

**MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014 AT 7.30 PM**

**Present:** Mrs. G. Massey (Chairman), Cllrs: J. Beavis, J. Fennelly, S. Glen, D. Horn, E. Jones, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, R. Volkwyn and L. Waller.  
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk).  
Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor), Mr. H. Johnson (District Councillor), Mrs. Sarah Sapsford (RCCE) together with 41 (forty one) members of the public

The Chairman read out the fire regulations namely that in the event of fire or other emergency, the Hall emergency exits are located to the sides and rear of the Hall and everyone should assemble by foot at the assembly point at the top of the hill in Parkfields. Vehicles should not be removed from the car park as they may obstruct the arrival of the emergency vehicles.

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_  
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked representatives of organisations who provided displays.

**2. Apologies for Absence**  
Cllrs. D. Holmes and W. Scattergood  
Mrs. T. Ashmeade, Mr. O. Hawkes, Mrs. R. Jenkin, Mrs. J. Norris, Mr. R. Parmee, Mrs. R. Stickley and Mrs. A. Thrussell.

**3. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting**  
The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013 were circulated, read, confirmed by those present and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising from those minutes**  
There were no matters arising.

**5. Police Report**  
There was no Police report.

**6. Parish Council Report**  
The Chairman thanked all Councillors, introduced new Councillors and thanked retiring Councillors for their service. The Chairman read the Annual Parish Council Report and a copy will shortly be delivered to every household in the village and will also be available on the website. The Parish Council is progressing very well with much local support and school visits.

**7. Essex County Council Report**  
A written report read by Mr. D. Finch is attached to these minutes. In addition Mr. Finch highlighted the following:  
a) That many Essex local authorities, including ECC and BDC had reduced their budgets and consequently Council Tax had been reduced.

- b) The money available for repairing potholes had increased.
- c) Additional money is also available for flood alleviation schemes, youth facilities and apprenticeship schemes.
- d) The Care Bill, health integration and care costs.
- e) With reduced budgets, customer satisfaction had increased.

Mrs. L. Waller raised the issue of repairing potholes and other highway issues, which had been the main topic on social networks such as Street Life. Concern was expressed about the lack of response from ECC Highways. Mr. Finch made no excuses for the lack of response from ECC Highways but reported that additional teams were working on pothole repairs and flood alleviation schemes, including work on drains in highways. He confirmed that he is continually chasing ECC Highways to deal with highway issues in SH and that another new system should be in place within a month. Mr. A. Prill considered that the failure of ECC Highways to carry out work and respond to reports is systematic of a dysfunctional County Council and Councillors should not have to continually chase ECC Highways. Mrs. Waller stated that SHPC had been waiting for a year for ECC Highways to investigate the problem of water on the highway at Rectory Road, which Mr. Finch agreed to chase. Mr. J. Skittrall reported that one very large pothole in Swan Street had been filled in quickly following intervention by Mr. Finch. Mrs. D. Horn raised questions about budgets and savings which Mr. Finch answered. Mr. A. Lynch asked if cuts had resulted in job losses. Mr. Finch replied that this was not the case although some jobs had been restructured and when staff had retired they were not always replaced. Mr. S. Partridge questioned the loss of several million pounds for Youth Services. Following some discussion it was accepted that the budget had been cut from £12 million to £2 million. Mr. Partridge referred to the possible loss of the Youth Bus and Mr. Finch offered to arrange for a representative of the Youth Service to attend a future PC meeting to explain youth funding. Mr. P. Corson raised concern about the strain on local schools when new development takes place and the necessity for highway improvements. In particular he wished to know how the S106 monies for education will be apportioned between I fe johi bn ! Tdi ppr! Tu! fufs s Primary and De Vere Primary. Mr. Finch agreed to obtain this information and let Mr. Corson know. Mr. Finch was thanked for his report.

## **8. Braintree District Council Reports**

Mrs. J. Beavis reported on the following:

- a) That the Braintree District has a population of about 150,000.
- b) BDC has 60 Councillors which will be reduced to 49 in May 2015.
- c) LGBCE recommends that the two Heddinghams join to form one ward to be represented by two Councillors.
- d) With regard to policing, this area has one of the lowest crime figures.
- e) Employment in the district is quite high at about 73%, but 14,000 jobs need to be found.
- f) Recycling rates are good.
- g) There are 3,000 on the housing waiting list and 8 new homes have been built at Parkfields by GCH. The 193 houses on the former Premdor site will include 58 affordable houses.
- h) The budget has been cut with no cuts to services.
- i) The Mi Community fund is available for local projects.
- j) The health agenda.
- k) BDC owns £20 million worth of leisure facilities in the district.

Mrs. Beavis concluded her report by thanking the Chairman and Clerk for their service and work for SH during the year.

Mr. P. Corson enquired about the 27% unemployment rate and Mrs. Beavis explained that the SH area is not as bad as Witham.

Miss. C. Cannell expressed concern about the lack of bus services particularly in view of the forthcoming increase in population in SH. Mrs. Beavis confirmed that BDC is trying to obtain more public transport in SH. Mr. A. Prill considered that many issues raised by SHPC were not achieved. Mrs. Beavis responded that SHPC is one of the most successful PCs in the Braintree District to get issues dealt with, such as pursuing a new medical centre for which the petition was very helpful. A resident reported difficulty getting to Addenbrooks Hospital by public transport. Mr. A Lynch stated that residents were unable to get jobs outside SH because

Greenfields Community Housing, Di jrasfo t! Dfntre, Hedingham Branch Royal British Legion, Hedingham Film Club, FOAM, HRW, Hedingham School and Sixth Form, Hedingham Business Breakfast Club, ECC Libraries, TI !Di vsdi !Gs jfoet!pg Tu! fufs t!Di vsdi !TI !CbqjtuDi vsdi !Gs jfoet! pgN pmm t! ppe-I fe johi bn !Heritage Society and Hedingham Flower Club.  
The meeting then continued without a break.

**12. Proposed events to take place at Sible Hedingham Legacy Day on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Mr. S. Partridge reported upon proposed events planned for Legacy Day on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014. This included: all the usual 'silly Olympics fun and games, Braintree & District AC, Essex Stragglers Orienteering Society, Essex Youth Bus, Essex Outdoors, F.A.S.T., Hedingham, School, Hedingham Youth Club, Netball and Basketball, Petanque with the Twinning Association, Rainbows, Body zorb five-a-side football, Ball pond & bouncy castle, water tag and beach volley ball. The cultural element will be a Music Festival hosted by Chelmsford Radio DJs the live music festival will be open to all ages and types of music. It is also hoped to include trampolining from Dimensions Trampolining Club if some trampolines can be sourced.

Mr. Partridge was thanked for his report.

**13. Public Question Time and Any Other Business**

Mr. R. Volkwyn enquired why there was no presence from the Police. The Chairman and Clerk confirmed that the Police had been invited to attend the meeting and give a report.

**14. \_\_\_\_\_**

The Chairman thanked everyone who had provided displays and attended the meeting. An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council would take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March to consider proposed artwork for the former Premdor site. The artwork is intended to be functional such as railings, benches, waymarkers and signs. Members of the public were invited to attend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

(Date)

(Chairman)