



Parish of Castle Hedingham

Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)
25 Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3DG
07845 056597 castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2017 AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.45PM

Present: Cllrs Higgins, Hood, Moffat, Pewter, Philp, Scrivens, Worley
In the Chair: Cllr Worley
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: County Cllr D Finch (to item 7), District Cllr J Beavis (to item 7), District Cllr H Johnson (to item 10)
4 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Toocaram and Cllr Southgate for absence.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 23rd October 2017 were approved as a correct record of events and signed by the Chairman.

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Three parishioners attended to express their concerns about the proposal from Braintree District Council that the old allotment field by the Memorial Hall is an ideal location for a playing field, and that BDC officers are looking into submitting a planning application in Spring 2018 for the land at New Park. Councillors were asked if BDC had considered safety concerns including the substation, overhead power lines and lack of houses overlooking the location.

Cllr Beavis confirmed that the Parish Council had made their position clear to Braintree District Council and with the support of the District Councillors had been asking for play equipment to be situated on the land owned by BDC at New Park.

Councillors explained that the planned public meeting is not a starting point, but has resulted from a long process of discussion with landowners and is intended to make residents aware of the situation. The public meeting has been postponed from December to enable representatives from BDC to attend, and a new date will be confirmed as soon as possible, probably in January 2018. The clerk reported that while no formal discussion has been held with Mr & Mrs Lindsay, they are interested in attending a public meeting and there is no suggestion that they know about BDC's proposals to submit a planning application on land at New Park.

Cllr Pewter arrived and apologised for late arrival due to train delay.

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1. Copies had been forwarded to the Parish Council and District Councillors of a level 3 complaint to Braintree District Council regarding their lack of action and openness regarding the material change of use of the Old Vicarage and their response to the anti-social behaviour resulting from the change of use.

RESOLVED: To write to Braintree District Council and ask why enforcement action has not been taken.

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

5.2. An application for additional Village Maintenance hours was submitted to the Local Services Fund by the deadline of 17th November. Costs of repairing white lines in the village were added to the application.

5.3. Village Defibrillators. Defibrillators and cabinets are now ordered and should be ready to install within two weeks of payment of invoice.

5.4. Village Shop: Cllr Beavis reported that the public meetings were well attended and thanked the Parish Council for funding the printing and delivery of leaflets on behalf of the Braintree District Community Foundation who are leading the project. Over 50 volunteers have signed up to take a turn on the rota, working in pairs and covering 4 shifts a day from Monday to Saturday and 2 shifts on Sundays. New volunteers are always welcome to go into the shop and add their name to the rota. Cllr Beavis expressed thanks to the resident who painted the shop interior free of charge and everyone else including the landlord who have all been hugely helpful in getting the shop established. The shop is now stocked to around 80% capacity and orders including newspapers are being adjusted to meet demand. The response has been fantastic and has brought a much needed service and camaraderie to the village. The shop is now able to accept card payments. A leaflet updating residents on progress is planned for the near future.

5.5. Cllr Johnson thanked Village Maintenance for tidying up the footpaths at Crouch Green

5.6. Cllr Hood reported that the safety surface at the recreation ground has sunk by the firemans pole which was repaired by the manufacturer recently

Action: Cllr Hood will contact the manufacturer to ask them to make good the surface

6. HIGHWAYS

6.1 Cllr Finch offered to chase up removal of the diversion signs at Crouch Green, and report a pavement kerb repair at St James Street raised by Cllr Pewter.

6.2 Vehicles parked on the verge at Crouch Green continue to cause a problem with obstructing sight lines of vehicles turning out of Nunnery Street onto the A1017.

Action: Cllr Finch offered to raise this with Essex Highways who should be able to deal with this since the land is owned by them and it is a safety issue.

