

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. J. Fennelly, S. Glen, D. Holmes, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, R. Volkwyn and R. Wright.

Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

Mr. H. Johnson (District Councillor)

Together with 5 (five) members of the public

Public comment

The Chairman reported that the original closing date for representations to NHS England regarding the threat to close Dispensaries at local Doctor's Surgeries was 12th October but an extension of time had been secured until the end of October and the issue will be considered under 'Correspondence'.

Mr. J. Nicholson stated that a large number of residents support Dispensaries being retained at local Surgeries and that SHPC should represent the residents and support the Doctors. He read out relevant extracts from the case prepared by Hilton House Surgery.

Mrs. C. George, Practice Manager of Hilton House Surgery, referred to the comparisons between 2006 and 2014 documentation prepared by the NHS, which shows discrepancies. Some 40% of patients, many living in outlying areas, including the rural parts of SH, may lose dispensing services and if so will have to go to a Chemist. Please see minute 153 below.

135. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (BDC meeting), D. Finch and W. Scattergood

136. **Absent**

Mrs. E. Jones (post meeting apologies received - illness)

137. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

138. **To consider non attendance of Cllr. E. Jones at PC and Committee meetings**

It was reported that this 'sensitive' issue had arisen at the request of the Planning Committee because Mrs. Jones had not attended any Planning Committee meetings since May. It was considered that her attendance at PC and other Committee meetings was 'less than desirable' and she was not properly representing the public. The Planning Committee has statutory responsibilities and deadlines to meet and one recent meeting was only just quorate. It was agreed that Mrs. Jones should seriously consider her position particularly upon the Planning Committee and give apologies if not able to attend meetings. The Chairman agreed to speak to Mrs. Jones. (Post meeting note: Mrs. Jones gave post meeting apologies by reason of illness).

139. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 8th September 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2014, having been circulated, were taken as read were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

140. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **Parish Magazine**

The Chairman reported that she had made an offer to Rev. L. Bond to take over the editorship of the Parish Magazine but he had already accepted another volunteer from the URC.

There were no other matters arising.

141. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that Mrs. R. Ratcliffe-Bingham had resigned as a Parish Councillor. Providing no election is requested the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

It was good to see young people at the last PC meeting, who may attend future meetings. A very bad

headline in a recent issue of the Halstead Gazette referring to young people as 'Yobs' was deplored and Councillors expected a better standard from this newspaper. This poor headline to an article, which had referred to the Chairman of SHPC, had resulted in criticism from young people and it had been necessary to explain that the Gazette had made up this inappropriate headline, which was not acceptable.

142. **Youth Council Report**

Mr. S. Partridge reported on the following;

That Mrs. A. Thrussell had arranged a number of talks for the benefit of young people upon various subjects.

Mr. Partridge will speak to the operative about the issue of soap in the ladies toilet.

Concern was expressed about the delay in First Responders and the Ambulance attending the recent RTA at the junction of Rectory Road and Swan Street. It was agreed to ask Essex Ambulance Service how long it took them to respond and also how many First Responders are based in SH.

Mr. Partridge was thanked for his report.

143. **County Councillor's Report**

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

144. **District Councillor's Reports**

Mr. H. Johnson reported on the following:

The narrow access to Bewick Court, upon which SHPC is seeking clarification from ECC Highways.

He had inspected a chestnut tree in the Recreation Ground, which was in poor condition and also a lime tree near 1A Hawkwood Road, which was causing concern to the owner of that property. Mr. R. Parmee had been asked to inspect and advise upon both trees.

Many representations had been received from residents supporting the retention of Dispensaries at both Doctor's Surgeries in the Heddinghams.

The pending planning application in respect of 49 Swan Street where the owner is trying to improve the village and seeking to return the dwellings and gardens to their original status, which in Mr. Johnson's opinion should be supported. Mr. A. Prill reported that he had objected to the application. Mr. Johnson expressed disappointment upon negativity.

Workmen are doing a good job and the footbridge near Alderford Mill should soon be in place.

There were numerous blocked drains and pot holes on roads in the area, which are extremely dangerous and should be reported to ECC Highways.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for his report.

(Mr. H. Johnson left the meeting).

145. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 12th September and 3rd October 2014, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

146. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 19th September 2014, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

147. **Update upon proposed allotments**

The Clerk reported that in connection with land at Prayors Hill he had asked Mr. Jon Hayden, Corporate Director of BDC to arrange a meeting between the owner, his agents, BDC and SHPC to try and secure part or all of this land for allotments and car parking. Mr. Hayden had referred the request to Mr. Andrew Epsom to deal with but he was on annual leave. It was agreed that in addition to Mr. Epsom a BDC Planning Officer needs to be present at the meeting.

Mrs. G. Massey reported that Ms S. Glen and herself had recently met Mrs. Sarah Burder of BDC in connection with S106 monies arising from the Bloor Homes development and in particular monies for bus services. The first houses should be occupied on 31st October 2014 when the first S106 monies are payable. Ms. S. Glen, Mrs. G. Massey and Mr. S. Partridge have a meeting with De Vere Travel on 17th October.

148. **To consider advice and guidelines from EALC upon the publication of photographs**

On 10th September 2014 all Councillors were circulated with advice and guidelines from EALC upon the publication of photographs. Councillors were asked to consider adopting this advice as SHPC policy, to confirm EALC may provide a link from its website to SHPC and that photographs provided by SHPC comply with the guidelines and may be published by EALC. Upon consideration it was resolved that the small amount of photographs handled by SHPC does not warrant any action and EALC should be notified of that.

149. **To receive report upon School numbers and vacancies (if any)**

Mrs. G. Massey reported that she had spoken to the Bursar at Hedingham School and there are vacancies in all years except for Year 9. The School welcomes new development in the village to improve school numbers.

Mrs. Massey had emailed St. Peter's Primary School to ascertain the position but had not received any reply. She had therefore spoken to School Managers, who were waiting for more information. Mr. S. Partridge suggested requesting clarification from the Education Department of ECC, which was agreed.

150. **To consider renewal or lapse of SH VDS website service**

Mrs. G. Massey reported that it will cost £143 to renew the SH VDS domain name. It was resolved to let it lapse and to place the VDS on SHPC website instead.

151. **To approve Welcome Pack and determine advertising costs**

Councillors considered the draft Welcome Pack and Mrs. Massey provided an estimate of printing costs being about £700 for 500 covers plus individual sheets. It was agreed to allocate the money left over from the VDS towards the Welcome Pack. It was also agreed to ask commercial enterprises for a contribution of about £20 for each advertisement. At the forthcoming site visit, to Bloor Homes it was agreed to ask if they will contribute towards delivery costs and have a supply of Welcome Packs available in their Sales Office. Inserts still to be prepared include: Ms. S. Glen – Community Transport, Mr. S. Partridge – Youth Council and Mr. R. Volkwyn – Breakfast Club.

152. **To approve revised Financial Regulations in accordance with NALC Model**

The Chairman had previously circulated the revised NALC Model of Financial Regulations, with annotations of suggested deviations from the model, which were discussed. It was proposed by Mr. J. Skittrall, seconded by Mr. R. Volkwyn and carried that the revised Financial Regulations be adopted and it was agreed to place them on SHPC website. The Chairman will circulate the final version of the Financial Regulations by email and requested that Councillors accept them electronically. If necessary the Clerk is willing to provide hard copies but it was hoped that this could be avoided.

Arising from this item it was agreed to place consideration of the use of the former Nat West Bank building on the agenda for the next meeting.

153. **Correspondence and emails**

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

The correspondence, emails and documentation from NHS England, Hilton House Surgery and residents supporting the Surgery was previously circulated to all Councillors for consideration. The Dispensary at Hilton House Surgery, which provides a service to 40% of patients, was under threat because NHS had advised that they do not consider SH as rural. This was contrary to their position in 2006 since when there has been little change apart from the loss of some other facilities. Mr. A. Prill asked if the NHS had any other motive but the Practice Manager was not aware of any and the whole of Essex was being reviewed. It was considered that the NHS may be trying to justify the new Medical Centre and Surgery by reclassifying SH as urban. Mr. S. Partridge supported the status quo because little had changed since the last assessment. Following some discussion it was proposed by Mr. R. Volkwyn, seconded by Mr. D. Holmes and carried by seven votes in favour, none against and three abstentions, that SHPC supports the Doctors and opposes the threat to the Dispensary. Mr. R. Volkwyn agreed to draft a letter to circulate to all Councillors for approval and to include reference to the fact that facilities are lacking and not meeting a local need.

154. **Accounts for payment**

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

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

a) 49 Swan Street

Mr. A. Prill asked why a District Councillor was allowed to lobby for support upon a planning application. Councillors considered that there was no point because SHPC Planning Committee had already considered the application and made representations to BDC with no objection.

b) Social Housing on Rippers site

Mr. R. Volkwyn asked who is administering the Social Housing on the Rippers site. It was understood that it may be GCH but the Clerk agreed to make further enquiries. In any event assurances had been given that the first lettings policy to local people will apply.

c) Doctor's Surgery

Mr. A. Law thanked the Dispensary at Hilton House Surgery for posting drugs to his wife whilst she was away and for the good service provided.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)