

**MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2011 AT 8PM**

**Present:** Mrs. G. Massey (Chairman), Cllrs: J. Beavis, C. Cannell, Dr. R. Green, B. Howlett, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, F. Swallow, L. Waller & A. Corder-Birch (Clerk). Mr. J. Hayden and Mr. A. Davies, BDC, Mr. R. Ricks, Boyer Planning, Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor), Mrs. W. Scattergood (District Councillor), Mr. M. Garnham (Area Estates Manager, GCH), Rev. L. Bond (SH Church), Rev. P. Corson (Baptist Church), Mrs. H. Carter (Hedingham School), Mrs. R. Jenkin (Primary School), Mr. B. Stacey (Hedingham Riverside Walk), Mr. B. Mills (Friends of Alderford Mill), one representative from Great Maplestead Parish Council, together with 28 (twenty eight) other members of the public making a total attendance of 52 people.

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 in particular the guest speakers, Mr. J. Hayden and Mr. A. Davies BDC and Mr. Ray Ricks, a Director of Boyer Planning Limited. The Chairman particularly thanked Mrs. J. Beavis for organising the meeting and for inviting the guest speakers.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Mr. D. Holmes, Mrs. E. Jones, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. O. Hawkes and PC D. Coghill (Police)

**3. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010 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**

A copy of the written report from PC D. Coghill of Essex Police had been exhibited on the display board for everyone to read and is attached to these minutes.

**6. Parish Council Report**

The Chairman reported that a copy of the Annual Parish Council Report had been delivered to every household in the village and thanked the Rev. Bond for his kind help with distribution. Mrs. J. Beavis reported upon changes as a result of the recent Elections and thanked electors for the votes received. She thanked retiring Councillors, Mr. I. Carruthers, Mr. R. Falco, Mr. H. Johnson, Mr. M. Rudge, Mr. E. Snarey and Mr. R. Volkwyn for their past service. Many projects had progressed during the last four years whilst Mrs. Beavis was Chairman and she

particularly thanked partners including ECC, GCH, HRW, FOAM, Essex Police, Heddingham School, St. Peter's Primary School, the Rev. Bond and the Rev Corson for their partnership help to enable projects to proceed. Mrs. Beavis was thanked for her report.

#### **7. Essex County Council Report**

A written report read by Mr. D. Finch is attached to these minutes. Mr. Finch added that ECC had cut £40 million from its budget, the Council Tax had been kept down but there was no cut in facilities or services, which he hoped residents would use. Tourism figures in Essex had significantly increased. Rev. P. Corson enquired about the EU grant for ECC and Mr. Finch explained that this was used to support apprenticeship training. Mr. D. Gilfillan asked about technology at Libraries and was informed that some libraries are now used for other purposes such as for benefits advice. No Library in Essex had been closed although there was some reduction in opening hours. Mr. Finch was thanked for his report.

#### **8. Braintree District Council Reports**

Mrs. J. Beavis reported that SH is represented by three District Councillors namely Mrs. W. Scattergood, Mr. H. Johnson and herself. BDC had to save £3 million out of a budget of £16 million, which was difficult but had been achieved. There were 54 Parish Councils in the Braintree District which were now under the Communities Portfolio held by Mrs. Beavis, who also continues as a cabinet member. Mrs. Beavis was thanked for her report.

Mrs. Scattergood who is Chairman of BDC Planning Committee and Vice Chairman of LDF, reported that she is unable to attend as many SHPC meetings as she would wish as meetings clash with Little Maplestead PC meetings. On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 BDC had approved the new SH Conservation Areas Report and she thanked everyone involved. Mrs. Scattergood was thanked for her report.

#### **9. Greenfields Community Housing Report**

Mr. M. Garnham reported that he is the new Area Estates Manager based at the Halstead Office of GCH in succession to Mrs. S. Goldsmith. He produced a written report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He added that a parking scheme for six additional parking spaces had been approved for Oxford Meadow and more parking spaces approved for Parkfields. The footpath from Parkfields to St. Peter's View had been improved and new play equipment had been provided at Parkfields. Two new crescent shaped flower/shrub beds will be formed at Oxford Meadow and a new rubbish bin installed at Christmas Field. Park Court had closed and the site will be redeveloped. Estate inspections will continue to be held and the GCH Open Forum will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> June at St. Andrews Hall, Halstead. Mrs. S. Flegg enquired about the development of the former Scout Hut site at Oxford Meadow, which was answered by Mrs. Beavis. Mr. J. Nicholson asked for the percentage of SH residents who are GCH tenants. Mr. Garnham agreed to investigate this point and provide an answer during the ensuing days. Mr. Garnham was thanked for his report.