6.3 Parish Paths Partnership (P3). A meeting with Shirley Anglin, ECC Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Localism Officer, was very positive. A footpaths audit is to be done by Cllr Toocaram, P3 Co-ordinator, with other Councillors and volunteers. Repairs will be scheduled to be carried out by volunteers with funding from ECC for materials. Outdoor First Aid training can also be funded for Village Maintenance Operative. The footbridge at Footpath 16 is scheduled to be replaced by PROW officers in November. If this is not done, repairs will be completed by P3 volunteers.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Police/Neighbourhood Watch: More burglaries have occurred and PCSOs have been walking around the village. Cllr Finch advised residents to be vigilant in the weeks leading up to Christmas. He is due to support the Police and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, at a meeting at Belchamp St Paul Village Hall on Tuesday 28th November.

Neighbourhood Watch have supplied 560 "No cold callers" stickers for residents to display on their door – these are available for people to collect from the Village Shop for themselves and neighbours.

7.2 ECC Report:

- The closure of some byways over winter to reduce damage from vehicle movement is subject to a legal challenge by the Trail Riders Fellowship.
- The ECC budgets are again under review to balance the books for 2018-2019, and work is still being done to gain access to a larger proportion of the £625 million which Essex contributes in business rates to the treasury each year.
- Social care and children's services demand is increasing, with an increase of 60 children being taken into care in the last 8 months. Other authorities are increasingly sending children to Essex and this issue is being looked at.
- Cllr Finch offered to speak personally Cllr Graham Butland, leader of Braintree District Council, concerning the BDC land at New Park

Action: The clerk will make sure Cllr Finch has copies of the latest correspondence.

7.3 BDC Report:

- Cllr Beavis reported that BDC had the most active Livewell campaign in the country.

- A consultation is ongoing with Braintree Hospital and Mid Essex CCG to move some of the beds more locally around the district.
- There is no movement to report on the joint medical centre at Sible Hedingham, although the business hub has now been built.
- BDC has to take £1.5million out of the budget, this is likely have an impact on transport and increases in car parking charges
- A meeting at BDC on 29th November will consider boundary changes, this is likely to affect Greenstead Green and Halstead where the Oak Road development may be incorporated within the Halstead boundary.

Cllr Beavis and Cllr Finch left.

- Cllr Johnson reported that crime is still a major concern to people, and advised that residents should be extra vigilant in response to the recent increases in crime, including making sure that post and parcels are taken in even if you are away.
 - There is no movement on a joint Hedingham medical centre as the NHS has no money.
 - Regarding BDC budgets, due to the lack of funding from Government there is likely to be as modest increase in rates
 - Speeding and lorries exceeding the 7.5t weight limit in the village continue to be a problem
- Action:** The clerk will follow up the 40mph SID sign for Crouch Green which has been given the green light by the Local Highways Panel, to find out when funding is available.
Residents are encouraged to report any vehicles ignoring the 7.5t weight limit.

8. PLANNING

Applications received:

17/01868/FUL Demolition of existing rear single storey extension and erection of new two storey extension. Provision of new vehicular access and garage.

Little Lodge Cottage Sudbury Road CO9 3AG

No objections,

although plans are sketchy and there are no plans shown for the garage

17/00382/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Repollard 1 Robinia tree to previous cuts approx 1.5-2 metres

Greenwich House 8 Queen Street CO9 3EX

Application form not yet published

Applications determined:

17/01687/FUL Erection of two storey rear extension following demolition of existing two storey rear extension

Rose And Maple Cottage Sudbury Road CO9 3AG

Application GRANTED

9. FINANCE

The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation.

Proposed: Cllr Moffat

Seconded: Cllr Hood

Agreed unanimously

9.1 RESOLVED: To grant the whole amount of £599.85 to Castle Hedingham Cricket Club for renovation of the square

Proposed: Cllr Pewter

Seconded: Cllr Scrivens

Agreed unanimously

9.2 RESOLVED: To suggest an outline budget of £100 to the Gardening Club for planting of the tubs at Crouch Green

Proposed: Cllr Scrivens

Seconded: Cllr Hood

Agreed unanimously

9.3 Notification of auditor appointment for 2017-2018. This will be PKF Littlejohn LLP and the fee for a limited assurance review will be £200.00.

9.4 The clerk reported an increase in interest rate on the deposit account to 0.2% from December

Nov-17	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Anglian Water	Water Cemetery	£6.61
DD	Anglian Water	Water Toilets	£54.39
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£22.26
DD	British Gas	Electricity Toilets	£9.27

DD	BCE Holdings Ltd	Peoples Pension	£15.78
B/P	BDC	Rates Pump House Nov	£2.75
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,400.12
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office Nov	£40.00
B/P	Hedingham School	Printing Maps/Leaflet	£18.47
B/P	Alan Henry	Leaflet delivery	£60.00
B/P	Birds Farm Trees	Memorial Avenue	£108.50
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£10.08
B/P	Printerland.co.uk	Printer Toner	£506.58
B/P	E C Waters	Expenses	£18.38
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI	£62.57
B/P	C H Club	Meeting Room Hire	£20.00
B/P	EALC	Training GS 28th Nov	£80.00
B/P	Falcon Accountants	Payroll July-Sept	£43.20
B/P	M D Landscapes	Grass Cutting	£1,202.40
B/P	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillators & Cabinets	£7,242.00
		TOTAL in month	£10,923.36
Nov-17	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
01-Nov	G Collins & Sons	Inscription Grave 258	£70.00
03-Nov	Daniel Robinson	Interment Ashes 26	£360.00
22-Nov	Janet C Davies	Purchase & Interment Ashes 55	£340.00
		TOTAL in month	£770.00

Accounts balances at 27 November 2017

Unity Trust Current account	£27,486.74
Unity Trust Deposit account	£25,233.89
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£56,081.89
Nationwide Treasurers Trust	£20,107.35
	£128,909.87

10. CASTLE HEDINGHAM RECREATION FIELD

The planned public meeting on Monday 11th December has been postponed due to a BDC full council meeting meaning representatives from BDC would be unable to attend. An alternative date is being arranged, probably in January 2018.

Action: Clerk to organise the meeting.

Cllr Johnson and the members of the public left

11. OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN

Consideration of updates to the 2018 edition of the Open Spaces Action Plan, due by 8th December 2017. Consideration of possible uses for £1,191.66 S106 funding currently available to spend on improving public open space in the parish. This money is due to be used by 2022.

Action: No action on spending S106 funds will be taken for the time being. The clerk will contact the BDC District Architect for guidance on the updates required for the Open Spaces Action Plan

The clerk had identified specialist legal advice to help the Parish Council achieve the best outcome for the village regarding a play area. Although this was not tabled as an agenda item, Councillors moved to vote on this option, with the decision to be ratified at the January meeting.

RESOLVED: To contact Mr Keith Songhurst of Birkett Long to arrange a short advisory meeting

Proposed: Cllr Higgins **Seconded:** Cllr Hood **Agreed by majority vote; 5 for - 2 against**

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Essex County Council: The A120 Braintree to A12 study will be discussed at the upcoming Essex County Council Cabinet meeting on 23 November 2017. Update to be circulated following the meeting. See ECC website: <http://a120essex.co.uk/a120-improvement-a-step-closer-to-reality/>

Resident of Queen Street: Concern expressed over sale of small area of land at Church Lane possibly leading to building on the land. The Parish Council has been advised informally that there is no need for concern.

13. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

13.1 High Speed Broadband: The faculty for installation of a wireless broadband transmitter on St Nicholas Church tower has now been granted. County Broadband has been in touch with the clerk and Cllr Toocaram, looking at the feasibility of supplying wireless broadband to areas of the village not served by BT fibre.

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Ordinary Parish Council
Castle Hedingham Club

Monday 22nd January 2018 at 7.45pm

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE