



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 9th March 2015 AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.45PM

Present: Cllrs Allfrey, Higgins, Moffat, Pewter, Philp, Scrivens, Southgate, Worley
Cllr H Johnson

In the Chair: Cllr Allfrey

Clerk: Claire Waters

Also Present: 3 parishioners

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Johnson for late arrival. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Finch, Beavis & Scattergood.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 9th February 2015 were approved as a correct record of events.

Proposed: Cllr Scrivens Seconded: Cllr Southgate Signed by the Chairman

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Two parishioners expressed their concerns over the size and location of a proposed new grain store at Little Lodge Farm. They had spoken to the landowner, who had accepted their concerns about the potential impact on views from properties along Sudbury Road and agreed to modify the proposals. The plans were reviewed and clarity is still required about the total size of the grain store, its exact location and the possible removal of trees.

A parishioner asked the Parish Council what they intended to do about the condition of the Recreation Field at New Park, and the lack of suitable play facilities for the young children of the village. The clerk explained that the Parish Council does not own any land in the village, and that the new Braintree District Council Local Plan is not yet finalised. The new Local Plan will determine which land in the village can be used for housing development over the next 15 years. Any negotiations with Hedingham Castle regarding leasing of land cannot take place until the Local Plan is finalised. Cllr Pewter explained that the Parish Council has ring fenced funds for new play equipment, but until a suitable piece of land is identified with security of tenure it is not possible to take any action. Other possible sites for a playground in the village have been considered, but none has been identified which can be secured in the longer term, or meets the safety requirements for a children's play area. It was noted that the lack of facilities for children in the village was not acceptable, and the new Braintree District Council Open Spaces Action Plan has been updated to record parishioners' concerns.

Cllr Johnson arrived

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1 Consideration of action to be taken regarding parking problems at New Park

Cllr Southgate reported that parking problems are increasing at New Park due to lack of space.

Action: The clerk will ask the North Essex Parking Partnership to review the situation

Action: The clerk will contact Greenfields to clarify the "Residents Only" signs at Deer Park Close.

5.2 Cllr Scrivens & Cllr Moffat reported that problems with the new waste collections in the village centre continue, with rubbish collecting on pavements over the weekend and confusion by the dustmen about which collections are Monday and which are Tuesday.

Action: Clerk to contact BDC to ask for collections to be Tuesdays for the whole village.

5.3 Castle Hedingham Tennis Club reports that they have chased the builders regarding the deterioration of pointing repairs to the tennis club wall.

6. HIGHWAYS

6.1 Highways Scheme Request for speed reduction measures along Sheepcot Road.

A speed survey has been submitted for approval at the March Highways Panel meeting. Cllr Southgate has written to residents of Sheepcot Road to inform them of the Scheme Request.

6.2 Highways Scheme Request for reduced speed limit along Station Road from 40mph to 30mph for safety of pedestrians. Highways have responded saying this does not meet their criteria. The clerk has asked Cllr Finch to investigate and clarify the situation.

6.3 The clerk will submit Highways reports about the following problems:

- Drain problems at junction of Sheepcot Road/Queen Street
- Drain problem outside David Burr at St James' Street
- Severe potholes at Kirby Hall Road from at Kirby Hall Cottages
- Pothole at Nunnery Street bridge
- Repairs still needed for the section of byway between Kirby Hall Road and Rosemary Lane.

7. REPORTS

Police/PCSO: Weekly reports received by the clerk about the Halstead area contained no information about incidents in Castle Hedingham. Crimes in the parish are mapped online at http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/braintree_district/hedighams/hedighams-2.aspx, however the most recent information on this site is from January 2015. Cllr Johnson reported that people who are deaf, or pretending to be deaf, have been selling door to door in the parish.

ECC report: Cllr Finch sent a written report from Essex County Council.

BDC report: Cllr Johnson reported that nomination packs for prospective Councillors are being issued (see item 14. Correspondence for detailed information).

Cllr Johnson has been in contact with BDC Dog Warden and local residents about the continuing problem of dog mess, particularly along footpaths near Crouch Green where dogs are let off the lead. Dog walkers are asked to please clear up mess and use dog bins provided.

Action: The clerk will contact the dog warden about his primary school education project.

Cllr Johnson has been involved in mapping the condition of ordinary watercourses in the parish to report on maintenance problems and potential flood risk. Further volunteers will be needed for this work. He also reported on the poor state of roads in the parish and the feeling that rural areas have been abandoned by Highways due to budgetary constraints.

8. PLANNING

Applications received:

15/00118/FUL Erection of new grain store

Little Lodge Farm Sudbury Road Castle Hedingham Essex CO9 3AG

Further information will be requested to clarify the exact scale of the proposed grain store, its location and whether trees will be removed in the process.

Applications determined:

None

Action: Clerk to contact Braintree District Council regarding black weatherboarding on an extension at Forge Green, which does not meet the criteria in the Village Design Statement. The property owner has agreed to make good any damaged areas of Forge Green once building work is completed.

9. FINANCE

The monthly accounts were approved and cheques signed.

Proposed: Cllr Worley Seconded: Cllr Southgate

9.1 Consideration of “A Christmas Carol” performance by professional theatre group aimed at young children (age 5+) and their families.

Action: Cllr Scrivens will contact the group to determine the feasibility of staging a performance in December at the Memorial Hall.

10. PAY REVIEW 2015

The clerk left the room.

Decision on Pay Review for Parish Council employees.

