

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 16th APRIL 2012 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Mrs. G. Massey (Chairman), Cllrs: Dr. R. Green, B. Howlett, A. Law, S. Partridge, J. Skittrall and L. Waller. Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk).
Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor) together with three representatives from Essex Police and 41 (forty one) members of the public

The Chairman read out the fire regulations namely that in the event of fire or other emergency, the Hall emergency exits are located to the sides and rear of the Hall and everyone should assemble by foot at the assembly point at the top of the hill in Parkfields. Vehicles should not be removed from the car park as they may obstruct the arrival of the emergency vehicles.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked representatives of organisations who provided displays.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. J. Beavis, C. Cannell, D. Holmes, E. Jones, A. Prill, F. Swallow, H. Johnson and W. Scattergood
Mr. R. Reece of Hedingham Farmers Market and representatives of Hedingham W.I

3. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2011 were circulated, read, confirmed by those present and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Police Report

PC N. Smith of Essex Police reported that he had succeeded PC D. Coghill as the designated Hedingham Police Officer. He introduced PCSO Belinda Ruffle and PCSO Kim Chapman who were in attendance at the meeting. He outlined the recent reorganisation of Essex Police and gave details of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. He stated that Great Yeldham Police Station had closed and all officers are now based at Halstead Police Station. He reported upon three recent crime trends (i) house burglaries, (ii) criminal damage and (iii) other burglaries such as sheds and garages. The Police were currently concentrating upon ASB. He gave the new non emergency number of 101 and other contact details.

Mrs. L. Waller asked how many days a week officers will be in attendance in the village. PC Smith replied that shift patterns were such that there will always be one officer on duty.

Rev. P. Corson asked about parking across pavements particularly in Alexandra Road, which is a daily problem. PC Smith confirmed that it is an obstruction if residents are not able to get a push chair or mobility vehicle through. If the obstruction is connected to the Corner Café then the Police will speak to the proprietors so that customers can be advised not to obstruct the pavement. Mrs. Waller reported that vehicles obstructing pavements is a regular problem not

only in Alexandra Road but also in Cambridge Avenue, where vehicles park too close to junctions, which is an offence. The Police agreed to speak to the owners of the vehicles concerned. PC Smith was thanked for his report and for answering questions.

6. Parish Council Report

The Chairman reported that a copy of the Annual Parish Council Report will shortly be delivered to every household in the village and will also be available on the website. The Parish Council is trying to communicate more with members of the public and non councillors had joined the Recreation and Amenities Committee, the Public Transport, Highways and Spedwatch Committee and the Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Waller for updating the website to which residents were welcome to contribute.

7. Essex County Council Report

A written report read by Mr. D. Finch is attached to these minutes. Mr. Finch added that ECC had delivered £90 million in savings and the Council Tax will not increase. ECC had continued to support apprenticeships and recycling figures were good. A new partnership has been formed with Ringway Jacobs Limited to create savings with highway works.

Mr. B. Mills asked for more information about apprenticeships and was informed that apprenticeships last between 12 and 18 months and are principally in the construction industry. Mrs. H. Carter asked how many apprentices come from the rural areas. Mr. Finch answered that 1,380 apprentices have been placed in Essex, which are in proportion to the population so there are more from the towns than from the rural areas. He added that ECC is investing 6.4 million in Broadband, which will help rural areas.

A resident enquired about possible library budgets being cut and was informed that ECC does not intend to cut the library budget and that all libraries will remain open.

Mr. J. Skittrall reported that the pavement in School Road was dangerous and that he had reported it to Tracey Chapman of ECC but no improvements had been made. Mr. Finch agreed to pursue this issue with ECC Highways upon receipt of relevant emails from Mr. Skittrall.

Mrs. L. Waller enquired about funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership as SH is a key service village. Mr. Finch reported that £50 million is available to spend in Essex but this will mainly be upon the major roads. Funding is also available from the Community Infrastructure Levy but he was not aware how much is being provided for SH.

Mr. S. Partridge reported that Customer Service in the Highways Department is very poor. Mr. Finch accepted this and stated that ECC had “tried to turn it around”. He reported that Derek Lewis will shortly replace Tracey Chapman as Cabinet Member for Highways. He suggested that SHPC invite Derek Lewis to a future meeting. Mr. Finch was thanked for his report.

8. Braintree District Council Reports

Mrs. J. Beavis, Mr. H. Johnson and Mrs. W. Scattergood had sent a joint written report, which was read on their behalf by the Clerk and a copy is attached to these minutes. Arising from this report it was confirmed that SHPC does not wish to see the village envelope extended.

9. Sible Hedingham Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association Report

The Chairman invited everyone to view the SHALGA display. Dr. R. Green thanked Mrs. Karen Hamilton-Viall for doing a wonderful job as Secretary. SHPC and SHALGA were seeking land for

allotments and funds to create allotments for which there is an enormous demand in SH. Residents were invited to join and support SHALGA.

10. Village Agents Report

Miss. J. Laken outlined the functions of Village Agents namely to help elderly, vulnerable and disabled persons in rural areas and gave details of the variety of help and services available. She had so far helped 130 people in SH and had also set up a computer course at Hedingham School. She will be present at SH Library on Thursdays. Miss. Laken was thanked for her report.

11. Displays and written reports

At this point the meeting adjourned for refreshments and an opportunity to view display stands. Written reports were displayed by the following organisations:

Greenfields Community Housing, Sible Hedingham Village Hall, Women's Institute, Farmer's Market, Film Club, FOAM, HRW, Hedingham School, the Church, Friends of St. Peter's Church, Baptist Church, Flower Club, Business Breakfast Club, Twinning Association, Hedfest – Hedingham 2012 Jubilee Festival, Village Agents and SHPC Committees and Advisory Groups.

Copies of reports from the organisations are attached to these minutes.

Following the break the meeting resumed.

12. Proposed Sible Hedingham to Sudbury bus service

Miss. J. Cole reported that two years ago a bus survey was carried out by Ms. S. Glen and herself into a proposed SH to Sudbury bus service. A direct route to Sudbury via Castle Hedingham was preferred as opposed to a detour through Halstead and various villages. Over 300 residents had supported the proposed bus service and Beestons and De Vere Coaches were interested in the proposed scheme. Mr. S. Partridge added that a Business Plan for the scheme had been prepared which can be seen on SHPC website. Feedback from residents is welcome. The Chairman thanked Mr. S. Partridge, Miss. J. Cole and Ms. S. Glen for their work in connection with the proposed bus service.

13. Distribution of wheelie bin stickers

Mr. S. Partridge gave details of the latest Speed Survey, which revealed that 86% of motorists were breaking the speed limit in Potter Street. SHPC is in communication with Essex Police and ECC Highways regarding the issue of vehicles speeding through the village. Whilst waiting for VAS wheelie bin stickers to slow down traffic had been obtained as an interim solution and he offered stickers to residents who require them.

14. Public Question Time and Any Other Business

Mrs. A. Weatherley asked for an update upon the SH Regeneration Area. Mr. S. Partridge reported that the developer will be Bloor Homes and a planning application is awaited. The offer of allotments had been withdrawn upon which SHPC had expressed extreme dissatisfaction. BDC is now working with SHPC to find new sites for allotments in the village. Apart from allotments the other community benefits including land for a Medical Centre remain. Mr. M. Firman and Mr. A. Lynch initiated a discussion upon the condition of buildings on the site, which will need to be removed before development takes place. Mr. Partridge confirmed that residents will be notified when a planning application is made. Mrs. L. Waller expressed concern about the short period of time for consultation and also assured residents that they will be notified when an application is made. Mr. J. Skittrall

reported that he has contact details of the Security Company responsible for the site if there are any security issues.

Mr. O. Hawkes enquired about the chimney sculpture. The Clerk confirmed that this was being constructed by metalsmiths from Cornwall and upon completion may need to be stored until the site for it on the SH Regeneration Area is ready. Mrs. H. Carter asked which designs by pupils of Hedingham School had been selected. The Clerk agreed to ask the metalsmiths for this information and for an update on progress.

Miss. J. Cole expressed concern about the number of Pubs which had closed in SH and the future of those buildings. It was confirmed that they are all listed buildings which should be preserved. Mr. S. Partridge asked if there is any interest in the Sugar Loaves being run as a Community Pub. Mr. J. Skittrall considered that it is in an ideal location on the main road and there is potential for it to be successful with the right management. Rev. P. Corson reported that the police had closed it down three times during the last eight years and that volunteers will quickly disappear if the wrong types use the pub. If it provides food, tea and coffee but no alcohol it may work as a Community Pub. Mr. O. Hawkes explained that Pubs were not used in the same way as in former years and that he considers that the Swan, with more parking, is a much better location than the Sugar Loaves. Mrs. K. Hamilton-Viall offered to obtain details of another Community Pub and pass them on, which was gratefully accepted. Mr. J. Skittrall emphasised the need for a strong business plan. Mr. S. Partridge asked if residents wish SHPC to explore the possibilities and the Chairman suggested that the debate is opened up through the website.

A resident referred to the money being spent on the path for Hedingham Riverside Walk, which has no picnic area and a lack of toilet facilities. Mr. B. Stacey, Chairman of HRW stated that toilet facilities had not been previously considered but it may be possible to provide them at the SH Regeneration Area end of HRW as part of that development. Mr. J. Skittrall stated that there were adequate toilet facilities on the Recreation Ground. Dr. R. A. Green emphasised that HRW is a walk and is not for picnic areas or toilets and that it should be left as a walk only.

15. Chairman's Address

The Chairman thanked everyone who had provided displays and attended the meeting. SHALGA and Hedingham Film Club had gained some new members. Mr. J. Skittrall thanked the Chairman for a doing a good job during a difficult year and in reply the Chairman thanked Mr. Skittrall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)