

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 25th NOVEMBER AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.45PM

PROGRESS CHECK

- The village flagpole is now restored and a Union Flag was raised for Remembrance Sunday
- Clerk to chase quotes for cabinet to house Bingham Pottery collection
- Clerk to chase quote for additional repairs to churchyard wall following weed removal
- Clerk to chase Footpath Inspector for inspection report on Footpath 15 near timber yard
- Cllr Scrivens will meet resident to discuss implications of telephone kiosk removal

PUBLIC FORUM

Residents voiced their concerns about the behaviour of customers using the pavement area in front of the Wheatsheaf pub. The Parish Council offered its support in contacting the Wheatsheaf landlord to discuss how this problem could be resolved. Braintree District Council can also support through environmental health and a licensing review.

REPORTS

Police/PCSO: None

ECC report: Cllr David Finch sent a written report, and confirmed he is actively pursuing two highways issues in the village; weight restriction signage and highway registration of land outside the Wheatsheaf.

BDC report: Cllr Scattergood reported on the rich culture of volunteering in Braintree District and her drive to encourage publicity for positive news stories. She also reported on plans for the Civic Carol Service to be held at St Nicholas Church on 12th December. Hedingham Castle has offered car parking to alleviate parking problems in the village. Cllr Johnson reported on a number of issues, including winter gritting plans and continued danger from falling branches following the recent storm. Funding cuts at the council have led to the loss of experienced staff. Residents can monitor the District Council performance on their website. Wethersfield Road has now been re-opened following long term road works. Cllr Beavis reported on the Boundary Commission review of ward boundaries, she will be applying to support a joint Hedingham Ward.

7. HIGHWAYS

- Request for flashing 40mph speed limit sign at Crouch Green. Highways have asked for justification of this request. Cllr Johnson will support the clerk in obtaining the evidence for this.
- Consideration of damage to planters outside house in Church Ponds due to speeding traffic
Councillors recognise that this is a difficult issue to solve, and the 30mph speed limit is too fast for this road. Residents are advised to report specific incidents to PCSOs if possible by dialling 101 (999 in an emergency), but are reminded that officially planters are not permitted on the highway.

BROADBAND PROPOSALS

Decision on partnership agreements received from County Broadband

RESOLVED: Partnership documents were signed in preparation for a community consultation

Proposed: Cllr Pewter Seconded: Cllr Scrivens Agreed unanimously

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Decision on quote from Mortimers to provide 2 compost storage areas

Cllr Worley will contact Chris Mortimer to discuss how this will work in practice at the cemetery.

Consideration of complaint about untidiness near ashes plots

Cemetery waste bins have been discussed with Braintree District Council refuse and the village contractor. The bin near the ashes plots will be moved further away from the memorial stones.

CASTLE HEDINGHAM CEMETERY

Review of burial fees

The Burial Board recommended the first burial fees increase since 2009. This will mainly apply to interment and memorial charges. Charges for purchase of grave plots remain unchanged.

RESOLVED: To accept the proposed price increases, effective from December 1st

Proposed: Cllr Southgate Seconded: Cllr Higgins Agreed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Castle Hedingham Club

A letter has been received from Mr D Applebee thanking the Parish Council for their support.

National Grid

Bramford to Twinstead Connection project announcement that this is now on hold until 2020

Colne Valley Railway

A presentation to Councillors about Colne Valley Railway plans for the future, and a proposed bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund will take place at the January meeting.

REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

Magna Carta 2015: Report from Working Group meeting 20th November 2013

This meeting was postponed, a new meeting date will be arranged.

War Memorial: Consideration of Conservation Survey report and next steps

A meeting of the War Memorial working group will be arranged.

Passenger Transport Liaison meeting: Report from Parish Transport Representative

Cllr Moffat reported on a current consultation about transport needs. There are concerns about rural cuts in services and their effect on the towns of Halstead & Sudbury. There is also a move to end free transport to grammar school pupils from low income families.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 13th January 2013