

**DRAFT MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON  
MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM.**

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**In the chair:** Mrs. G. Massey

**Present:** Cllrs. S. Glen, D. Holmes, A. Law, L. Parkin, S. Partridge, A. Prill, P. Sarel, J. Skittrall and R. Volkwyn.

Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor)

Together with 4 (four) members of the public and one representative from the press

**Public comment**

Mrs. G. Jefferson enquired about the lighting specification. Mr. J. Skittrall confirmed that it will be added to the SHPC website when his computer problems are sorted out.

There was no other public comment.

177. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (post meeting apologies – previous meeting overran), E. Jones (illness), R. Wright (recovering from operation), H. Johnson and W. Scattergood

178. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

179. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2014, having been circulated, were taken as read were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to Cllr being substituted for Mrs. in minute 170.

180. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **Grill in Alderford Street**

Mr. A. Prill provided an update upon the grill in Alderford Street.

There were no other matters arising.

181. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that she had recently attended an Awards Ceremony for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards, which was very successful.

182. **Youth Council Report**

The Chairman stated that she would give Youth Council reports in future in place of Mr. S. Partridge because of a change in meeting dates. The Youth Council had received an update upon the proposed lighting of the MUGA. The light in the Youth Shelter was out of order for which the Chairman is seeking an electrician.

183. **County Councillor's Report**

Mr. D. Finch reported on the following:

(a) ECC budget process and the savings required during the next three years. There is likely to be no increase or a very small increase in Council Tax. The final decision will be taken on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

(b) NHS – The Government has devolved £3.8 million to NHS and Local Authorities in Essex for Health Services including new Medical Centres. Efforts are being made to reduce admissions to A&E.

(c) Lighting – ECC is investigating LED lights to see if street lights can be left on.

(d) Devolution to Essex – a case has been made to the Government for devolution to Essex.

(e) Skills funding – Essex runs one of the best skills and training schemes in the country.

(f) Energy switch – residents need to register by mid February and Mr. Finch encouraged everyone to join Energy Switch.

(g) Flooding – There has been flooding in Essex in recent weeks with water getting into houses. ECC is putting £5 million a year into flood alleviation schemes. Flooding problems in Station Road and

Yeldham Road were being dealt with.

(h) Bus stop in front of 49 Swan Street – Mr. Finch has met officers and the bus stop sign in front of 49 Swan Street should be moved back to its original position providing it will not impede access to the former Swan PH upon which consultations are taking place with BDC Planning Department. If BDC approves the sign should be moved within a week.

Mr. S. Partridge reported upon recent fatalities on the A1017 in Gosfield and that residents living along the A1017 in SH are also concerned about the speed of traffic through Queen Street, Potter Street, Swan Street and Yeldham Road. There has recently been an average of one serious accident a week in SH and he asked for help with traffic calming measures such as SIDs and Village Gateways. The Chairman pointed out that SHPC had been seeking help from ECC Highways for these schemes for four years without success. Mr. A. Prill added that an increase in houses will necessitate an increase in vehicles and therefore more accidents. Mr. Finch promoted Community Speed Watch, which was not supported by SHPC. He therefore agreed to arrange for a Highway officer to visit Councillors in SH to discuss the above issues and the possibility of speed cameras. He also agreed to arrange a meeting for Councillors with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask for more resources to be allocated to SH.

Mr. A. Law reported that FOAM had accumulated funds and desires to engage the ECC Millwright to carry out additional work at Alderford Mill because ECC only employs him for two days a week. Mr. Finch consented to this proposal. Mr. Finch was thanked for his report.

(Mr. D. Finch left the meeting)

184. **District Councillor's Reports**

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

185. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2014, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

186. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

187. **Personnel Committee**

The minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

188. **Finance and Funding Committee**

The minutes of the Finance and Funding Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

189. **Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group Meeting**

The minutes of the Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

190. **To consider employing/funding a PCSO**

Mr. S. Partridge raised concerns about the lack of a visible Police presence in SH, who should be dealing with speeding traffic, parking obstruction and ASB. It was understood that match funding for PCSOs no longer exists but a Parish Council can fully fund a PCSO if required. The Chairman agreed to make enquiries with Great Dunmow Town Council to ascertain how their PCSO is funded. Ms. S. Glen expressed concern about the limited powers available to PCSOs and the inability to impose FPN for parking obstruction. It was agreed to keep this matter under review and to ask the Police and Crime Commissioner for more information when he visits SH.

