

Minutes of Sible Hedingham Parish Council Meeting Held at the Village Hall, Parkfields, Sible Hedingham on Monday 12th December 2016

In the chair: Cllr R Volkwyn

Present: Cllrs G Jefferson, P Gammon, J Skittrall, P Sarel, L Parkin, S Metson, Mrs G McCoyd (clerk) and 17 members of public.

Public Comment

The following statements were made:

A replica of the Ripper Oak Memorial was requested for the Poppy Park with an Information Board saying why Mr R Piper was to be thanked.

A statement was read out regarding the bank building. The full statement is on file at the PC Office.

141. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs D Finch, H Johnson (BDC meeting), J Beavis (BDC meeting), B Newman (illness), D Holmes (business), L Heywood (business) and K Greeno business).

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

There were no candidates

143. Declaration of Acceptance of Office of new Councillors

There were no candidates

144. Members declarations

None

It was then decided to move item 13 on the Agenda to item 5.

145. To decide on whether to accept the transfer of the bank building to the Parish Council

The following points were raised:

- Finances are a problem for the Parish Council with the cutting of the Localism Fund.
- Is it a realistic proposition that the Community Group can make a viable usage of the bank building?
- It can only be used for Community usage and not Commercial

- The Community Group did not have a Business Case available at the meeting but they thought renovation subject to a survey and from the knowledge of local trade looks a sound proposition. The floor is rotted but they believed that with the use of volunteers the building could be refurbished. Regarding the Insurance and on-going costs, they would obtain funding and grants. They understood that all amenities would need to be provided, like heating, lighting, electricity, telephone, internet, toilet and washing facilities.
- It was noted that they could not get funding for running costs.
- It was stated that the bank had been derelict for years and no-one was interested until now.
- The bank could turn out to be a considerable liability to the Parish Council if the Community Group did not fulfil their promises
- Will the volunteers be around long-term?
- Has the Community Group financial backing?
- It was stated that the Parish Council could accept the transfer of the bank and then when it was repaired the Community Group would ensure the finding of funding for future usage.

Cllr S Metson proposed the Parish Council accept the transfer of the bank, Cllr L Parkin seconded, the motion was carried by 4 votes to 3.

It was then decided to move item 15 on the Agenda to item 6

146. To consider a war memorial for the Poppy Park to replace the missing memorial and to discuss a possible brass plaque thanking Mr R Piper for bringing this consideration to the Parish Council.

There was a unanimous vote in favour of a war memorial and it was decided to refer this item to Recreations & Amenities Committee for further discussion.

147. To confirm the minutes of meeting held on 14th November 2016

The minutes of 14th November having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

148. Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

149. Chairman's Report

The Chairman stated that he had no report to give as everything had been covered previously.

150. Youth Council Report

There was no report as there is not a representative from the Parish Council.

151. County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr D Finch no report was given

152. To receive minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 18th November 2016

The minutes having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report

153. To receive the minutes of Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held 18th November 2016

The minutes having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

154. To consider the petition submitted to the Parish Council at the last Council meeting.

It was noted that the petition had been signed by a large number of non-residents.

It is important to note that a petition does not carry more weight; it is an indication of feeling.

155 To consider the Post Office public consultation and a response to it.

The Parish Council responded that crossing the garage forecourt will be dangerous and they wish to see a safety path installed.

156. To receive the Accounts for payment. Appendix 1

Cllr J Skittrall proposed the accounts be approved and paid, Cllr L Parkin seconded, the motion was carried

157. Any other business

The Christmas Tree was discussed, approximately 200-250 people turned up for the lighting, it was lovely to see smiling faces, the Tree had been donated, Darkins were supplying the electricity and the Co-op had supplied mince pies. There had been a lot of positive feedback.

The possibility of future Christmas Trees would be discussed next year.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm