

Minutes of Sible Hedingham Parish Council Meeting Held at the Village Hall, Parkfields, Sible Hedingham on Monday 8th August 2016

In the chair: Cllr R Volkwyn

Present: Cllrs G Jefferson, L Heywood, K Greeno, D Holmes, J Skittrall, B Newman. S Metson, L Parkin, County Cllr D Finch, District Cllrs H Johnson, J Beavis and 3 members of the public

Public Comment

There was no public comment

82 Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Sarel (business), Cllr P Gammon (business), Cllr T Pitts-Webster non attendance.

83 Members declarations

Cllr L Parkin declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 of the agenda.

84 To confirm the minutes of meeting held on 11th July 2016

The minutes of 11th July having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

85 Matters arising from those minutes

No matters arising

86 Chairman's Report

Cllr R Volkwyn stated that contrary to rumours the house fire at Tanners Dairy was not started by children but by the man attempting to live there. He had a meeting last Friday with the owners who would like to sell the land. Cllr R Volkwyn had asked the owners to demolish the house on health & safety grounds because it would be dangerous if children entered but the owners had not so far agreed.

Cllr R Volkwyn said the Teddy Bears Picnic organised by the Parish Council on Sunday 7th August had been attended by 30 people and the children had all received a goody bag which had been donated by Wicksteed Playgrounds. He thanked the Twinning Group for organising the refreshments.

87 Youth Council Report

In the absence of Cllr P Sarel no report was given.

88 County Councillor's Report

Cllr D Finch spoke about the progress being made with devolution; the County Council is working on a combined authority deal. Under the previous government it was important to have an elected Mayor but with the new government there was less pressure to have a Mayor. Public reform was also an issue. He stated that Essex was an authority that contributed to the Exchequer.

The government has announced that by 2020 there would no longer be a revenue support grant to the County Council instead the entire business rates would be redistributed in Essex. The County Council was working with District Colleagues to make the best deal for the submission on 23rd September 2016.

Cllr D Finch spoke about the Council Tax Fraud Initiative, stating that the Council know there are a number of minor frauds and that the Council was working with the District to identify where the frauds are, this could generate 10 million pounds a year.

Cllr D Finch stated that the roads in Essex were maintained in far better quality compared to their peer group.

Cllr D Finch stated that Broadband continues to be rolled out.

89 District Councillor's Reports

Cllr J Beavis said the Local Plan was in process. She also stated that the District Cllrs had £1500 to spend on projects for their area and that could potentially mean £3000, with the combined amount, to be spent on projects within Sible Hedingham and Castle Hedingham.

Cllr J Beavis spoke about the appeal by Bloor Homes to reduce the number of affordable homes stating it was unfortunate they succeeded in their appeal.

Cllr R Volkwyn asked Cllr J Beavis to find out who owns the second group of affordable homes as it was important to make sure they were for local people. Cllr J Beavis agreed to find out the answer.

Cllr D Holmes asked about the new surgery but Cllr J Beavis said there was no update.

Cllr H Johnson also stated his annoyance at the Bloor Homes appeal being upheld. He said that the grant funding was until April 2017 and that the forms were now available.

Cllr H Johnson stated he had received complaints that there was an increase of flights from Stansted flying over the area, especially in the early hours. Although Broadband was being rolled out the signal in Sible was still slow, the rubbish in ditches had increased and crime continues. He stated that a van had been broken into in Castle Hedingham and tools stolen so he warned villagers to be vigilant.

90 To receive minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 15th July and 5th August 2016

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

91 To receive the minutes of Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held 15th July 2016

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

92 To approve the Council Risk Assessments

Cllr R Volkwyn proposed the Risk Assessments be approved, Cllr L Parkin seconded, the motion was carried.

93 To review holding the PC meetings at the village hall

Cllr R Volkwyn stated that the Baptist Church was available at a cheaper rate than the village hall. Cllr L Parkin stated that she invoices at the standard rate but feels this should be reviewed and the Council should be charged for the actual time the meetings take as the meetings are shorter now. It was agreed to review the charges and to discuss this at the next Council meeting.

94 To receive the Accounts for payment. Appendix 1

Cllr D Holmes proposed the accounts be approved and paid, Cllr J Skittrall seconded, the motion was carried

95 Any other business

Cllr S Metson stated that if there was to be a Teddy Bears Picnic next year maybe the timing should be changed to 11-2 to reflect the children's mealtimes, he said an ice cream van would be nice but he understood they were expensive. It was agreed to learn from this year and review it for next year.

Cllr R Volkwyn thanked Cllr S Metson for donating prizes for the Picnic.

Cllr R Volkwyn informed the Cllrs that Cllr J Nicholson had resigned.

Cllr H Johnson put forward the idea of a village show with best cake and vegetables. Cllr R Volkwyn said that it might be possible to incorporate this idea into St Peters Fete next year.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm

