

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON WEDNESDAY 27th MAY 2015 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Mr. R. Volkwyn (Chairman), Cllrs: J. Fennelly, S. Glen, D. Holmes, G. Jefferson, G. Massey, S. Metson, L. Parkin, P. Sarel, J. Skittrall and J. Smith.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk).
Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor), Mrs. J. Beavis and Mr. H. Johnson (District Councillors), Miss. J. Laken (Village Agent) together with 33 (thirty three) 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.

Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked representatives of organisations who provided displays. He introduced Councillors and drew attention to the Suggestions Box.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mrs. H. Carter (Hedingham School), Mr. M. Garnham (GCH), Mrs. J. Norris (SH Library) and Mr. J. Smith (St. Peter's Primary School)

3. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th March 2014 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. Essex County Council Report

Mr. D. Finch reviewed the work of ECC during the previous year and highlighted the following:

- a) That ECC has kept council tax low and remains a low tax authority.
- b) That increased funding is available for highways, flood alleviation and school development.
- c) That he has helped to resolve flooding issues at 16 Yeldham Road and 32 Station Road.
- d) A new Park and Ride scheme has opened at Colchester.
- e) He outlined the variety of schools in the county and the high number which have achieved very good and excellent standards.
- f) The care provided for vulnerable and abused children.
- g) The investment for apprenticeships for 3,000 young persons in Essex.
- h) The request for devolution funding for Essex, which is larger than some European countries. The funding could come from Essex business rates and income from air passenger duty from users of Stansted Airport and be allocated to training and to encourage new businesses to come to Essex.
- (i) Social Care and the NHS. He emphasised that it is critical to work with the NHS to provide the services, which are needed in Essex.

Mr. Finch was thanked for his report.

6. Braintree District Council Reports

Mr. H. Johnson referred to the reorganisation of SHPC and wished all new Councillors well. He then reported on the following:

The forthcoming change in the village with new houses being planned and built.

The importance of the new Medical Centre.

That he has been elected to the BDC Planning Committee and continues as a member of the Licensing Committee. He is a member of Stansted Airport Consultative Committee and Tree Warden for SH. He is also a member of SHPC Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group and undertakes voluntary work on HRW and other footpaths in the village. He supports the village walks in SH on Tuesdays and CH on Thursdays.

BDC in an efficient Council, which looks after everyone.

Mrs. J. Beavis reported on the following:

The press interest in the new Medical Centre for SH.

That the S106 Agreement needs to deliver the Medical Centre and the Work Hub.

BDC should not allow the developer to encroach upon land set aside for the Medical Centre.

As District Councillor, her major priority is the Medical Centre and Work Hub.

The bridge over the stream at Alderford Street has been constructed and was opened in November 2014.

The future of the former Tanner's Dairy site is under consideration.

That Mrs. Beavis now holds the portfolio at BDC for People and Health.

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

7. Parish Council Report

Mr. R. Volkwyn reported that he had only been chairman for two weeks and that his predecessor had written the 2015 annual report, which had been circulated to every household in the village with the Parish Magazine.

8. Village Agents Report

Miss. J. Laken reported upon her responsibilities as Village Agent with helping elderly, disabled and vulnerable persons in SH and surrounding villages. She gave details of the variety of help and services available. In particular she supports the SH Thursday Club, which is also supported by the SH Breakfast Club. Miss. Laken was thanked for her report.

9. Sible Hedingham Community Speedwatch Report

Mr. I. Carruthers reported that the Sible Hedingham Speedwatch Group started in 2012 and received training and equipment from Essex Police. The aim of SH CSW is to make the village roads safer by monitoring traffic on behalf of Essex Police. The group is part of a regional and national initiative and follow guidelines issued by the Police. Each monitoring site is assessed and approved by the Police to ensure safety. Monitoring results are reported to the Police who decide whether to issue letters or make direct contact with the driver. He outlined the benefits of CSW to the community and the support from the Police, RoSPA and Driving Associations. To help build on achievements SH CSW needs (a) a more modern speed monitoring device and (b) more volunteers. These would enable more speed information to be captured and to carry out more frequent monitorings. Mr. Carruthers was thanked for his report.

10. Displays and written reports

The meeting adjourned for refreshments and an opportunity to view display stands. Written reports and displays were provided by the following organisations:

Children's Centre, Hedingham Branch Royal British Legion, FOAM, HRW, Hedingham School and Sixth Form, St. Peter's Primary School, Hedingham Business Breakfast Club, SH Church, Friends of St. Peter's Church, Friends of Molly's Wood, Village Agent, SH

Community Speedwatch, Hedingham Heritage Society, Hedingham Flower Club and supporters of the new 333 bus service.
Following the break, the meeting resumed.

11. To consider the funding of a PCSO

Mrs. G. Massey reported that the overall costs of funding a PCSO would be about £34,000, which would result in an increase in council tax of about £25 per household. It would only cover one officer and there would be no cover for holidays or sickness. The Police could call the officer away for other duties, which would result in a loss for SH. As PCSOs do not work nights there will be no cover in SH at nights. If the meeting is in favour of funding a PCSO then a referendum may be necessary to ascertain wider public opinion but this would incur four figure costs to the village.

Mrs. J. Smith opposed the suggestion and referred to the lack of powers of PCSOs and to items on Essex Police website relating to crime in SH, which was mainly minor. It was generally accepted that SH is not in a high crime area. Miss. C. Cannell opposed the funding because the Police share of the council tax had increased every year whereas County, District and Parish elements of the council tax had not increased in recent years. In support of this Mr. D. Holmes gave details from a Council Tax bill. Mr. H. Johnson stated that it is important that people are vigilant and questioned how the cost of a PCSO is justified for the very few times it is necessary to call the Police. Upon the issue being put to the vote no one at the meeting voted in favour of funding a PCSO and therefore the proposal will not proceed. Arising from this item Mr. J. Nicholson reported upon the difficulty with the Police not knowing locations when making 999 or 101 calls.

12. Public Question Time and Any Other Business

Mr. J. Skittrall reported upon speed surveys in Yeldham Road where it was found that 76% of vehicles set off the SID. There had been no determined effort by the Police to stop speeding, they know there is a problem but do nothing about it.

Mrs. G. Massey asked Mr. H. Johnson if he will stand by Mrs. W. Scattergood when she had confirmed that BDC would oppose any increase in the village envelope as a result of the site allocation process. Mr. Johnson replied that he is now a member of the BDC Planning Committee and will look at everything sympathetically. Arising from this Mr. Skittrall queried the cost of producing site allocation plans. It was generally agreed that new development is opposed because of insufficient infrastructure. Brownfield sites were discussed and it was accepted that there is no industrial demand for the former Dairy site so houses were preferred. In connection with the demand for houses the Chairman explained that local authorities were bound by Government policy and there was a need in the whole country for more housing. Mr. Johnson referred to the difficulty of young persons not being able to stay in their own villages.

13. Chairman's Address

The Chairman thanked everyone who had provided displays and attended the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

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(Date)

(Chairman)

PAGE

PAGE 1