

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. J. Beavis, C. Cannell, S. Glen, R. Green, D. Holmes, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, F. Swallow and L. Waller
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Together with 3 (three) members of the public

Fire regulations

Details were given of the fire regulations relating to the Hall and in particular the whereabouts of the fire exits, the assembly point in Parkfields and vehicles must not be removed from the Hall Car Park.

Public comment

Prior to commencement of the meeting, Mrs. G. Massey proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. R. Volkwyn who had volunteered as an Ambassador for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The vote of thanks was warmly supported.

There was no other public comment.

139. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. H. Johnson and W. Scattergood (A post meeting apology was received from Cllr. E. Jones)

140. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

141. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 13th August 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2012, having been circulated, were taken as read were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

142. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **Code of conduct and Register of Interests**

Mrs. L. Waller enquired about the Register of Members' Interests forms appearing on BDC website. The Clerk confirmed that a hard copy of all SHPC forms had been sent to BDC over a month ago. Apparently BDC is waiting to receive forms from all other Parish Councils in the District before placing them on its website, which may not happen until late September. In the meantime BDC had given an assurance that it will reply to all letters from Councillors, a reasonable time before the forms appear on the website. Thereafter BDC will arrange a hyper link to SHPC website. Mrs. Waller expressed concern that the forms are not yet available to the general public on websites, although hard copies are available at BDC and SHPC Offices.

(Mr. F. Swallow arrived at the meeting)

b) **Hedingham Riverside Walk**

Mrs. L. Waller asked the position with regard to the transfer of HRW from BDC to SHPC. The Clerk reported that he had written to Mr. Andrew Epton of the Asset Management Team, BDC on 24th August requesting the transfer and a reply is awaited. Revised plans for the culvert/crossing are also awaited.

143. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that the day after the LDF Meeting on 25th July she had emailed Mr. G. Butland. Leader of BDC and told him that his behaviour at the meeting was not acceptable. No reply was forthcoming for over a month until he was contacted by the Halstead Gazette, which reported that he was not available for comment. He had then sent an apology at midnight, which was regarded as worthless, because he had only replied after he was contacted by the press.

144. **Youth Council Report**

Mr. Partridge read a report on behalf of the Youth Council, which accompanies these minutes as appendix three. Arising from this report the following items were agreed:

- (a) That the request for a Youth Shelter on the Recreation Ground be placed on the agenda for the next Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting.
 - (b) That the request for two new goal posts on the Recreation Ground be placed on the agenda for the next Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting.
 - (c) That the Youth Council should approach McDonalds or whoever direct – not SHPC - but with help and support from SHPC.
 - (d) That the Clerk will provide email address for Castle Hedingham Parish Council.
- (Mrs. J. Beavis arrived at the meeting)

145. **County Councillor's Report**

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

146. **District Councillor's Reports**

Mrs. J. Beavis reported on the following:

- (a) That health is now in her portfolio at BDC and she is looking at health budgets across Essex.
- (b) BDC is carrying out further work upon Neighbourhood Planning and Parish Liaison. The Clerk confirmed that a letter from Mrs. Beavis as BDC Portfolio Holder for People had been received and forwarded to all Councillors.
- (c) PSG will be supported for another year.
- (d) Meeting with Bloor Homes – apart from allotments all other Community benefits are progressing, including health. Since the meeting a proposal for a Care Home on the Rockways site had been received, which will provide more employment.

Arising from the report Mrs. L. Waller asked for clarification upon the number of houses proposed on the Premdor and Rockways sites. Bloor Homes and the Master Plan specify 236 houses, which they claim is not negotiable but BDC has no specific requirement for numbers of houses. Mrs. Beavis explained that BDC does not need that number of houses in SH because many houses are being built in other parts of the district. In addition the proposed Care Home will reduce the overall number of houses. Affordable Housing, including Social Housing will remain at 30%. Mrs. Beavis agreed to obtain data on housing requirements in SH from BDC and GCH.

Mrs. Beavis was thanked for her report.

147 **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 24th August 2012, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report. (See minute 152 below). Arising from the minutes the following items were agreed:

- (a) That any complaints to BDC Monitoring Officer arising from the LDF Meeting on 25th July should not be made by SHPC but can be made by individual Parish Councillors if desired.
- (b) That copy letters to DCLG should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate with a short covering letter.
- (c) That copy letters to DCLG should be sent to Brooks Newmark MP.

Mrs. G. Massey reported that the Clerk had obtained an assurance from BDC that the next LDF meeting on 27th September will be webcast.

Mr. S. Partridge reported that SHALGA had contacted Cllr. A. Everard of BDC regarding the provision of allotments in SH.

Mr. D. Holmes raised questions upon numbers of school places as a result of the proposed development and Mrs. Massey explained that there was a formula for numbers and S106 financial contributions for education.

148. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 17th August 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Mrs. L. Waller questioned why this Committee had considered a proposed street name namely 'Roy Tanner Way' on the former Dairy site. Mr. D. Holmes explained that he had been contacted by a member of the Tanner family living abroad who had asked if a

road on the former dairy site could be named after Roy Tanner who had owned the former Dairy and had been Chairman of SHPC for many years. Councillors regarded the request as hypothetical at this stage as no planning application had been made.

149. **Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee**

The minutes of the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee Meeting held on 22nd August 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Since the meeting Mrs. Massey had reconsidered the suggestion of asking Tesco's to provide a bus to SH for shoppers because it may take trade away from SH. It was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next Committee meeting for review.

150. **To co-opt a non Councillor onto Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee**

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Ms. Elaine Michaels as a non Councillor member to serve on the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee in accordance with its terms of reference.

151. **To consider request for double yellow lines in SH**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that at the meeting of the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee held on 22nd August it was recommended that additional double yellow lines to improve road safety and reduce congestion in the village centre, along Swan Street and the junctions with Alexandra Road and Summerfields are referred to SHPC for approval.

The following points were raised by Councillors:

- (a) The difficulties and lack of enforcement – Mr. Partridge explained that parking enforcement officers will not attend SH until more double yellow lines are provided.
- (b) Mrs. J. Beavis suggested that shop owners are consulted.
- (c) Mr. A. Prill suggested a single yellow line with a time restriction.
- (d) Mr. D. Holmes reported upon the lack of visibility when exiting Alexandra Road if large lorries are parked in the lay-by.
- (e) Mrs. J. Beavis and Mrs. L. Waller both considered that parked vehicles reduce the speed of traffic and that if vehicles are prevented from parking it will increase speed through the village. Mr. Partridge stated that research data contradicts Councillors concerns.
- (f) Councillors reported that Speedwatch volunteers had been active in SH recently.
- (g) Mrs. L. Waller stated that SH needs more zebra crossings, which will help pedestrians and slow down traffic. It was reported that zebra crossings had previously been requested but later removed from ECC highways list because of lack of funding and pavements are too narrow in places.

Following a long discussion it was agreed to ask the North Essex Parking Partnership to provide double yellow lines at the following locations:

- (a) Both sides of Summerfields to its junction with Spring Way.
- (b) Alexandra Road from the shops in Swan Street to No. 15 Alexandra Road.

The proposal for double yellow lines in Swan Street was not carried with four Councillors voting in favour, seven against and one abstention.

152. **To consider approval of letter to Department of Communities and Local Government**

A second letter to DCLG was drafted by Mrs. L. Waller and circulated to Councillors for consideration. Mr. F. Swallow proposed revisions to the letter, namely the deletion of such words as “deliberately” and “manipulated” which could not be justified. These were discussed in detail and alternative wording suggested but not completely agreed. Following a long discussion it was agreed:

- (a) That the word “deliberately” should be deleted in two places.
- (b) That the following additions are made to the letter:
 - (i) To reiterate that SHPC is not against development.
 - (ii) That the development process should be expedited.
 - (iii) Leisure facilities are still required and although Heddingham School is prepared to look for other sources of funding to top up S106 contributions, such contributions from developers are essential.
 - (iv) A revised draft of the letter is to be circulated by Mrs. Waller by email for approval by Councillors before it is sent to DCLG (and copied to the Planning Inspectorate and MP). Upon approval the letter is to be signed by the Chairman for and on behalf of SHPC.

Mrs. J. Beavis asked for it to be recorded that she has a conflict of interest as a member of BDC and that she was not in favour of the letter being sent.

Councillors requested a recorded vote, upon the letter being sent to DCLG. The voting was as follows:

In favour of the letter being sent: Miss. C. Cannell, Ms. S. Glen, Mr. A. Law, Mrs. G. Massey, Mr. S. Partridge, Mr. A. Prill, Mr. J. Skittrall and Mrs. L. Waller

Against the letter being sent: Mrs. J. Beavis and Mr. F. Swallow

Abstentions: Dr. R. Green and Mr. D. Holmes

153. **Hedge between Oxford Meadow and Oak Walk on the Graysmead Estate**

Ms. S. Glen reported that she had consulted residents of Oak Walk who had requested that the hedge is cut down to 14 feet to preserve privacy, stop noise and footfalls. The Clerk had since obtained three quotes for work on the hedge and explained that the quotes were high because of the height of the hedge. Following some discussion it was agreed to accept the lowest quote from Mr. Brian Coe for £1,910.00.

154. **Report of Neighbourhood Planning Meeting**

Mrs. G. Massey gave a report of the Neighbourhood Planning Meeting held on 3rd September 2012, which was attended by a representative of RCCE and surrounding Parish Councils. Neighbourhood Planning is to be community led and not Parish Council led. It was generally agreed that it had been a successful meeting and will lead to working groups being arranged. There was interest in combining SH and CH, which was welcomed. It was agreed to wait to hear from CHPC upon this proposal after its next meeting.

155. **To consider proposal for a Care Home on part of the Rockways site**

A letter from Andrew Martin Planning to BDC dated 21st August, which was forwarded on 4th September 2012 was considered. St. Giles Property Developments Limited, represented by Andrew Martin Planning, propose a Care Home on part of the Rockways site, which will provide employment for about 60 people and add support and viability for the proposed new Doctor's Surgery and Medical Centre. The proposed Care Home will lead to a reduction in the number of 'normal' housing and a corresponding decrease in the amount of affordable housing provision. BDC asked SHPC for its views in advance of the LDF meeting on 27th September.

It was unanimously agreed as follows:

- (a) To support the proposal, which will be a good facility and provide employment
- (b) To inform BDC of SHPC support and ask for it to be included in the Master Plan.
- (c) To inform Andrew Martin Planning of the positive support from SHPC
- (d) To invite Andrew Martin Planning and its client to meet Councillors to discuss and elaborate upon the proposal in more detail.
- (e) To inform relevant parties that SHPC is pleased that the views of the community have been taken into consideration.

156. **Correspondence**

The correspondence received and listed in appendix 1 was referred to relevant Councillors for information and action. Arising from the correspondence the following items were discussed:

- (a) A copy letter from residents to BDC regarding the planning application at the Corner House at New England was noted. It was reported that the planning application had since been refused and the applicants invited to make a retrospective application in respect of outbuildings.
- (b) Mrs. G. Massey may attend the EALC Chairman's Day 2 if appropriate.
- (c) Miss. C. Cannell and Mr. F. Swallow will attend the Braintree to Witham Railway branch line presentation on 17th September.

157. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment together with an additional account as follows:

Glasdon Manufacturing Limited – bench in memory of Barbara Robinson £448.62

It was proposed by Mr. J. Skittrall seconded by Mr. F. Swallow and carried that the accounts are paid.

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

Ms. S. Glen reported that 25 Alexandra Road was empty and had not been lived in for 25 years. The garden was very overgrown and untidy. Mrs. J. Beavis agreed to ask Mr. T. Lucas and the BDC Empty Homes Officer to investigate.

Mr. S. Partridge reported that only one artwork entry had been received for HTA to present to Choisy- Au-Bac namely a painting of Alderford Mill by Miss. J. Cole. It was agreed to include the cost of the painting in the list of accounts for payment at the next meeting.

Mrs. L. Waller requested an agenda item for the next meeting to consider the future of the former Nat West bank building in Swan Street.

Mr. J. Skittrall reported that a Village Inspection will take place on Saturday, 15th September 2012 at 9am starting at PC Office, which all Councillors were invited to attend.

Mr. D. Holmes reported upon the discovery of property near the former Sugar Loaves PH. He had reported this to the local Police who refused to deal with it, so he telephoned Police HQ who quickly arranged for it to be collected. It transpired that it was stolen property taken in a recent burglary.

Dr. R. Green reported that the footbridge across the ford at Hulls Mill Lane had been satisfactorily repaired.

Mrs. J Beavis reported the bank at Brook Hill was overgrown. It was agreed to ask GCH to cut the bank and plant some bulbs.

Mr. A. Prill reported that permission had been granted to remove a wall and rebuild it at the former Swan PH over a year ago. Part of the wall had been rebuilt but the remainder had not been reinstated. It was agreed that the Clerk asks the relevant Officer to pursue the rebuilding.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)