

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 8th OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey
Present: Cllrs. C. Cannell, S. Glen, R. Green, E. Jones, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, F. Swallow and L. Waller
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor)
Together with a PCSO and 4 (four) 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 the following items were raised:

- a) PCSO 70174 of Essex Police gave details of recent incidents in the village and offered to take details of any other issues back. Mr. S. Partridge reported upon nuisance activities in the Recreation Ground, which had not been reported to the Police by residents. It was emphasized that all incidents should be reported to the Police. Mr. A. Prill reported a theft at the former Swan, which the PCSO will look into.
- b) Mr. J. Nicholson reported that Mr. B. Stacey will shortly be taking up a new position in Scotland. It was agreed that SHPC send him a letter of thanks for his work as Chairman of HRW and co-ordinator of Hedingham Environmental Volunteers.
- c) Mrs. A. Larkin asked for an update on the progress of the stream crossing at Alderford Street. It was reported that revised plans had not been received from BDC. SHPC had asked for transfer of the freehold but had only received a brief acknowledgment to date. Mr. A. Prill expressed concern about the delays by Officers of BDC who claim to be waiting for consents from ECC Highways and the Environment Agency for the crossing. Mr. Finch reported that the issues rest with BDC and not ECC but offered to raise the issue of the crossing with the Leader of BDC at a meeting on 12th October, which was accepted.

There was no other public comment.

159. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (attending BDC meeting), D. Holmes (wife's illness), H. Johnson and W. Scattergood.

160. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

161. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 10th September 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2012, having been circulated, were taken as read and subject to amendments to paragraph 152 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

162. **Matters arising from those minutes**

- a) Minute 158 - 25 Alexandra Road

Ms. S. Glen reported that 25 Alexandra Road had been empty for 10 to 12 years.

- b) Minute 151 - Proposed double yellow lines in Alexandra Road

Ms. S. Glen reported that the request for yellow lines should be to 19 (not 15) Alexandra Road.

- c) Minute 151 - Parking in Swan Street

Mrs. E. Jones asked Mr. S. Partridge to supply parking research data, which he agreed to produce at the next meeting of the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee.

- d) Minute 142 (b) – Hedingham Riverside Walk

It was reported that SHPC had received a brief acknowledgment from BDC to the request to transfer the freehold of HRW to SHPC but revised plans for the culvert had not been received.

e) Minute 158 – Brick wall adjacent to former Swan Inn

Mr. A. Prill enquired about the progress of rebuilding the brick wall adjacent to the former Swan Inn. Mr. D. Finch reported that he had already taken this up with ECC Officers and will chase them. Mrs. L. Waller outlined the history of the wall and Mr. Finch will also investigate why it is necessary to demolish it.

f) Minute 154 – Proposed Neighbourhood Plan

It was reported that Castle Hedingham Parish Council had declined to join SHPC in a joint Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to send BDC a map of SH showing the parish boundaries for neighbourhood planning purposes.

g) Minute 142(a) - Code of conduct and Register of Interests

Mrs. G. Massey reported that the 2010 Declarations of Members' Interests were still on the BDC website.

h) Minute 146 – Housing requirements in SH

Mrs. G. Massey reported upon the proposed GCH development at Oxford Meadow and that there were 49 on the housing list for SH (which sometimes varies between 49 and 72) plus 118 from surrounding areas.

i) Minute 152 – Letter to Department of Communities and Local Government

Mrs. G. Massey reported that a reply had been received to the first letter to DCLG, which will be included in the correspondence file for next month. A reply to the second letter is awaited.

163. Chairman's report

The Chairman reported upon attendance at the BDC LDF meeting on 27th September, when the main modification was the provision of land for a Medical Centre and Doctor's Surgery which had been included in the revised Master Plan. This will now go before BDC Cabinet for adoption.

Mr. J. Skittrall agreed to write the next SHPC report for the Parish Magazine followed by Mr. D. Holmes.

164. Youth Council Report

Mr. S. Partridge reported that the Youth Council require a Youth Shelter on the Recreation Ground, which should reduce noise. Mrs. Massey produced illustrations of the proposed Youth Shelter. It was suggested that the Youth Shelter is located between the public toilets and the MUGA and to face the MUGA. Quotes in excess of £10,000 had been obtained and funds will need to be raised towards the cost. Goal posts are also required on the Recreation Ground and the Youth Council is drafting a letter to McDonalds.

165. County Councillor's Report

Mr. D. Finch reported on the following items:

- a) That £11,000,000 has been invested in repairing potholes and over 30,000 potholes had been repaired to date.
- b) ECC is publishing full details of its expenditure.
- c) More courses and services are available at ECC libraries.
- d) Broadband speed will be improved in many parts of Essex.
- e) All FOI requests will be published (the majority being from journalists).
- f) Community Asset Transfer.
- g) Community Budgets.
- h) Working with the Police upon domestic abuse cases.
- i) There is likely to be a zero increase in Council Tax next year.

Mr. D. Finch was thanked for his report.

The meeting then adjourned for public comment.

Mrs. A. Weatherley reported upon her attendance at the BDC meeting and the positive response from BDC. It had agreed to support the request for a Medical Centre and Doctor's Surgery at SH and to use its best endeavours to convince NHS Mid Essex of the urgent need for new medical facilities. Mr. G. Butland had reported upon his conversation with the Chief Executive of the NHS with whom negotiations by BDC are continuing. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Weatherley and others for all their hard work with the petition.

The meeting then resumed.

166. District Councillor's Reports

In the absence of District Councillors no report was given.

(Mr. D. Finch left the meeting)

167. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 14th September 2012, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

168. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 21st September 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Arising from these minutes the following items were raised:

- a) Mr. S. Partridge reported that improvement work at Grays Hall Meadow had started.
- b) At the suggestion of Mr. Partridge it was agreed to ask the Highway Rangers to clean highway signs and street name plates in the village.
- c) Mrs. G. Massey reported that following a visit to Grays Hall Meadow during the village inspection it was decided that it is not suitable for allotments. Access and parking were also objections. Councillors reported upon opposition from nearby residents.
- d) It was agreed to apply to BDC Mi Community fund for a grant towards the cost of a Youth Shelter on the Recreation Ground. It was proposed by Mr. F. Swallow, seconded by Mr. J. Skittrall and carried that a decision upon match funding is delegated to the Finance and Funding Committee to consider at its meeting on 12th October 2012.
- e) It was agreed that the bench on Grays Hall Meadow should be reinstated in the same position and direction on a new concrete base.
- f) Mrs. L. Waller reported that the pond in Grays Hall Meadow had been dredged.

169. **To consider future of former Nat West Bank building on Premdor site**

Mrs. L. Waller reported that Bloor Homes had enquired what SHPC intend to use the former Nat West Bank building for when ownership is transferred. The Master Plan provides for renovation of the building, which may be initially used by the developer as a sales office, prior to transfer. Mr. A. Prill stated that it would be a very small sales office and thought that Bloor Homes would require a larger building. Mrs. Waller considered that the building could be used as a PC Office, which would be an opportunity to save costs but there would be no meeting room facility. Mr. J. Skittrall stated that the Village Hall would cost £12.50 per hour if hired for meetings. Miss. C. Cannell reported that in earlier discussions with Premdor and BDC the building was earmarked for an Interpretation Centre but it had no car parking space. The Clerk reported that a resident had shown interest in renting the building from SHPC for commercial use and the Colne Valley Railway Preservation Society had also expressed an interest in moving this portable building to the railway and renovate it as part of the village heritage. The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was still four years remaining on the existing office lease during which time SHPC would be liable for the rent. Following some discussion it was proposed by Mr. S. Partridge, seconded by Mr. J. Skittrall and carried that the first choice for the building is for community and not commercial use. It was proposed by Mr. A. Prill, seconded by Dr. R. Green and carried, with Ms. S. Glen abstaining, that SHPC explore the possibility of the building being used as a PC Office.

170. **To appoint a representative to Hedingham Twinning Association**

The Chairman reported that Mr. D. Holmes had resigned as a SHPC representative on the Hedingham Twinning Association. No other Councillors were available to serve.

171. **Correspondence**

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

172. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Miss. C. Cannell, seconded by Mrs. E. Jones and carried that the accounts are paid. Arising from the accounts, Mrs. L. Waller enquired about expenditure for proposed railings and other items in connection with improvements to the pond area of Grays Hall Meadow. It was proposed by Miss. C. Cannell, seconded by Mr. A. Prill

and carried that authority is delegated to the Finance and Funding Committee to consider expenditure for the improvements.

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

Mrs. L. Waller expressed concern that damage to the skateboard park, which occurred six months earlier, had not been repaired. The Chairman confirmed that the matter was in hand and repairs will be carried out when new ramps are installed. Quotes were being obtained and Veolia Environmental Trust will release a grant when the quotes are formalized. It was agreed to expedite this matter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)