



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 28th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.45PM

Present: Cllrs Higgins, Hood, Moffat, Pewter, Scrivens, Southgate, Worley
County Cllr David Finch to item 8

In the Chair: Cllr Southgate

Clerk: Claire Waters

Also Present: Sgt Martin Richards, Essex Police to item 8

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Pewter for late arrival due to train delay, and for Cllrs Philp and Toocaram for absence. Apologies for absence were also received from District Cllrs Johnson and Beavis.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 24th August 2015 were approved as a correct record of events.

Proposed: Cllr Hood Seconded: Cllr Moffat Signed by the Chairman

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Scrivens declared an interest in item 10 as Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee.

Cllr Worley declared an interest in item 13 as Chairman of the Heritage Society.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1 A number of village maintenance issues were identified during a meeting in the village between the Chairman and the village contractor.

Action: Clerk to instruct Mortimers to carry out proposed works at the Churchyard and Cemetery

Action: Cllr Worley to inspect conker tree at Sheepcot Rd and oak tree at Crouch Green before next meeting.

5.2 Possible replacement of Castle Hedingham Club shed.

Action: Cllr Hood will follow up possible funding for shed in new round of MiCommunity Grants.

5.3 High Speed Broadband. James Cleverly MP has met with the Chancellor of the Diocese of Chelmsford. Faculty applications for installation of transmitters on church towers are being held up because of concerns over liability and insurance when accessing the transmitter for maintenance.

5.4 A meeting with James Cleverly MP to discuss progress on a joint Hedinghams Medical Centre at Sible Hedingham was attended by Cllrs Higgins, Moffat and Southgate on 25th September. The NHS has now given the proposals a project number and a timescale of 2 years. James Cleverly MP pledged his support for the project.

6. HIGHWAYS

6.1 Management of blocked drains and potential flooding in the village centre. Cllr Finch supplied maps of the parish for each drain to be marked, to aid communication with Highways. Jetting of drains is scheduled for Castle Hedingham later in the year, exact dates are being requested so vehicles can be moved to allow access.

Sudbury Hill - Cllr Moffat presented photos of badly blocked drains which are creating water run-off into the village centre.

King Street - problems last year are reported by Highways to be an Anglian Water issue now.

St James St/Luces Lane - Following a Highways inspection, a surface water alleviation scheme (SWAS) application for drainage improvements has been submitted where the underground stream combines with surface water and overflows. The gully and slot drainage will also be cleaned by No 7 Falcon Square.

St James St – The drain outside David Burr was damaged by utilities or Highways contractors last year, but it is not clear who was responsible.

Action: Cllr Finch requested a list of who did what and when, as it should be possible to trace through Highways permission records.

Residents can still help by reporting blocked drains themselves, with photographs if possible, on the website <https://secureweb1.essexcc.gov.uk/Highways/Report-a-highway-problem.aspx>.

6.2 Cllrs Toocaram and Worley are still working on finding someone to cut the protected verge at Edey's Lane

6.3 Rejected LHP Scheme request for 30mph speed limit at Station Road for safety of pedestrians on footpath. A letter of concern has been received by the Chairman, reporting a near miss with a school child on the edge of the footpath. Cllr Finch and Sgt Richards advised on possible safety measures.

Action: Cllr Scrivens as Chairman of Hedingham School governors will gain support of the school for an appeal against the decision not to reduce the speed limit at this stretch of road.

6.4 Planings for resurfacing the section of Rosemary Lane towards Kirby Hall Road are still being awaited from Essex Highways

Action: Cllr Finch apologised for the delay and will chase this up.

7. REPORTS

Police/PCSO: Martin Richards, Partnership Sergeant with Essex Police, reported on the challenges facing the Police due to cuts in funding and the need for them to realign their service in response to decreases in theft, but increases in domestic violence, sexual and drug offences. He reported that individuals have been apprehended in connection to 2 house burglaries in the Parish in recent months. IN response to a question from Cllr Hood, he recommended that the best deterrent against house breaking is a burglar alarm.

Criminals are increasingly transient, so offenders are likely to repeat their behaviour across the County. With the permission of the Parishes, the Police plan to put together a training plan to help people identify “hidden harm” such as drug offenders operating from the address of vulnerable people. In response to a question from Cllr Worley, he reported that cybercrime is dealt with by a civilian based department as this is most efficient and cost-effective.

Action: Relevant security and safety advice will be sent to the clerk so it can be publicised to residents.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Richards for his time in attending the meeting.

ECC report: Cllr Finch reported on ECC bid for more devolved finances and powers for Essex, as the third largest economy outside London, and a net contributor to the economy of Britain. The first application was made in September, with more detailed proposals to be submitted in December.

A comprehensive spending review in November may mean 25 – 30% of the ECC Revenue Support Grant is cut. The introduction of the National Living Wage means that the cost of services bought in by ECC will increase. ECC are asking for 5 years funding at 100% of the cost, to support Syrian refugees coming into the County - currently the funding given covers only 70% of the cost.

BDC report: None

Cllr Pewter arrived. Cllr Finch left

8. PLANNING

Following recent changes, the following planning training events have been organised for Parish Councils. The maximum attendance from each Parish Council will be 3 Members/Clerk.

Action: Cllr Worley will attend Braintree session on 21st October, Cllrs Southgate, Higgins and the Clerk will attend the Sible Hedingham session on 23rd October

Applications received:

15/00297/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out to works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 Lawson Cypress tree

29 Bayley Street Castle Hedingham Essex CO9 3DG

No objections

15/01156/FUL Erection of single storey rear garden room extension

Clare Cottage Bayley Street Castle Hedingham Essex CO9 3HG

No objections

Applications determined:

15/00897/FUL & 15/00908/LBC Remove existing extractor fan and housing from kitchen flat roof and replace with new extractor fan and housing and install louvre filter to side window.

The Old Moot House Restaurant 1 St James Street CO9 3EJ

Application GRANTED

15/00838/LBC Remove defective render from west elevation, minor repairs to wood work/windows and doors, like for like and repaint to match original colours

4 Queen Street CO9 3EX

Application GRANTED

9. FINANCE

The clerk gave a brief update of progress against budget, and provided a copy of the progress report for Cllr Hood to review.

Accounts balances at 28 September 2015

Unity Trust Current account	£41,929.49
CHPC Magna Carta 2015	£1,974.56
Unity Trust Deposit account	£25,170.79
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£30,050.08
Nationwide Treasurers Trust	£20,024.66
	£119,149.58

The monthly accounts were approved and cheques signed.

Proposed: Cllr Worley

Seconded: Cllr Hood

The Chairman signed the bank reconciliation and the clerk Alto Card expenses report.

Sep-15	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
300251	Castle Hedingham Club	Room Hire	£20.00
300252	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£10.08
300253	Bakers of Danbury	War Memorial	£13,113.36
300254	Hedingham Castle	Recreation Field Lease	£37.50
S/O	Essex Playing Fields Association	Annual Subscription	£25.00
B/P	St Nicholas PCC	Parish Magazine	£250.00
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£793.44
DD	Anglian Water	Water Toilets	£57.23
DD	Anglian Water	Water Cemetery	£15.68
DD	Eon	Electricity	£17.52
DD	Braintree District Council	Rates, Toilets	£90.00

Sep-15	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
23-Sep	BDC	Precept	£11,184.00

9.1 The clerk reminded Councillors that Parish Councils are now covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) up to a value of £75,000.

10. MEMORIAL HALL CAR PARK

Decision on purchase of post to prevent parking at the Memorial Hall fire exit, estimated cost £130 + VAT

Resolved: To purchase a lockable post to be installed by Mortimers.

Proposed: Cllr Pewter Seconded: Cllr Moffat Agreed unanimously

Action: Cllr Scrivens will provide a sketch of the exact location so Mortimers can be instructed

Action: Cllrs Scrivens and Hood will review the front and rear security lighting and fire exit keep clear signage before the next meeting.

11. ANNUAL UPDATE OF EMERGENCY PLAN

BDC request for updates to the Parish Emergency Plan, including details of any Wi-Fi at any of the emergency accommodation situated within the parish.

Action: Cllr Southgate and the clerk will review and update the existing plan as no major changes need to be added.

12. STREETLIGHTS AT NEW PARK

Consideration of future replacement of New Park streetlights, following inspection by contractor. Recommended are downward direction LED lights reducing light spill and pollution, and running at 30w rather than 70w. This could be done now, or included in the budget for the coming financial year. Option 1: Kingfisher lights at £320 each. Option 2: Urbis lights at £525 each. Option 2 has a longer expected life span, a 2 year guarantee and is the preferred ECC supplier).

Resolved: To instruct lighting contractor to install Option 2 now.

Proposed: Cllr Pewter Seconded: Cllr Scrivens Agreed unanimously

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

BDC: Halstead Leisure Centre pools will be closed for approximately 3 weeks from 22 October 2015 for replacement of filters and other poolside maintenance work. All other areas of the centre will remain fully operational (sports hall, gym, studio's and squash courts).

BDC: Mi Community opens 1st September 2015 with £100,000 of community investment available for local projects.

Braintree, Halstead & Witham Citizens Advice Bureau: Request for donation to support continued operations, which have supported 74 people in Hedingham ward of BDC this year.

Resolved: To donate £100 to the local branch of the CAB

Proposed: Cllr Worley Seconded: Cllr Higgins Agreed unanimously

Hedingham Heritage Society: Suggest that Castle Hedingham Club is not a suitable location for the Bingham Pottery Collection, and that St Nicholas' Church would be more suitable.

The resolution made at the June Parish Council meeting cannot be revisited for 6 months. It has also been established that St Nicholas Church is definitely not a suitable location for the pottery.

Action: Cllr Hood and the clerk will source a cabinet for the pottery to be displayed in the Club.

16. REPRESENTATIVES AND WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

Magna Carta 2015: Cllrs Scrivens and Worley reported on the final stages of the Magna Carta celebrations, exhibition artefacts and grant funding reports.

War Memorial: The restoration of the War Memorial has now been completed and signed off by the Conservation Engineer. Final invoices are to be paid and the grant money claimed. Councillors agreed that the work has been completed to a high standard, with pleasing results.

17. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Decision on Job Description for Village Maintenance
- Renovation options for Village Sign
- Ongoing management of Public Toilets
- Memorial Avenue of trees, Sheepcot Road
- Update on October Playing Field discussions

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Ordinary Parish Council: Monday 23 November 2015

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE