

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 13th APRIL 2015 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. S. Glen, D. Holmes, A. Law, L. Parkin, S. Partridge, A. Prill and J. Skittrall.

Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

Together with 9 (nine) members of the public

Public comment

Miss. C. Cannell expressed dismay at the possibility of the Parish Council funding a PCSO in view of the council tax increase by Essex Police.

Mr. R. Van Dulken, a resident of Castle Hedingham and a prospective District Council candidate for Great Yeldham considered that the Colne Valley Railway was a wonderful amenity and was concerned to learn of the proposal to relocate it.

There was no other public comment.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (BDC meeting), P. Sarel (travel delays), R. Volkwyn (working abroad), R. Wright (working), D. Finch, H. Johnson and W. Scattergood

2. **Absent**

Cllr. E. Jones

3. **Declarations of interest**

Miss. L. Parkin and Mr. J. Skittrall, as members of the Village Hall Committee, both declared a NPI in connection with the proposed building of a public hall by the Football Club.

Mr. A. Law, as a member of FOAM, declared a NPI, in connection with the proposed funding of a notice board on Alderford Mill.

There were no other declarations of interest.

4. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 9th March 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2015, having been circulated, were taken as read were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. **Matters arising from those minutes**

There were no matters arising.

6. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that this was the last meeting of the current four year term and was disappointed that there were only eight nominations for the Parish Council. She thanked all retiring members for their service and for the work done.

7. **Youth Council Report**

The Chairman stated that she had not attended the last Youth Council meeting so there was no report.

8. **County Councillor's Report**

In the absence of Mr. D. Finch no report was given.

9. **District Councillor's Reports**

In the absence of Mrs. J. Beavis, Mr. H. Johnson and Mrs. W. Scattergood no report was given.

10. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 6th and 27th March 2015, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

11. **Personnel Committee**

had failed to take adequate action.
The minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 10th March 2015, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

12. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 20th March 2015, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

13. **To consider a 'Pop-up' shop at the former Nat West Bank building**

Miss. L. Parkin reported that the working party had met on 16th March and decided to consider the state of the building before money is spent on its renovation. Bloor Homes consider that the building is very decrepit and a site visit had been arranged for 15th April to consider its condition. Mr. D. Holmes reported that Bloor Homes will not renovate the building or transfer ownership to SHPC until after the development of the whole site is complete.

14. **Update upon production of Parish Magazine**

The Chairman reported that there was an improvement in the quality of the April issue of the Parish Magazine. However the copy sent to the printers was not good, which necessitated the printers spending four hours work on the magazine to improve it. This extra work carried out by the printers had not been charged for. The Chairman was waiting to discuss the situation with the Rev. Liz Paxton.

15. **To consider compliance with foundation level of NALC/EALC Awards Scheme**

The Chairman reported that a new NALC/EALC Awards Scheme is coming into being and the difficulties with the former scheme had been overcome. The Clerk will need to attend a minimum of three courses a year to gain CDP points. The SHPC website was largely compliant and Councillors were advised to look at the Great Maplestead PC website for further guidance. Mr. S. Partridge asked if the five SHPC vacancies would affect compliance. The Chairman considered that it should no longer do so, as it had in the past, as this provision had been abolished. It was proposed by Mrs. G. Massey, seconded by Mr. S. Partridge and carried that SHPC proceeds with the scheme.

16. **To consider change in Standing Orders**

The Chairman reported that an amendment to the Standing Orders was required to allow video and recordings of PC meetings. Mr. A. Prill expressed concern about the proposed changes. Following clarification it was proposed by Mrs. G. Massey, seconded by Mr. D. Holmes and carried that Standing Order 1(1) should be amended to:

Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting, is permitted within the following guidelines

Children and vulnerable adults have the right not to be filmed or photographed and any other member of the public may request alternative seating.

Recording should follow prior notification, be overt and non-disruptive.

The Human Rights Act, The Data Protection Act, laws of defamation and other relevant legislation must be observed.

17. **Policing Matters**

a) **Report of Neighbourhood Policing meeting**

The Chairman reported that the Neighbourhood Policing Meeting held at the White Lion PH on 16th March was poorly attended, although the Police seemed to think that the attendance was good. Members of the public considered that the Police had emphasized what they could not do rather than what they could.

b) **Report of meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Chairman reported upon a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner held at Great Dunmow on 25th March. Delegates were impressed with Mr. N. Alston the Commissioner who had explained the situation concerning the Police element of the Council Tax. He claimed that his office costs less than the former Police Authority. There will be an opportunity for Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks in the Hedingham Division to meet him again on 26th June at Great Yeldham. Mr. J. Skittrall reported upon Police responsibilities for travelers and Mr. A. Prill outlined incidents involving travelers where the Police

The failed response was received and listed in appendix 1 was referred to relevant Councillors for information

c) **Possible funding of a PCSO**

The Chairman reported that the Police had claimed that where Parish Councils funded PCSOs, they would only be taken away in extreme circumstances. Frinton and Walton Town Council fund six PCSOs and on the first day of funding the PCSOs were called away for other duties in Harwich and Clacton. Mr. S. Partridge asked for the funding of a PCSO to go on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting and if favourable to thereafter be referred to a referendum.

