

Minutes of Sible Hedingham Parish Council Meeting Held at the Village Hall, Parkfields, Sible Hedingham on Monday 10th June 2019 at 7.30pm

In the chair: Cllr G Jefferson

Present: Cllrs J Fennelly, T Nash, F Ranson, B Gardener, B Young, L Heywood, District Cllrs H Johnson, J Beavis, Mrs G McCoyd (clerk) and 8 members of public.

Public Comment

The use of Grays Hall Meadow for Heditude was raised, there was no-one managing the cars that were coming in all day and the gate had been left unlocked all night. The roads around Heditude had not been policed, and a resident's car door had been tampered with.

District Cllr J Beavis said Heditude had been well attended and she had seen police around. She said the following issues had been raised during her election campaign; the new Doctors Surgery, the completion of the Riverside Walk, and the library.

District Cllr H Johnson said regarding the issues raised by Cllr Beavis things were in hand and discussed at meetings which he always attends.

21. Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Metson (business), Cllr J Stopher (business)

22. Co-option of two new Councillors to fill the casual vacancies

Mr Martin Lee and Mr Karl Hamilton were both co-opted

23. To complete Declarations of Acceptance of Office by the new Councillors

Both Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

24. Members declarations

There were no declarations.

25. To confirm the minutes of meeting held 13th May 2019

The minutes of 13th May having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26. Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

27. Chairman's Report

Cllr G Jefferson said we are awaiting notification of a handover date for the parks on Earls Garden and have no date when the barrier fence will be removed on the

Riverside Walk. The new Timber Trail is due to be fitted on the Rec during the week commencing 17th June. There is a small amount of money to be used for transport in the village and the village hall hold lunches which they believe would be better attended if people had transport. Fiona Earey will investigate this and if anyone is aware of villagers who are without transport and would like to attend these lunches please can they let Fiona and the Village Hall Committee know.

28. County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr D Finch no report was given

29. To consider funding a Special Constable

Cllr G Jefferson asked are we happy to proceed with Castle Hedingham if they agree to share a Special Constable or do we wish to go ahead alone?

Cllr L Heywood said a police presence would be good for the village. Cllr B Young was concerned that we could fund one and then find that person called away elsewhere; Cllr T Nash said that could be monitored. Cllr B Gardener asked if we could fund one if Castle Hedingham were not interested, Cllr G Jefferson said we could. Cllr B Young said 16 hours was the minimum and that was better than nothing, Cllr K Hamilton said 16 hours was not a lot spread over a month so if the village could afford it then funding for one for Sible would be good. Cllr F Ranson said it would be good for particular places to be looked at and it would help with anti-social behaviour. Cllr T Nash said he finds it strange that the Parish has to fund a Special and that the Parish should be wary of increasing costs. Cllr B Gardener said it wasn't replacing policing but it was in addition to police. Cllr M Lee said the Special Constables are fully warranted and have the power of arrest, they are used to supplement the teams from Braintree, since the government cuts to police funding over 1,000 officers have been lost in this area. Cllr B Young said if Castle did agree to share then the split doesn't need to be 50/50 it could be 70/30 split in favour of Sible. Cllr J Fennelly said the main point was to have police on a beat around the village and he was confident Castle will agree. Cllr T Nash said we definitely wish to proceed but would prefer it to be in partnership with Castle to which Cllr F Ranson agreed. He also said it would be good the nip anti-social behaviour in the bud. Cllr L Heywood said it would be good to meet with Castle if they agree to fund.

Cllr G Jefferson summed up the discussion by saying yes we do want to fund one but we will wait and see what Castle decide to do before agreeing on the amount of funding.

30. To consider the hedge at the football ground.

Cllr G Jefferson said we need to resolve the problem of the hedging by the football ground. It is unfortunate that this did not come to committee for discussion. The use of conifers has compounded the issue and we need to replace these plants with native hedging. We have a quote from Mr K Shears for 27metres of native hedging

for £305.85; the work cannot be carried out until November as that is the best time to plant bare roots. It has been noted that the wooden fencing which has been erected by Mr and Mrs Archer at their expense has solved some of the anti-social behaviour. The clerk will confirm with Kevin the height and size of the hedging as it needs to be a barrier to stop people walking through. Cllr J Fennelly said this matter was a disgrace and it has to be put right. Cllr G Jefferson responded it did not go through committee and I agree it needs to be done correctly.

31. To consider holding a pop in surgery

Cllr B Gardener had highlighted this as the public question time was not long and not everyone wants to talk in a large meeting, therefore, it would be a good idea for Cllrs to hold surgeries at different times in the office. Cllr G Jefferson said next year the Parish could have a stand at Heditude where Cllrs could be available for informal chats. Cllr T Nash said it was an opportunity for Cllrs to inform and educate the residents about what a Parish Council can and can't do and conversation could be stimulated by saying this is what we would like to know about. Cllr B Young said if issues were raised which the Parish could not deal with they could be passed to the District Cllrs. Cllr B Gardener said it should be a rotation of Cllrs, two at a time with the dates set and published for the residents. It was decided the Cllrs will let the clerk know of possible dates and times.

32. To set a date for the September village litter pick

Cllr J Fennelly asked which areas would be litter picked, Cllr G Jefferson said that previously not many had attended so it was mainly the main thoroughfares but if more people attended then it would be possible to do more side streets. Five Cllrs could do the 15th and eight could make the 29th September so it was decided to arrange the village litter pick for Sunday 29th September 10.30 – noon, meeting at the Parish Office. Cllr G Jefferson proposed seeing about the possibility of getting a banner with the availability to change the date, to which everyone agreed. She also said it might be possible to ask the schools to do a poster which the children could take home. She will investigate the costing of providing all children who attend with seed bombs which attract butterflies and bees.

33. To note there is a budget for training

Cllr G Jefferson said there was a small budget for training. Cllr J Fennelly said the training provided was very good.

34. To suggest items for the Parish Facebook page

Cllr L Heywood said she needs ideas for content on the facebook page. She asked if we should be advertising the village hall lunches, clubs and girl guides? Cllr G Jefferson said we have a vested interest in supporting the village hall. Cllr F Ranson said a more chatty aspect would engage people like having a digital chat in the pub. Cllr B Young said if we advertise clubs then we must always show a contact for

people to contact if they are interested. Cllr K Hamilton said the more we are out there the better the engagement. Cllr G Jefferson said the Parish Magazine has a list of contacts who may provide information.

35. To consider the following two planning applications:

19/00835/FUL The proposal is for change of use for the outbuilding that was converted for a relative to become a separate holiday let. 25 Potter Street. No objection

19/00903/HH Erection of a single storey side extension. 28 Graysmead. No objection

36. To approve the accounts for 2018-2019

Cllr L Heywood proposed the accounts be approved; Cllr M Young seconded, the motion was carried.

37. To receive the Accounts for payment. Appendix 1

Cllr L Heywood proposed the accounts be approved and paid, Cllr B Gardener seconded, the motion was carried

38. Any other business

Cllr J Fennelly asked if there was still a group interested in the bank building? Cllr F Ranson said there was still a group but they were awaiting the handover.

Cllr T Nash gave a report from the Transport Meeting he had attended:

1. Meeting was attended by ECC infrastructure team, bus operators and parish council representatives
2. There were no changes to bus services discussed that impacted on Sible Hedingham
3. Information was given regarding a transfer of responsibility for some bus shelters to ECC for maintenance, but this excluded those maintained by parishes
4. Information was given regarding a recent bus consultation that ran from January to March. This included a consultation on possible changes to the operating times of the Chelmer Valley park and ride, with the possibility that the site might no longer open on Saturdays.
5. A further consultation is ongoing, seeking feedback on removing free travel for concessionary bus pass holders on Park and Ride services and charging concessionary pass holders £1.50 per day. Park and Ride services are apparently not covered by the same regulations as normal bus services and the council are at liberty to make a charge – as apparently happens now in Ipswich. SHPC should consider whether or not to respond to the consultation which ends in July.
6. Braintree bus park is going to undergo significant turmoil for 12 months from October as redevelopment works take place. Plans are in place to minimise disruption.

7. Under AOB I asked whether the Essex team were keeping abreast of proposals to improve public transport links between Haverhill and Cambridge, bearing in mind the increasing importance of Cambridge as a centre of employment and the absence of any public transport links. The ECC representatives were not aware but said they would investigate.

Cllr B Gardener thanked the Parish Council for the support to Heditude and for the use of Grays Hall Meadow; she has already emailed the committee the concerns that were raised during public question time.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm