLVED: To agree in principle to a grant, but request further information on costs and work planned.

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

Dec-16	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	BDC	Rates Toilets	£91.00
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£19.69
DD	British Gas	Electricity Toilets	£20.14
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,388.20
DD	B & CE Holdings Ltd	Peoples Pension (clerk)	£15.62
DD	Unity Trust	Service Charge	£18.00

TOTAL in month **£1,552.65**

Jan-17	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	BDC	Rates Toilets	£91.00
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£19.69
DD	Anglian Water	Water Public Toilets	£63.39
DD	Anglian Water	Water Cemetery	£19.20
DD	British Gas	Electricity Toilets	£16.03
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,162.15
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£10.08
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B/P	E C Waters	Expenses	£323.78
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI	£37.82
B/P	Birds Farm Trees	Trees Shepcot Rd	£209.50
B/P	Falcon Accountants	Payroll Oct, Nov, Dec	£36.00
300345	Hedingham Castle	Recreation Field Lease	£37.50
300346	Graeme Martin	Verge Edeys Lane	£90.00
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI	£100.62

TOTAL in month **£2,226.84**

Dec-16	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
05-Dec	Stonewriters	Inscription Ashes Plot 25	£70.00
TOTAL in month			£70.00
Jan-17	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
10-Jan	D Robinson	Purchase/interment ashes 54	£360.00
16-Jan	UK Power Networks	Wayleave	£9.89
TOTAL in month			£369.89

Accounts balances at 23 January 2017

Unity Trust Current account	£30,185.52
CHPC Magna Carta 2015	CLOSED
Unity Trust Deposit account	£25,224.46
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£30,560.93
Nationwide Treasurers Trust	£20,064.73
	£106,035.64

10. COUNCILLORS COMMUNITY GRANT

Decision on suitable project for BDC Councillor's Community Grant of £2500 remaining for 2017. Cllr Southgate suggested applying for funding for troughs for the St James St grass verge. Cllr Worley suggested applying for funding for a memorial bench to be sited near the Commemorative trees planted in memory of past Chairmen Bram Buckley-Saxon and Alan Shaw. Other village organisations may apply for this grant funding, not just the Parish Council.

Action: Costings to be obtained. Agenda item for February meeting

11. VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

A grant application is in progress, but location details for the project need to be submitted. It was agreed to apply for 3 defibrillators at the following locations:

- St James Street phone box – accessible for central locations
- Memories – good parking and accessible for Nunnery Street, Bowmans Park, Crouch Green.
- Rushley Green Farm – for Rushley Green and Kirby Hall areas as well as walkers

12. CASTLE HEDINGHAM RECREATION FIELD

12.1 Update on progress and response to the BDC proposal at the Local Plan Sub-Committee meeting of 10th November to remove the informal recreation designation from their land at New Park.

Action: Since a response has not yet received, to follow up the Freedom of Information request for correspondence and reports on the removal of informal recreation designation from the BDC land.

12.2 Update on progress with necessary repairs to playing field equipment

Cllr Hood reported that the repairs have been authorised and an order acknowledgement has been received.

12.3 Consideration of request by resident fitness instructor/dance teacher for permission to hold outdoor workouts at New Park recreation field or similar flat green area.

Action: Since the land at New Park recreation field is owned by Hedingham Castle, it was felt that Mr & Mrs Lindsay should give their permission. An alternative suggestion was to ask to use the Cricket Ground. Cllr Hood will contact the resident

Cllr Johnson left

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Open Spaces Society: Request for donation to "Save Our Spaces" national appeal. This appeal is ineligible for Parish Council funding so is for information only.

BDC: Request for updates to Open Spaces Action Plan by end March 2017

The District Architect is aware of concerns over the BDC land and has agreed to look into the issue.

14. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

14.1 High Speed Broadband update – fibre and wireless. See item 6.2. Nothing else to report.

14.2 Memorial Hall representative – Cllr Scrivens as Memorial Hall Chairman reported on a bequest of £500 from the estate of Alan Shaw for a celebration of his life at the Memorial Hall. Cllrs Higgins and Worley agreed to join Cllr Scrivens in organising this event and will report back to the Parish Council.

15. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- **Councillors Community Grant** – Decision on funding application.
- **Crouch Green** – planter troughs for damaged verge
- **Memorial Bench** – consideration of quotes for benches
- **Memorial Avenue of Trees** – consideration of plaque for Sheepcot Rd near Cemetery.
- **Castle Hedingham Burial Board** – feedback on condition of ashes plot area.
- **Castle Hedingham Playing Field** – update on progress with Braintree District Council

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 27 February 2017 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club
Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 27 March 2017 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club
Ordinary Parish Council	Monday 24 April 2017 at 7.45pm	Castle Hedingham Club

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2017 MEMORIAL HALL

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE