

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON WEDNESDAY 19th 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. Chairman's welcome

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 24th 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. Arising from the report Dr. R. A. Green stated that the Molly's Wood project 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 Hedingham School, St. Peter'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 Hedinghams 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 of the lack of public transport. Mrs. G. Massey reported that there will be some funding out of the former Premdor site to finance a bus to Sudbury for one year, which is a positive move.

Mr. H. Johnson reported upon the following:

- a) His involvement with Public Footpaths, HRW, HHS and Molly's Wood, which reflected great credit to Dr. R. A. Green and his helpers.
- b) HRW footbridge which should be installed during June or July 2014.
- c) Volunteers are required to help maintain HRW.
- d) The good network of footpaths in SH for which maps are available.
- e) That SH is well served with play areas.
- f) He regularly attends JAG meetings on behalf of SH, when rural crime is reported.
- g) The forthcoming improvements to Broadband.
- h) The health walks in both the Hedinghams are very worthwhile.

Mr. Johnson continues as Tree Warden for SH and as a representative on JAG (Police) for SH. Residents expressed concern about vehicles parking on pavements. Mr. Johnson agreed to take up these obstruction issues with the Police.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Beavis and Mr. Johnson for their reports.

9. Village Agents Report

In the absence of Miss. J. Laken no report was given.

10. Building Communities and Braintree Healthy Connections

Mrs. Sarah Sapsford of RCCE gave a presentation about the Braintree Community Builder Project 'Healthy Connections' to deliver services or support residents in SH and an area of Witham around the theme of health and wellbeing. The aim of the project is to help residents take the initiative in improving their health and wellbeing and to reduce social isolation; principally by linking local people together or by connecting them to external support. The purposes could include (a) healthier lifestyles, (b) clinical and healthcare, (c) activities and sport and (d) social inclusion. Mrs. Sapsford's role is to see what can be provided in SH without residents having to travel. This is a short project, which ends in March 2015. The views of SH residents will be sought at a Coffee morning on 26th April 2014. Apart from Sarah Sapsford, contacts for the project are Jan Cole and Jayne Laken. Mrs. Sapsford was thanked for her report.

11. Displays and written reports

In view of the late hour a vote was taken and it was agreed not to adjourn for refreshments or to view the display stands, which had been arranged by the following organisations:

Greenfields Community Housing, Children's Centre, Hedingham Branch Royal British Legion, Hedingham Film Club, FOAM, HRW, Hedingham School and Sixth Form, Hedingham Business Breakfast Club, ECC Libraries, SH Church, Friends of St. Peter's Church, SH Baptist Church, Friends of Molly's Wood, Hedingham 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 5th July 2014

Mr. S. Partridge reported upon proposed events planned for Legacy Day on 5th 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. Chairman's Address

The Chairman thanked everyone who had provided displays and attended the meeting. An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council would take place on 24th 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

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(Date)

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(Chairman)