#### **10. Presentation by BDC Planning Officers and Mr. R. Ricks of Boyer Planning**

The Chairman introduced Mr. Ray Ricks of Boyer Planning who stated that he had been acting for Premdor for four years and had continued working with BDC. Discussions had taken place with BDC about housing, employment, medical centre, HRW and other community facilities. SHPC will be consulted upon a draft master plan but it is not known when a

planning application will be made. He confirmed that Premdor are looking to regenerate the site and to provide some community facilities, particularly the medical centre and HRW. The Chairman then introduced Mr. J. Hayden, Director of Sustainable Development, BDC who confirmed that BDC had been working with SHPC and he particularly thanked Mrs. J. Beavis and Mr. A. Corder-Birch for taking him around SH recently and for showing him all possible development sites. He referred to a financial viability document prepared for Premdor, which includes costings, highways, housing mix, etc. This will be considered carefully by BDC who will work with SHPC to achieve community facilities under S106 Agreements.

#### **11. Questions to Planning Officers and Mr. R. Ricks**

The Chairman then invited questions:

Mr. A. Lynch asked what employment will be available for occupiers of the new houses.

Mr. Ricks stated that Premdor did not want to see the site closed but had no option. He explained that quite apart from houses there would be a mix of uses for the benefit of the community including possible employment uses.

Mr. Hayden stated that it is currently classed as an employment site and BDC wants to see some employment on it. He referred to Business Development Services and business start up for local businesses.

Mr. D. Gilfillan asked about highway improvements in SH.

Mr. Hayden confirmed that BDC and SHPC had been working with ECC Highways with regard to highway improvements including speed reduction, pedestrian crossings, roundabouts and cycle paths. .

Mr. Ricks confirmed that discussions had taken place with ECC Highways about design of and improvements to both accesses. A mini roundabout was proposed for Swan Street together with cycle paths on the housing estate. ECC Highways is satisfied that the highway network can cope with the proposed houses.

Miss. J. Cole asked about the future timetable and was informed that the inclusion of the Rockways site had delayed matters and necessitated a review of costings.

Rev. P. Corson expressed concern about parking in Swan Street generally and at the Alexandra Road junction in particular and wondered if Swan Street could cope with two hundred extra houses in the village.

Mr. Hayden answered that there were opportunities for highway improvements in SH under S106 Agreements but highway improvements depend upon capacity.

Mrs. L. Waller expressed concern that S106 Agreements may not always address all problems, such as highways, which developments may cause.

Mr. Hayden suggested that a representative from ECC Highways is invited to attend a future SHPC meeting, which was agreed.

Mr. J. Nicholson asked that highway contributions and improvements are made as the development progresses and not left until the end. It was confirmed that this would happen and that the development and highway improvements would be made in phases over a few years.

A resident asked when SH ceases to be a village and becomes a town.

Mr. Hayden explained that SH is a key service village upon which numerous surrounding villages are dependent such as for the Doctor's Surgery and therefore the proposed location of the new medical centre near the bus stop at Brook House is very important.

Mrs. R. Jenkin enquired about road safety for children attending Schools and was informed that zebra crossings were proposed for both Station Road and Swan Street.

Miss. J. Cole emphasised the need for more public transport, which Miss. Cannell answered. Another resident asked for a new Cinema and the Chairman stated that this was uneconomic. Mr. Hayden and Mr. Ricks were thanked for their presentations and for answering questions.

#### **12. Village Design Statement Report**

The Chairman circulated copies of the VDS to those present at the meeting and confirmed that it will be taken into account when reviewing planning applications. She thanked the VDS Committee and others for all their help.

#### **13. Conservation Areas Appraisal and Management Plan**

Mr. A. Corder-Birch gave a report upon the SH Conservation Areas Appraisal and Management Plan, which was approved by BDC in March 2011. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. He added that in April 2010 he had given evidence to the BDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee about S106 Agreements when he had emphasised the necessity for S106 monies from development sites in SH being allocated to SH and not used, throughout the Braintree District. The representations made by Mr. Corder-Birch had been agreed by BDC and were now part of BDC policy. Therefore SH could expect to receive maximum benefits from S106 Agreements, which had not been the case in the past. Mr. Corder-Birch was thanked for his report.

#### **14. Sible Hedingham Village Hall Report**

The written report prepared by Mr. O. Hawkes was displayed at the meeting and is attached to these minutes. Mr. J. Skittrall added that the Village Hall has an active Committee, but it is looking for new members and bookings are quite heavy.

#### **15. Hedingham School Report**

Mrs. H. Carter presented the Hedingham School Report, which was displayed at the meeting and is attached to these minutes. Mrs. Carter particularly thanked SHPC for the support it gives to the School and reported upon the Pre-Olympic event being jointly arranged by SHPC and the School. Mrs. Carter was thanked for her report.

#### **16. St. Peter's Primary School Report**

Mrs. R. Jenkin, as Chairman of Governors, presented the St. Peter's Primary School Report, which was displayed at the meeting and is attached to these minutes. Mrs. Jenkin added that the School and SHPC are improving communications. Mrs. Jenkin was thanked for her report.

#### **17. Sible Hedingham Church Report**

Rev. L. Bond gave his report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He particularly thanked the community for support during the year. He also gave a report on behalf of the Friends of St. Peter's Church, which raises funds to keep the Church in good repair. He particularly thanked SHPC for arranging for daffodils and trees to be provided to improve the Churchyard. Rev. Bond was thanked for his report.

#### **18. Hedingham Baptist Church Report**

Rev. P. Corson, read his annual report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He promoted the Christmas Concert in December 2011. He proposed a vote of thanks to PC Sarah

Ford and to all those who had helped with the THF event in previous years, which was warmly supported. Rev. Corson was thanked for his report.

**19. Friends of Alderford Mill Report**

Mr. B. Mills gave the Friends of Alderford Mill Report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Miss. J. Cole added that the mill has a very valuable archive relating to the history of the mill, which was kindly donated by Mr. P. Rawlinson. Members are keen to record the recollections of former employees and to publish a history of the mill. It is one of only a few buildings in the area which is open to the public. Mr. Mills and Miss Cole were thanked for their reports.

**20. Hedingham Riverside Walk Report**

Mr. B. Stacey, Chairman of Hedingham Riverside Walk, gave a report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He particularly thanked SHPC and BDC for support and hoped that the crossing at Alderford Street and access through the SH Regeneration Area will soon be achieved. Mr. Stacey was thanked for his report.

**21. Footpaths Report**

Dr. R. Green thanked Adam Jenkins and Janet Hill of ECC PROW team for their help and support to achieve good progress during the year. Many stiles had been replaced with gates, which were more user friendly and could be negotiated by all age groups and people with disabilities. The Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group comprising of both Councillors and Members of the Public had met regularly. The footpaths map was a great success and a revised edition is in the course of preparation. A new walk in memory of Phyllis Cox is being formed with a suitable leaflet. Attempts had been made to connect the SH and Halstead network of footpaths but this had unfortunately failed because of objections from landowners. Footpath use had increased particularly with the new Health Walks.

Dr. Green then introduced Mrs. J. Beavis as the new Chairman and Spokesperson of the Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group. Mrs. Beavis paid tribute to Dr. Green for all his hard work over the years in connection with the vast network of footpaths in SH. She also thanked him for his generosity in making Molly's Wood available for community use in SH and reported that he had been short listed for an award. Dr. Green and Mrs. Beavis were thanked for their reports.

**22. Public Question Time and Any Other Business**

Mr. D. Gilfillan enquired about the planning applications relating to the former Swan PH and asked what development SHPC considered appropriate for the site.

Mrs. G. Massey replied that SHPC had opposed two dwellings at the rear of the former Swan because the site was outside the village envelope.

Mrs. L. Waller stated that her personal view was that she supported the possibility of having a sympathetic restoration of the former PH. The current applications were not the best and were not ideal. She hoped that BDC and SHPC could hold out for something better. BDC had not yet made a decision upon the pending applications.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm

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(Date)

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(Chairman)