18. **To consider funding for a permanent notice on Alderford Mill**

The Clerk reported that the Chairman of FOAM had advised that listed building consent, but not planning permission, is required for a permanent notice on Alderford Mill advertising opening times. The LBC Officer had requested a particular type of notice board, for which quotes were awaited but will be more expensive than the original notice board FOAM had in mind. It was proposed by Mrs. G. Massey, seconded and carried that SHPC agree in principle to fund the notice board and that the S137 budget is ring fenced for FOAM for this purpose, providing that a local craftsman is used. Arising from this item Mr. A. Law reported upon a good attendance at the open day on 12th April.

19. **To consider the future of the Colne Valley Railway**

A recent press release from the CVR, followed by various emails, was considered. Councillors supported the retention of the railway on its existing site. SHPC had suggested that CVR applies to BDC to place the existing site on the Community Asset Register, but the CVR appears reluctant to do so. It was proposed by Mr. S. Partridge, seconded by Mr. A. Prill and carried that candidates for the District Council elections are asked to confirm that (a) they are opposed to development of the site and (b) that the Village Envelopes will not be extended. Ms. S. Glen asked for Mr. D. Finch to be copied in. Mr. A. Law suggested that suitable buildings on the site are listed. It was proposed by Mr. S. Partridge and agreed that Councillors visit the CVR to discuss the situation. Mr. D. Holmes referred to the possible loss of Schools visits if the site is relocated. The Parish Council was unanimous in its support for the CVR.

20. **Proposals by Hedingham Football Club for extension of existing building**

The Chairman reported that Hedingham Football Club needs to upgrade its existing facilities to provide more changing rooms, a community hall and offices. The Club had invited SHPC to consider occupying an office in the extension, adjacent to the proposed community hall, in which meetings could be held. The lease on the existing office expires in July 2016. Miss. L. Parkin reported that funding is available for the building work but not for initial fees such as architects and planning application fees. As the club was without funds they had asked if SHPC would make a loan to cover these fees. Mrs. Massey had consulted EALC, who had confirmed that SHPC could make a loan to the Football Club. It was proposed by Mr. A. Prill, seconded by Mr. S. Partridge and carried that SHPC makes a gift to support the Football Club to cover the architects and planning application fees, upon condition that local tradesmen carry out the work on the building. It was understood that enquiries were being made with BDC, as owners of the freehold, for consent to extend the building. If an office is occupied by SHPC it will need to be on a long term lease. Mr. J. Skittrall asked about the availability of parking spaces at Oxford Meadow, which the Club will need to take into consideration when making its planning application. Miss. Parkin reported that she had already raised this point with the club who were aware of the parking concerns.

21. **To consider draft annual report**

The Chairman circulated a draft annual report for approval. It was proposed by Mr. J. Skittrall, seconded and carried that it is accepted. A request will be made for it to be delivered with the Parish Magazine but if this is not possible, councilors and members of the public offered to deliver it.

22. **To receive report from working party regarding new bus service**

Ms. S. Glen reported that the new 333 bus service will start on 5th May 2015. Arrangements will be made for a photo shoot a few days earlier and a Jester will travel on the bus on its first day to promote the service. The Chairman thanked Ms. Glen for her efforts with research and the business case to get the bus started. Mrs. Massey also referred to the support from other Parish Councils along the route.

23. **Correspondence and emails**

The correspondence received and listed in appendix 1 was referred to relevant Councillors for information and action.

24. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Mr. D. Holmes, seconded by Mr. A. Prill and carried that the accounts are paid.

25. **Any other business/exchange of information/agenda for next meeting**

a) **Sewage problem at Alderford Street**

Mr. A. Prill reported a problem of raw sewage and smell in Alderford Street and was concerned that too many new properties were being connected to the system. The Clerk reported that Anglian Water were investigating the cause and had agreed to take the necessary action to abate the nuisance. If the problem continues it was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

b) **Mrs. W. Scattergood**

The Chairman reported that after the 7th May the village would be losing Mrs. W. Scattergood as a District Councillor and it was agreed to record thanks for her service.

c) **Estates agents boards at the junction of Swan Street and Rectory Road**

Mr. S. Partridge reported an increase of estate agents boards at the junction of Swan Street and Rectory Road, which were obstructing road signs and could be the reason for so many RTAs at this location. It was agreed to make enquiries with BDC Planning Enforcement Officer regarding this proliferation of estate agents boards. (Post meeting note: Planning Enforcement at BDC are taking action)

d) **Hedge around an accident black spot sign**

Ms. S. Glen reported that accident black spot signs had recently been erected on the three approach roads to Braintree Corner. However the sign on the approach from Gosfield had been erected by ECC Highways in the hedge so it was hardly visible. The Clerk confirmed that he had reported this to Mr. D. Finch on 10th April to take up with ECC Highways.
There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)

