

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2012 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey
Present: Cllrs. R. Green, D. Holmes, E. Jones, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall and L. Waller
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. H. Johnson (District Councillor)
Together with 6 (six) 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, Mr. A. Buckingham referred to minute 250 of 9th January 2012 and challenged Councillors' assertion that there had been no finding against them by the BDC Allegations Panel. He quoted from a letter he had received saying that there had been 'potential breaches of the code of conduct'. He believed that a decision was still to be made by BDC Monitoring Officer. Mr. Prill said this was incorrect and that the Allegations Panel had confirmed that they would not be taking any further action and that the matter was closed. Mrs. Massey offered to show her letter from BDC confirming that this was the case. Mrs. Waller said that the Complaints Process was now discredited and had been abolished by the Government because councilors were leaving public service rather than expose themselves to abuse. She said the process flew in the face of natural justice, giving Councillors no right of reply or opportunity to defend themselves. She warned that Councillors' legal advice is that publication of untrue allegations was potentially libelous and that further reiteration now that the Allegations Panel had found no case to answer constituted defamation of character. Miss. J. Cole expressed concern that the complaints had been an orchestrated campaign by other Councillors. Mr. Partridge suggested that everyone needs to move on. Mrs. E. Jones stated that the complaints were not malicious. There was no other public comment.

270. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (another meeting), C. Cannell (dental treatment), B. Howlett (work commitment), F. Swallow (holiday), D. Finch and W. Scattergood

271. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

272. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 9th January 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2012, having been circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

273. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **Flood prevention proposals for Alderford Street**

The Clerk reported that Mr. J. Blomfield of the Environment Agency and Mr. N. Humfrey of ECC hope to attend the next PC Meeting to make a presentation upon flood prevention proposals for Alderford Street.

b) **Tree planting at Grays Hall Meadow**

The Chairman thanked Mrs. L. Waller, Mr. S. Partridge and Mr. J. Skittrall for tree planting at Grays Hall Meadow on 21st January. Dr. R. Green and Mrs. Massey had also been present to take photographs. Mrs. Waller reported that Mrs. E. Jones was delighted with the tree planting and that Dr. Green and Mr. D. Holmes will organize the plaque when a decision upon the wording has been made by the CSCA.

c) **PC newsletter**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that he is preparing a PC newsletter, but is waiting for contributions from Mrs. J. Beavis and Mrs. A. Weatherley about footpaths and Hedingham Riverside Walk respectively.

d) Willow Plantation off Alderford Street

Mrs. L. Waller enquired about the proposed acquisition of the Willow Plantation from ECC. The Clerk reported that ECC Asset Management Team is currently setting up the policy and procedural framework for transferring assets to PCs. The new framework is scheduled for completion by the end of March 2012 so SHPC should hear something during April. Mrs. Waller asked about cost. The Clerk stated that he had asked for ownership to be transferred for no consideration and that he may undertake the conveyancing on behalf of SHPC. Mrs. Waller expressed concern that SHPC may be required to meet ECC's legal costs and that these may be onerous. The Clerk had not enquired but hoped not, if ECC Legal Department carries out the conveyancing work in house.

There were no other matters arising.

274. Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that Haverhill and ECC had been awarded funding out of the Community Budget. Mr. Partridge agreed to speak to Haverhill to obtain further information.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Waller for carrying out work on the SHPC website.

The Chairman thanked BDC/ECC for clearing snow off the pavement in Swan Street and reported that a thank you message had been sent. The Clerk reported that BH and KS had also spent many hours clearing away snow and gritting other pavement and footpaths in the village.

The Clerk reported that the bus shelter and litter bin in front of Brook House had been damaged in a RTA, which will be the subject of a claim against the driver's insurers.

The Chairman reported that she was unable to attend the recent JAG meeting as it clashed with Planning Training.

It was agreed that Mrs. E. Jones writes the PC report for the next Parish Magazine.

The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Rainbow Pre School Group at Hedingham School. Mr. A. Law urged the Chairman to attend a meeting of the Cygnets, which the Chairman agreed to do.

275. Youth Council Report

In the absence of a Youth Council representative no report was given.

276. County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Mr. D. Finch no report was given.

277. District Councillor's Reports

M. H. Johnson reported that the applications for the BDC Mi Community Fund had been considered. The unsuccessful applicants had been informed and the remaining applications moved forward to the next stage. The SH projects were very worthwhile, will benefit the community and are proceeding to the next stage. He thanked BH and KS for doing a good job with the new gritting machine and for clearing snow off the paths. He had attended the recent JAG meeting, which had concentrated on rural crime, with burglars entering the rear of properties and upon the loss of oil.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for his report.

278 Planning Committee

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 6th and 27th January 2012, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

Mrs. Massey reported that the Planning Committee had met representatives from Maze Planning, who had originally proposed 70 houses for the site. Councillors had asked for provision for leisure and employment. Revised plans had been received for 20 business units, 4 live/work units and a reduction to 60 houses. Mrs. Waller was pleased that the owners had taken some of the Parish Councils points into consideration but residents had been clear about no housing outside the village envelope. Mr. Partridge was pleased that Maze Planning was keen to listen and stated this is a brownfield site and therefore could be distinguished from other allocation sites. The lack of leisure provision does not meet the requirements of the residents. Mrs. Massey reported that the plans include parking for the Church and a Village Green. Following further discussion it was proposed by Mrs. Massey, seconded by Mr. Prill and carried that Maze Planning are informed that their revised plans does not constitute sufficient employment or leisure use and to refer them to the B1 business and leisure designation agreed with BDC during October 2011.

279. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 20th January 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

280. **Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee**

The minutes of the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee Meeting held on 25th January 2012, having been previously circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

A business case for the SH to Sudbury bus service, prepared by Mr. S. Partridge, was circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed to defer this item to the next PC meeting to give Councillors the opportunity of reading it and to include it on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Mr. Partridge reported that he had obtained quotes for stickers to go on wheelie bins asking drivers to slow down through the village. He proposed circulating these in the centre of the village including Swan Street, Alexandra Road and Rectory Road. It was proposed by Mrs. E. Jones, seconded by Mr. A. Law and carried that 500 stickers for £210.00 are ordered. Mr. Partridge agreed to report on the stickers at the Annual Parish Meeting.

281. **Hedingham Riverside Walk Report**

Dr. R. Green reported on the meeting held on 16th January and the work carried out by the working party on 28th January 2012. Mr. R. Parmee had guaranteed completion of the footpath by June but could not guarantee installation of the bridge by then. HRW had asked SHPC to consider a name for the forthcoming bridge and Jubilee Bridge was proposed. Mr. H. Johnson reported that he had found another company willing to build the bridge, notwithstanding the structural problems on the Alderford Street side of the stream. A meeting had been arranged on 27th February between ECC, BDC and EA to complete plans for the bridge to which SHPC had not been invited to attend. Mr. Johnson will ask if he can attend the meeting and if so will report back. The meeting adjourned for public comment.

Mr. J. Nicholson reminded SHPC that it was BDCs intention to transfer ownership of HRW to SHPC so therefore SHPC should not be excluded from the meeting. This point was agreed and had been made to BDC.

The meeting then resumed. If Mr. Johnson is not allowed to attend the meeting and represent SHPC and HRW then he agreed to seek a report afterwards.

282. **Footpaths Report**

A meeting of the Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group had been arranged for 21st February.

283. **SHALGA Report**

Dr. R. Green reported that unfortunately the proposed lease of an allotment site off Church Street could not proceed. The Solicitors had been notified, the grant applications withdrawn and SHALGA was seeking other sites. Mr. Partridge added that the Chairman of SHPC and representatives of SHALGA will visit landowners to seek land for allotments. It was agreed to include a SHALGA report on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

284. **Attendance of County and District Councillors at Parish Council Meetings**

Mr. A. Prill referred to the minutes of the PC meeting on 14th November 2011, which gave the impression that two District Councillors had attended the whole meeting whereas they had arrived part way through. It was proposed by Mr. Prill, seconded by Mrs. Massey and carried that the arrival and departure of County and District Councillors at PC Meetings should be minuted.

285. **April Meetings**

The Chairman reported that the second Monday in April, when the Parish Council would normally meet is Easter Monday. Following discussion it was resolved that the April PC meeting takes place on 2nd April and that the SH Annual Parish Meeting takes place on 16th April.

286. **Report on EALC Planning event**

Mrs. L. Waller, Mr. S. Partridge and Mrs. G. Massey had attended a planning event at Marks Tey on 7th February at which Planning Officers from Colchester Borough Council had spoken. The items covered were the planning process, planning check lists, the need to relate representations and decisions to planning policies and the need to develop Neighbourhood Plans. It was the Government's intention that Neighbourhood Plans should encourage development. It will be necessary to put forward proposals for development not reasons against development. Neighbourhood Plans will take 2 or 3 years to formulate and the emphasis is on building not against building. SHPC will need to consider very carefully whether or not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan.

287. **To consider quote for Mediation**

Mrs. Massey reported that she had obtained a verbal quote of £125.00 plus mileage for the Mediator. It was proposed by Mrs. Massey, seconded by Mrs. E. Jones and carried that the quote is accepted.

288. **To consider grant for Parish Magazine**

A letter from Rev. Laurie Bond requesting a grant towards the costs of the Parish Magazine was considered. It was agreed to support the Magazine, which was developing very well and distributed to nearly every house in the village. It was proposed by Mr. D. Holmes, seconded by Mr. S. Partridge and carried that a grant of £500 is made, which it was agreed to include in the list of accounts for payment at the next meeting.

289. **Correspondence**

The correspondence received and listed in appendix 1 was referred to relevant Councillors for information and action. Arising from the correspondence the following items were discussed:

- (a) The Clerk referred to a letter from BDC regarding Activity Days, which was considered. Mrs. L. Waller suggested investigating the use of schools so outside events could be held on playing fields. The Clerk agreed to make some enquiries about various venues and refer to Mr. F. Swallow upon his return from holiday.
- (b) The Chairman referred to invitations from EALC to attend various training courses but no Councillors requested places.

290. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Mr. D. Holmes, seconded by Mr. J. Skittrall and carried that the accounts are paid.

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

- (a) Mrs. E. Jones reported upon the desire to plant a tree on the Village Green at High Street Green to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Mrs. Massey reported that two planters had already been approved for the Green. It was resolved that Mrs. Jones consults residents about the proposed tree for which she is happy to meet the cost.
- (b) Mrs. Jones reported upon communications with Google, Ordnance Survey, Royal Mail and Public Utilities regarding the incorrect description of High Street Green as Highstreet Green. Mrs. Jones will now take this issue up with Mrs. S. Cocks, Street Naming Officer at BDC.
- (c) Mrs. Jones suggested that spoons rather than mugs are considered as gifts for children to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- (d) Dr. R. Green reported that a workforce of 20 people had planted 300 trees in Molly's Wood in 3 hours.
- (e) Mrs. G. Massey reported on behalf of Miss. C. Cannell that Hedfest will incorporate a flower festival. Miss. Cannell had suggested that SHPC has an entry which she is willing to organize. The cost will be about £30 to £40 and it was agreed to include this on the agenda for the next meeting.
- (f) Mr. J. Skittrall reported that about 50% of the grit/salt had been used during the recent bad weather.
- (g) Mr. A. Law offered to inform Dr. D and Dr. I. Bainbridge about the proposed forthcoming water management presentation in Alderford Street, which was approved.
- (h) Mr. S. Partridge reported that the recent BDVSA newsletter referred to free training for community groups. It was agreed to publicize this in the village through the Parish Magazine and Library.

(i) Mr. Partridge reported that there is an opportunity to meet representatives of the Heritage Lottery Fund on 3rd May 2012 at Braintree District Museum Learning for Life Centre. He suggested that SHPC is represented at the event to see how to move projects forward such as the proposed SH Buildings Preservation Trust. Mrs. L. Waller offered to attend the event on 3rd May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)