RESOLVED: The Parish Clerk will be moved from SCP 27 to SCP 28 from April 1st 2015. To reflect changes in local government which has increased the number of issues being delegated to Parish Councils, the average hours per week for the clerk will be increased from 10 to 12.

RESOLVED: For care and maintenance of the public toilets, the hourly pay will be increased by 2.5% to reflect the pay increase agreed for local government employees.

11. CASTLE HEDINGHAM SURGERIES

11.1 NHS England has now determined that Castle Hedingham is a controlled (rural) locality and is not part of Sible Hedingham, which has been determined as uncontrolled (urban). This means that both Castle Hedingham practices can still dispense medicines to patients within the parish. Councillors welcomed this decision which maintains the financial viability of our village surgeries.

11.2 There are plans for stakeholders to arrange a meeting with the Corporate Director of Braintree District Council to discuss proposals for a joint medical centre on the Premdor development in Sible Hedingham. An outline business case for the medical centre has been submitted is being considered by NHS England.

12. MAGNA CARTA 2015

A Magna Carta noticeboard will be erected on the green by the tennis courts in St James Street.

A Magna Carta Heritage walk will be launched on 25th April 2015, starting at 9.30am at Clare Country Park and finishing at Castle Hedingham. Way marking at Rushley Green will be arranged to direct walkers down Scotch Pastures.

A draft calendar of events was distributed which is due to be finalised and published shortly.

10 representatives of the village will attend the Lord Mayor of London’s Magna Carta reception on May 12th, including Jason & Demetra Lindsay of Hedingham Castle together with representatives from the Magna Carta Committee and the Parish Council.

Action: Councillors were asked to make suggestions by the end of March for guests to invite to the launch on June 12th of the village Magna Carta exhibition at St Nicholas’ Church. The exhibition will be open to the public from 13th June to 24th July.

13. MEMORIAL BENCH IN CEMETERY

A resident has asked permission to install a memorial bench in Castle Hedingham Cemetery.

RESOLVED: Permission granted subject to approval of the bench design, memorial plaque and installation arrangements.

Proposed: Cllr Pewter Seconded: Cllr Scrivens Agreed unanimously

14. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

BDC: Nomination Packs for Parliamentary, District and Parish elections were published on the website on 2nd March. These can be found at www.braintree.gov.uk/elections - from there use the Elections 2015 icon followed by Nomination Packs. The Nomination period runs from 23 March 2015 to 4pm on 9 April.

Nomination must be hand delivered between the hours of 10am and 4pm for Parliamentary Candidates and 9am to 5pm for District and Parish Candidates. Formal Notice of Election will be published on 23 March 2015. Nominations received before 23 March will be returned.

BDC: Draft 2015 edition of the Open Spaces Action Plan has been received. Parishes are asked to check updates are accurate before the plan is adopted. The clerk will respond to approve the entry for the parish.

ECC: The “Getting Around in Essex” consultation has been launched. Views of residents, commuters and representative groups are sought about how to improve the county’s bus and passenger transport network. The survey can be completed at www.essex.gov.uk/busreview.

BDC/RCCE: Community Led Planning events are being held in March and May by RCCE, helping parishes develop plans which link into the National Planning Policy Framework. Braintree District Council is offering grants of up to £750 to support parishes in this work.

BDC: The Government has launched their first ever Community Clear Up Day. This is a ‘national spring clean’ to be held on Saturday 21st March 2015, the first day of Spring, with the aim of sprucing up the country’s high streets, residential and business areas, villages and parks. Publicity materials such as posters and banners and an information pack are available at <http://bit.ly/clearupday>.

15. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

Transport Representative: Cllr Lynne Moffat reported from a meeting on 11th February with Sible Hedingham Parish Council who are funding a new daily bus service to and from Sudbury, starting on 5th May 2015. The bus (number 333) is a 22-seater and wheelchair friendly. Residents of Castle Hedingham will be able to catch the bus at Memories, Nunnery Street or Bayley Street. The fare will be £2.50 each way, and concessionary bus passes will be accepted. Three buses a day will run initially from Monday to Friday, arriving in Sudbury at 7.15am, 10.00am and 1.00pm. Return buses will leave Sudbury at 10.30am, 1.30pm and 5.45pm.

The bus route starts at Great Yeldham, and will go via Toppesfield, High Street Green, Sible Hedingham, Castle Hedingham, Gestingthorpe and Bulmer before arriving at Sudbury. Existing bus stops will be used, except for Gestingthorpe where the bus can be hailed from the junction with the main road. Funding from Sible Hedingham Parish Council will support the new 333 bus service for at least a year, to enable it to become well known and established. Timetables will be delivered to households in the area, and updates will be published on line at www.castlehedingham.org.

War Memorial: The work should commence on Monday March 23rd.

Action: Clerk will write a letter to local residents and businesses to inform them about the work.

High Speed Broadband: The clerk will request an update from County Broadband.

16. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Review of situation regarding sale of timber yard at Station Road
- Performance of “A Christmas Carol” at Memorial Hall in December
- Renovation of planted area at Forge Green
- Condition of adopted phone box at St James Street
- Arrangements for replacement of Castle Players and Castle Hedingham Club sheds

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Normal Parish Council

Monday 20th April 2015

**** (Please note the April date has been changed from Monday April 13th) ****

Annual meeting of the Parish Council

Monday 18th May 2015

Annual Parish Meeting (public meeting)

Thursday 21st May 2015

The meeting closed at 9.42pm

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE