

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

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. J. Fennelly, S. Glen, D. Holmes, E. Jones, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, R.
Ratcliffe-Bingham, J. Skittrall and R. Wright.

Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

Mr. H. Johnson (District Councillor)

Together with 9 (nine) members of the public

Public comment

The Chairman requested that public comment is adjourned until after Chairman's Report because it was anticipated that the majority of issues to be raised by the public would be covered in her report. This request was approved. (Please see minute 122 below)

114. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (another meeting), R. Volkwyn (holiday), D. Finch and W. Scattergood

115. **To co-opt Councillor to fill casual vacancy**

The Chairman reported that there were four applicants for the vacancy who had all been interviewed by the Interview Panel on 5th September 2014. The panel recommended the appointment of Mrs. R. Wright. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Mrs. R. Wright is co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the casual vacancy.

116. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office of new Councillor**

Mrs. R. Wright signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office form which was countersigned by the Clerk

117. **To fill vacancies**

The following vacancies were filled:

Finance and Funding Committee

Planning Committee

Recreation and Amenities Committee

Water Management Advisory Group

Halstead Area Crime Prevention Panel

Mrs. R. Wright

Ms. S. Glen

Mrs. R. Wright

Mr. A. Prill

Mr. D. Holmes (as reserve)

118. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

119. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 11th August 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th August 2014, having been circulated, were taken as read were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

120. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **Skatepark ramps**

The Chairman reported that the emergency repairs to the skatepark ramps had been completed following successful negotiations by Mr. J. Skittrall in obtaining a reduction in the quote. Mr. S. Partridge asked if any existing ramps will be realigned. Mrs. R. Ratcliffe-Bingham reported that she had met the engineers on site and will give a full report at the next R&A Committee meeting.

There were no other matters arising.

121. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that the blue plaques had arrived and will be delivered by Mrs. E. Jones, who will help compile a leaflet about them. The plaque for Dr. John Hilton had already been erected on Hilton House and looks good. Mrs. Jones was thanked for organizing the plaques.

Mr. J. Fennelly and Mr. D. Holmes agreed to write the next SHPC reports for the Parish Magazine.

The Chairman reported that an unauthorized party had been held on the Recreation Ground on the night of 29th-30th August following which it had taken the maintenance operative some two and a half hours to pick up all the litter and broken glass. The noise from the party had disturbed a number of nearby residents. Mr. D. Holmes reported that Mr. R. Volkwyn and himself, had visited one elderly lady, living alone, who had reported that youths had climbed up onto the roof of her bungalow causing serious distress. This was caused by footballs landing on her property during the early hours of the morning. The resident had called the Police and Mrs. Massey had also spoken to them who were very keen to stop ASB quickly. The Police were particularly anxious to stop drug taking on the Recreation Ground. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillors urged residents to report all incidents to the Police. The Chairman reported that she had prepared a log sheet upon which residents could record incidents. Mr. A. Prill suggested that SHPC engages a private security company who usually respond to incidents very quickly. Mr. S. Partridge stated that alternatively SHPC could consider employing its own PCSO. Mrs. R. Ratcliffe-Bingham suggested that the CCTV is improved to pick up all images, including at night, to facilitate Police prosecutions.

The meeting adjourned for public comment.

122. **Public comment**

Members of the public expressed their willingness to fill in log sheets to record incidents on the Recreation Ground. Representatives of the Youth Council asked for an adult to attend a future Youth Council meeting to speak about the undesirability of drugs and alcohol. Mrs. R. Ratcliffe-Bingham offered to attend a meeting.

Mr. J. Nicholson explained the difficulties experienced by the Police and CPS with obtaining sufficient evidence to bring successful prosecutions. He also referred to more serious crimes, which had taken place on the Recreation Ground, some of which had involved cars and older youths. Some residents were concerned about repercussions if they report incidents direct to the Police. Therefore Mrs. G. Massey and Mr. D. Holmes both offered to contact the Police if residents notify them of incidents.

The Chairman had prepared a log sheet to record incidents, which was circulated to Councillors and the public. The log sheet was welcomed and should be filled in for six weeks and thereafter returned to the Chairman or Clerk to pass onto the Police. Mr. A. Prill requested a formal review of the incidents before they are passed to the Police to enable SHPC to assess the results. Mr. S. Partridge preferred the log sheets to go straight to the Police in view of Data Protection issues. Mrs. R. Ratcliffe-Bingham, Mr. D. Holmes, Mr. A. Law and Mr. A. Prill offered to help the Chairman with the distribution of the log sheets to residents. Mr. Prill suggested an article in the Halstead Gazette, which the Chairman agreed to arrange. Arising from this item Ms. S. Glen reported upon a 'rave' held in the field behind Oxford Meadow, which had also been reported to the Police. Mr. J. Fennelly suggested that log sheets could be extended to other parts of the village and that publicity for the log sheets would be useful.

Mrs. G. Jefferson enquired about the proposed lighting of the MUGA and the Chairman stated that there was nothing further to report.

A resident requested that all the pavements in Swan Street are swept. It was explained that this is the responsibility of ECC but SHPC sometimes arrange for Brook Hill and the pavement in front of the shops near the junction of Alexandra Road to be swept.

The meeting then resumed.

123. **Youth Council Report**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that the last Youth Council meeting had been a good one. Consideration was given to a Community Builders project. Young persons had encountered problems with an abusive adult, which will be reported to the Police. The Youth Council had worked with Mrs. A. Thrussell who had successfully obtained funding to take them on a visit.

Mr. J. Fennelly reported upon good feedback from Tottenham Hotspurs FC following their input at Legacy Day and that they will be happy to attend again.

Mr. A. Prill reported progress with motorcycle trials and BMX, which he will discuss with Mr. S. Partridge.

Mr. D. Holmes offered to arrange a trip to Ipswich Town Football Club for a conducted tour of the ground.

124. **County Councillor's Report**

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

125. **District Councillor's Reports**

Mr. H. Johnson reported on the following:

The next round of BDC Mi Community awards had started.

He had attended recent JAG meetings with the Police who were struggling with numbers and therefore found it difficult to attend meetings so were encouraging Councillors to attend JAG meetings.

He will report the issues, raised in minute 121 and 122 above to the October JAG meeting, which Mrs. Massey will also attend.

Vegetation was still overhanging Crosspath. Mr. A. Prill reported that he had spoken to Mr. Owen Day who had agreed to trim it back but as this had not yet been done Mr. Prill will remind him.

Litter, rubbish, an abandoned trolley and damaged brick wall in SHPC Car Park. The Chairman reported that quotes had already been requested to repair the brick wall.

A chestnut tree in the Recreation Ground was in poor condition and needs inspecting.

An offending vehicle parked near Brook House had been moved to Alderford Street.

Progress is being made with preparation to repair the retaining wall near Alderford Mill.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for his report.

Mr. A. Law reported that in view of ongoing work Alderford Mill will not be open to the public during September.

126. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 1st August 2014, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

127. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 15th August 2014, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

128. **Transport and Highways Committee**

The minutes of the Transport and Highways Committee Meeting held on 20th August 2014, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Ms. S. Glen reported that bus times had changed but Hedingham and District Omnibuses had not advertised the changes or circulated leaflets containing the new times, which was deplored. She agreed to draft a letter for the Clerk to send to the bus company. Mr. A. Prill enquired about double yellow lines and Ms. Glen and Mr. Partridge explained that proposed double yellow lines had been requested for road junctions.

(Mr. H. Johnson left the meeting).

129. **To consider 'Gateway Signs' for the four main entrances into the Village**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that SHPC had ring fenced money for 'Gateway signs'. A quote was awaited from Glasdon for wooden signs as opposed to brick signs. It was proposed by Mr. Partridge, seconded by Ms. Glen and carried that the Clerk is authorized to place an order for wooden gateway signs if the quote falls within the amount ring fenced.

130. **To consider helping NALC/EALC with pilot for new Quality Council Scheme from Jan 2015**

Mr. S. Partridge gave details of a proposed new Quality Council Scheme from January 2015. The Clerk confirmed that EALC had been notified of interest from SHPC and further information was awaited.

131. **Update upon proposed allotments**

It was reported that the proposed allotment site off Station Road would probably be lost because apparently the owner had been advised by his accountant to sell his property as a whole and not in two parts.

A site off Queen Street was considered but it was understood that the owner had unrealistic expectations.

A possible site near Prayers Hill was considered, which is outside the village envelope and both BDC and SHPC had opposed proposed development during the Site Allocation process. The Clerk read relevant extracts from a letter from Mr. Jon Hayden, Corporate Director of BDC as follows:

".....the landowner is proposing a significant community benefit in the form of a very large allotment site and associated car parking a building to provide a central facility incorporating toilets, lockers, storage facilities, etc., for an allotment site could be appropriate. Whilst more detailed consideration of the site in terms of highways, impact on the Conservation Area and listed buildings and the suitability of the site for allotments has yet to be considered, it does appear that there might be an

opportunity here to work with the landowner on securing allotment land for the village.”

It was agreed to seek 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.

132. **Correspondence and emails**

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

133. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Mr. S. Partridge, seconded by Mr. A. Prill and carried that the accounts are paid and that the donation of £50 to RBL is authorized under S137 of the LGA 1972.

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

a) **Retirement of the Rev. L. Bond**

Mr. D. Holmes reported with regret that Rev. L. Bond will be retiring at the end of January 2015. It was agreed to send him a letter thanking him for his support and for attending PC meetings.

b) **Parish Magazine**

Consequent upon the forthcoming retirement of Rev. Bond, a new editor for the Parish Magazine will be required. The Chairman will consult the Rev. Bond and discuss the work with him to enable Councillors to give this position further consideration. It was agreed that this was a good magazine, which should continue.

c) **School numbers**

Mr. A. Law reported upon a shortage of Primary School places in SH. Arising from this Mr. S. Partridge asked if official figures of vacancies in both schools could be obtained. The Chairman agreed to try and obtain figures and it was agreed to agenda this issue for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)