191. **To consider Social Media as a form of communication with residents**

The Chairman reported that Mrs. R. Wright had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. It was

therefore agreed to defer this item to the next meeting when Mrs. Wright could attend and speak on it.

192. **Report of meeting with representatives of the NHS**

Mr. A. Prill reported upon a meeting with representatives of the NHS, District and Parish Councillors, Doctors and Practice Managers and other interested parties held 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Unfortunately, Mr. Ian Stidson, the principal officer from the NHS failed to attend in spite of the meeting being arranged specially for his convenience. Tracy Manzi and Cathy Galione of NHS England Essex Area Team attended on his behalf. The new Primary Care Strategy includes a concept that the NHS will look at Medical 'Hubs' such as Sible Hedingham to cover a larger geographical area and therefore the former proposed branch surgery at Great Yeldham has been abandoned in favour of the new Medical Centre at Sible Hedingham. Mr. Prill outlined the incredibly complex system for the new Medical Centre, the next stages being the preparation of a Project Initiation Document (PID) leading to a Business Plan. All three practices in Sible and Castle Hedingham, have very dedicated Doctors and Practice Managers, who are completely focused on patient care and all support the demand for a new Medical Centre. As the business case from the NHS is awaited Mr. Prill asked if SHPC can allocate funds for an independent report. Mr. R. Volkwyn emphasized that all Doctors give a very good service and that SHPC should support them where necessary. It was generally agreed that a team effort is required to help the Doctors to obtain the new Medical Centre on the land allocated for it in Sible Hedingham. In this respect the following points were made in an endeavour to try and progress matters:

That a dialogue is required and the NHS must keep Sible and Castle Hedingham Parish Councils and the Doctors and Practice Managers fully informed of developments.

That a steering committee or stakeholders group is formed, including Councillors, to take the project forward, for which Mrs. A. Weatherley may be the administrator.

That, enquiries are made with the NHS as to the result of a meeting, which was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

That, enquiries are made as to exactly what S106 monies are available for health services in Sible Hedingham from (i) the Premdor site and (ii) the Rockways site and the precise purposes of those monies.

That the new Medical Centre is included on the agenda for the next SHPC meeting.

In connection with the dispensary issue, the Chairman reported that the NHS may be able to designate parts of the village as rural, which may help some residents.

193. **Correspondence and emails**

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

194. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. Mr. S. Partridge queried the invoice from Sible Hedingham Village Hall and it was agreed to seek reimbursement from BDC for the hire charges for 26<sup>th</sup> November as the meeting had been arranged by a District Councillor. It was proposed by Mr. R. Volkwyn, seconded by Mr. D. Holmes and carried that the accounts are paid.

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

a) **Nat West Bank at Halstead**

Mr. S. Partridge asked if the closure of the Nat West Bank in Halstead will have any impact on the Parish Council. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Finance and Funding Committee for consideration.

b) **Social Housing on the Premdor site**

Mr. R. Volkwyn asked if any further information was available about the provider of Social Housing on the former Premdor site. It was agreed to refer this query to Mrs. J. Beavis to answer.

c) **Planning application for lighting the MUGA**

Mr. R. Volkwyn enquired about the fees for the planning application for lighting the MUGA. Mr. J. Skittrall confirmed that Sports Lighting would not make any extra charge for the planning application as the cost is within the £250 net already paid.

d) **Essex Police**

Mr. D. Holmes reported that when he first became a Councillor that Essex Police had 24 officers in this area and now there were none.

e) **Proposed allotments in Station Road**

Mr. A. Prill referred to the report in the last issue of the Halstead Gazette relating to the site in Station

Road, which was proposed for allotments. The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk was making enquiries.

f) Proposed 'Pop Up' units

Mrs. L. Parkin stated that she will give a full report of proposed 'Pop Up' units for the former Nat West Bank building at the next meeting. Mr. D. Holmes reported that the building was exceptionally small and upon attempting to visit it, Bloor Homes had informed him that it was a listed building. The Chairman had made enquiries and confirmed that it was not a listed building.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)