

## Minutes of Sible Hedingham Parish Council Meeting Held at the Village Hall, Parkfields, Sible Hedingham on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016

In the chair: Cllr R Volkwyn

Present: Cllrs G Jefferson, L Heywood, S Metson, J Skittrall, B Newman, D Holmes, P Gammon, K Greeno, L Parkin, District Cllrs H Johnson, J Beavis, Mrs G McCoyd (clerk) and 19 members of the public.

### Public Comment

The following statements were made:

Why had the Parish Council not consulted with the village about plans to demolish the bank building?

There was a strong feeling that a piece of history should be preserved and that to demolish it would be vandalism. When had a decision been made to demolish it?

Zebra crossings were needed in the village, how do we get them?

Petition to save the bank was presented; it was obtained by knocking on houses and had 530 signatures.

Had the Parish Council any quotes for the cost of the refurbishment of the bank?

An oak plaque that was at Rippers had disappeared.

### 126. Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Sarel (childcare issues)

### 127. Members declarations

None

It was then decided to move item 11 on the agenda to item 3

### 128. To discuss and provide an update on the former Bank Building

Cllr R Volkwyn responded to the comments raised with the following facts:

- It was not the smallest bank building in England; Nat West had run a competition in 1980/81 to find the smallest branch. Sible Hedingham won the competition but Nat West cannot confirm that it was the smallest Bank in England as it is unaware of the sizes of other banks branches.
- In December 2012 there was an exhibition held in the village about the proposals for the Premdor Site at which the following feedback was received, there is no point in saving the old National Westminster Bank

- Colne Valley Railway is no longer interested in transferring the bank. They had inspected it and thought it would fall apart if moved and practically it was not possible to move due to the overhead power cables.
- Cllrs L Parkin and D Holmes had inspected the building. Cllr D Holmes stated that the footings had gone and there was a safe in there that weighed 4/5 tonnes.
- The Parish Council had not asked for quotes for the refurbishment because it does not own the building.
- Bloor Homes were originally asked by previous Parish Council to refurbish the bank but they refused as it was considered then in too poor a condition, it would be too expensive for them to refurbish and the Council had no specified purpose identified for the building. It can only be used for community usage and not commercial.
- Recently Bloor Homes have advised BDC that the building is in a very poor condition and they question whether the building is capable of renovation.
- It would not be suitable for use as a Parish Office as it is not only too small, there is no toilet and it is cold and damp.
- Essex Highways have concerns about zebra crossings and believe a refuge island is better for the village.

Cllr J Beavis took the petition and stated that 530 signatures could trigger a debate at BDC; the signatures would have to be checked against the electoral register. She would like to place the building on the Community Asset Register and would like to recommend to BDC that the decision on the future of the bank be deferred to allow residents to work with BDC and Bloor Homes to see if the building could be restored for community usage.

In view of this no vote was taken on the future of the bank.

#### 129. To confirm the minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October

The minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> October having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 130. Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

#### 131. Chairman's Report

Cllr R Volkwyn stated that more CCTV was being put into the Recreation Ground and that Cllrs J Beavis and H Johnson had given money towards it from their

community grant. It was to be noted that the work hub was not going on the land earmarked for the medical centre.

#### 132. Youth Council Report

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

#### 133. County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr D Finch no report was given

#### 134. District Councillor's Reports

Cllr H Johnson said the CCTV was well worth the money, the resolution was extremely good and any future vandals would be identified. There was a lot of emotion about the bank, people always want to save something when it is virtually too late. He had nowhere specific in mind for the kissing gates.

Cllr J Beavis had received precept forms and noted that the localism fund is being cut. She highlighted the consultation of the future of the Post Office in Sible Hedingham. Cllr R Volkwyn said it was on the agenda for Friday's Recreation and Amenities Committee. Cllr J Beavis had received an email regarding the admissions policy at Hedingham School. Cllr R Volkwyn stated that the new proposed policy had since been rescinded. Cllr J Beavis said the local planning meeting had talked about the possible development of Tanners and she was having a weekly update on the work hub and medical centre.

#### 135. To receive minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 28<sup>th</sup> October

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

#### 136. To receive the minutes of Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> October

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

#### 137. To discuss where the remaining kissing gates should be positioned

It was decided to refer this to the Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group.

#### 138. To receive a report from Cllr L Heywood about the Social Media Course

Cllrs L Heywood and S Metson had attended a social media course. The recommendation was to have a one way Facebook page which would be a platform for information, giving out events the Parish Council was holding and publicising the activities of the Parish Council, it would, hopefully, engage the younger community.

#### 139. To receive the Accounts for payment. Appendix 1

Cllr D Holmes proposed the accounts be approved and paid, Cllr G Jefferson seconded, the motion was carried

140. Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm