

Minutes of Sible Hedingham Annual Parish Assembly Meeting Held in the Village Hall, Parkfields, Sible Hedingham on Tuesday 22nd May at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs R Volkwyn (Chairman), G Jefferson, S Metson, L Heywood, P Gammon, B Gardener, B Newman, D Finch (County Councillor), Miss J Laken (Community Agent) Mrs G McCoyd (Clerk) and 36 members of public.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr R Volkwyn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs P Sarel (business), J Stopher (business, District Cllr H Johnson (BDC meeting)

3 To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held Tuesday 23rd May 2017

The minutes of 23rd May 2017 were 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

The full report from Cllr D Finch is attached to the minutes kept in the Parish Office. He highlighted the following areas:

400 miles of roads have been resurfaced and 5,000 potholes have been filled in.

ECC will pay £100,000 into each of the 12 Local Highways Panels if the District Councils will match fund it.

Grants match funded by Parish Councils have been paid to Parish Councils to carry out local work. Sible Hedingham Parish Council successfully bid for a handyperson to carry out various works in the village.

Country parks have been revamped and accessibility improved.

ECC has supported the creation of 11,370 apprenticeships in the County.

ECC is building more schools (3 Secondary in Colchester and 2 Secondary in Chelmsford) and extending primary schools, 94% of Essex schools were judged good or outstanding.

ECC has 4 major objectives:

1. Enable inclusive economic growth
2. Help people get the best start and age well
3. Help create great places to grow up, live and work.
4. Transform the council to achieve more with less.

Cllr D Finch answered the following questions:

What is the situation regarding police services?

ECC are not responsible for the Police but he would talk to Roger Hirst about holding a public meeting in Sible Hedingham.

Is there infrastructure in place regarding roads and education for the new development areas?

ECC will increase the capacity of schools, roads will be widened and accident black spots will have signage.

The Colne Valley Railway would like to hold more school visits but schools are saying they cannot afford the transport costs, is there any help?

Guidance is given to schools regarding appropriate visits; send Cllr D Finch an email and he will send out the guidance.

Is there any chance of a PCSO working between 3 villages?

The police precept increase is with the aim of putting more police on the beat but again if Roger Hirst held a public meeting this question could be put to him.

Alderford Mill is owned by ECC but the water wheel is breaking up so no milling can be held. The Friends of Alderford Mill are trying to get sponsors but they need £5,000 to £6,000 is there any chance of ECC helping?

It is recommended that they contact the Community Initiatives Fund.

6 Braintree District Council Reports

In the absence of Cllrs H Johnson and J Beavis no report was given.

7 Parish Council Report.

Cllr R Volkwyn gave the following report:

Parish Council Report

Cllr Ron Volkwyn reported that it has yet again been a very eventful year.

- **At the end of last year a minibus trip to the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market took place with tickets selling very quickly.**

- Two litter picks were planned but, because of the snow, one had to be postponed. The litter pick which took place, with the help of the local Scouts, Guides, Councillors and members of the village, was very successful.
- All of the Village Gateway Signs have now been installed and we have received many positive comments about them.
- A new Speed Indicator Sign has been installed in Potter Street/Swan Street.
- In the Recreation Ground we have had a replacement slide and a new zip wire installed.
- All three village notice boards have been refurbished.
- The highlight of the year was yet again the Christmas Tree in the Co-op Car Park which was attended by over 250 people including the choir and pupils and staff from St Peters Primary School and a Brass Band from Hedingham School. This year we hope to make it bigger and better. I would like to thank Paul and Fiona Earey for donating the tree, Chris Jenkins for loaning the light and the tree stand, Stephen and Victoria Metson for supplying the electricity, the Co-op for supplying us with mince pies and chocolates and Kevin Shears for helping to erect the tree.
- A new entrance gate has been erected at the Recreation Ground.
- The entrance to Grays Hall Meadow has been laid with a special, hard-wearing membrane which the grass can grow through and which allows vehicular access with minimal damage.
- There is going to be a Dog Show this coming Sunday on the Recreation Ground.
- There will be Music Festival on the Football Ground on 30th June.

In the next twelve months we are hoping to:

Organise a Vintage Afternoon Tea for elderly villagers in conjunction with The British Legion at the start of Poppy Fortnight prior to 11/11

Finally take over ownership of the Poppy Park which includes the old Nat West Bank Building, the Play Area within Earls Garden and the new section of the Riverside Walk. According to BDC this should all happen fairly soon.

Acquire land for the use of allotments.

Continue to support the local GPs in their attempts to open a new Medical Centre on the land beside the newly built Village Hub which will be owned and run by BDC with any profits going to them.

8 Presentation of a cheque from Sible Hedingham Parish Council to Hedingham Scout groups by Cllr R Volkwyn

Cllr R Volkwyn presented a cheque for £550 to the Hedingham Scouts and Guides.

9 Community Agent Report

Miss J Laken introduced herself as the Community Agent for the Hedinghams and Mid Essex North. She works with RCCE, British Red Cross, Age UK and ECC to support elderly people helping them live longer in their own homes. She identifies the lonely or isolated and offers solutions like encouraging them to join groups. She is approved by the Fire Service to carry out fire safety checks. Currently she is working with those who find themselves unexpectedly in hospital by producing a discharge package and then visiting them once they are home.

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: Hedingham School, Friends of Alderford Mill, Sible Hedingham Library, Hedingham Guides, Scouts, Colne Valley Railway, Baptist Church, Heritage Society, Darkins, Earey Butchers, and Finishing Touch. Following the break the meeting resumed.

11 Public Question Time.

Cllr R Volkwyn answered the following questions:

When and where would the extension to the Riverside Walk go?

The Riverside Walk will be extended but the exact path was unknown and the Parish Council did not know when it would be finished. This lies in the hands of BDC.

Concern was raised regarding the houses by the library and the refuge island at the entrance to these houses.

The refuge island was put in place by Highways, it is in the wrong place but it is up to Highways to move it. (The clerk had reported it to Highways in November 2017)

12 Chairman's Address

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

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

