

**DRAFT MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON
MONDAY 9th MARCH 2015 AT 7.30PM.**

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. J. Beavis, S. Glen, D. Holmes, A. Law, L. Parkin, S. Partridge, P. Sarel, J. Skittrall, R. Volkwyn and R. Wright.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. H. Johnson (District Councillor)
Together with 6 (six) members of the public

Public comment

There was no public comment.

235. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. E. Jones (holiday), A. Prill (business commitment) D. Finch and W. Scattergood

236. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

237. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 9th February 2015**

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

238. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **Proposed lighting of the MUGA**

The Chairman reported that the fee paid to BDC for the previous planning application had been refunded following withdrawal of the application.

b) **Legacy Day**

The Chairman reported that consideration is still being given to arranging an event to replace Legacy Day during May in either Great Yeldham or SH

There were no other matters arising.

239. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported upon the following:

a) Attendance at an EALC Coffee morning at Great Dunmow. EALC now has a 100% membership in the County. The Awards Scheme was outlined and as SHPC could now comply with the foundation level it was agreed to agenda this for the next meeting. As Parish Council meetings can now be videoed and recorded it will be necessary for Standing Orders to be changed, which will also be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. It was agreed that Mrs. Massey attends the next Risk Assessment course.

b) Mrs. Massey and Mr. A. Law had attended a meeting with Nicola China of ECC about the watercourse mapping project. Mr. H. Johnson had offered to help with this, which had been placed on the agenda for the next Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group meeting to request help from its members.

c) Mrs. Massey, Mr. J. Skittrall and Mr. R. Volkwyn will attend a Police Partnership Conference with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 25th March 2015.

d) There had been a recent incident of ASB in the Churchyard, which had been reported to the Police and the culprit had been identified.

e) Nomination papers were now available online for those seeking re-election.

240. **Youth Council Report**

The Chairman reported that the Youth Council was disappointed that the floor of the Youth Shelter was not being concreted and they were also disappointed with the delay with lighting the MUGA. They are not aware of who is carrying out the graffiti in the village but suspect it is someone residing in the village.

241. **County Councillor's Report**

The Clerk stated that a written report from Mr. Finch had been circulated to Councillors on 4th March 2015.

242. **District Councillor's Reports**

Mr. H. Johnson reported upon the following:

- (a) Nomination papers for Parish Council elections were now available.
- (b) The dispensary decision had been received (see minute 248 below).
- (c) An increase in car thefts and burglaries in the village.
- (d) The watercourses project in SH, which he had offered to assist with.

Mrs. J. Beavis reported upon the following:

- (a) Education attainments were not good except for Hedingham, which was better than many other schools.
- (b) That she had been working with Julie George and Hedingham Football Club to secure S106 funding.
- (c) That the Clerk and herself, had attended the GCH estates inspection in SH when it was agreed that the wooden obstruction across a public footpath at Oxford Meadow would be removed.
- (d) The BDC budget had been fixed with a nil increase.

243. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13th February 2015, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

244. **Transport and Highways Committee**

The minutes of the Transport and Highways Committee Meeting held on 25th February 2015, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

The Chairman reported that a small working party had been set up to promote the new 333 bus service to Sudbury. It was originally intended to start on 1st April but had been deferred until 5th May 2015. Arrangements for publicity, printing, leaflets, timetables, distribution and launch by a jester are continuing. Support had been received from Toppesfield, Great Yeldham, Gestingthorpe and Castle Hedingham Parish Councils. A meeting with Mr. D. Finch and Highway Officers on 6th March had been very positive.

245. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

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

246. **To consider date of Annual Parish Meeting 2015**

The proposed date for the Annual Parish Meeting namely Wednesday, 27th May 2015 was confirmed.

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

Miss. L. Parkin reported that the working party had arranged to meet on 16th March. It was therefore agreed to defer this item until the next PC meeting.

248. **Update upon new Medical Centre**

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from NHS England, which had decided that the status of SH should be changed from rural to urban, which would affect the availability of dispensing services by surgeries to less than 35 patients.

The Clerk reported he had been informed by Cathy Galione, Assistant Contracts Manager, NHS that the document which the NHS Essex Area Team had considered at its meeting in February 2015 was regarded as a briefing paper with proposed options rather than a draft detailed PID. The NHS were currently drafting a letter to GP practices in response to the briefing paper and once the letter has been sent the NHS will provide SHPC with a further update on the progress with the new Medical Centre.

The Chairman reported that two out of three Practice Managers were leaving their posts and the GPs were advertising one full time Practice Manager to cover two practices to be supported by a part time assistant. This appears to be a sign that the GPs are working towards an amalgamation of the practices.

249. **To consider financial support for Parish Magazine**

Mrs. G. Massey reported that she had spoken to Mr. M. Ramsey of Paul Clark Printing who would like to see improvements to the Parish Magazine. She had also spoken to the lady responsible for advertising and the annual payments, which were due in July each year, were up to date. Concern was expressed by SHPCC and others regarding the poor quality of the latest magazine, which was not the fault of the printer. A meeting had been requested with the editor and Rev. L. Paxton to discuss the future of the magazine. It was considered that financial support was irrelevant at present because the magazine needs improving first.

250. **To consider use of one-off additional payment from BDC**

The Chairman reminded Councillors that a one-off additional payment of £1,499 will be received from BDC. Mr. D. Holmes had suggested that it is allocated towards new swings on the Recreation Ground but the Chairman advised that money had already been ring fenced for this. The Chairman reported that Great Yeldham PC would probably offer half of its one-off payment namely £350 and Toppesfield PC the whole of its one-off payment of £200 towards publicity for the new bus service. It was proposed by Mrs. G. Massey, seconded by Mrs. J. Beavis and carried that SHPC allocates its one-off payment towards publicity for promoting the bus with any excess going towards leaflets for the blue plaques.

251. **To consider action arising from an increase in dog fouling in SH**

Ms. S. Glen reported that pavements and footpaths in SH were in an appalling state arising from an increase in dog fouling. One problem is dogs being let off leads and that people need reminding that dogs must be kept on leads in public places. Mr. D. Holmes reported that dog fouling in Church Street was particularly bad. Ms. Glen offered to print leaflets and posters to be laminated for distribution in problem areas. Miss. L. Parkin and other Councillors offered to assist Ms. Glen with distribution. Mr. R. Volkwyn asked for the BDC Dog Warden to be visible in SH for a whole week and it was generally agreed that the Dog Warden should be more flexible with his hours to catch offenders early morning and late evening. As the Dog Warden was required to wear his uniform it made it more difficult for him to catch the people responsible. However Miss. Parkin considered that the Dog Warden's presence in the village should have a deterrent effect. Ms. Glen agreed to discuss this and other dog related issues with the Dog Warden. The Chairman asked Ms. Glen to arrange this meeting in the presence of the Clerk in the PC Office.

(Mr. H. Johnson left the meeting)

252. **Report/update upon proposed funding of a PCSO in SH**

The Chairman reported that she had spoken to the Clerk of Great Dunmow Town Council, which was considering funding a PCSO. They had obtained information but decided to defer it. The cost was about £34,000 a year but even if a Town or Parish Council funds a PCSO there is no guarantee that the PCSO would remain in the community because the Police could call the PCSO away for other duties. There is no cover for sickness or holidays. It was agreed to determine how much £34,000 would add to the Council Tax for each household. There is no provision for funding a PCSO in the 2015-16 budget, but it could be considered for 2016-17. Mr. S. Partridge suggested a referendum to assess public opinion and/or at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed to make further enquiries with the Police and Crime Commissioner at the Police Partnership Conference on 25th March for which a report will be given at the next PC Meeting.

253 **Correspondence and emails**

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

254. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Mrs. J. Beavis, seconded by Mr. A. Law and carried that the accounts are paid.

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

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)