

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 8th APRIL 2013 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey
Present: Cllrs. S. Glen, R. Green, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, F. Swallow and L. Waller.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. H. Johnson (District Councillor)
Together with 4 (four) members of the public

Public comment

Prior to commencement of the meeting, the following items were raised:

1. Mr. I. Carruthers reported that during the early hours of Saturday morning, 6th April a driver lost control of a vehicle on the A1017 in Potter Street. Fortunately no other vehicle or pedestrian was involved and excess speed was believed to be a major factor. He asked SHPC to re-double its efforts to have improved signage and other traffic calming measures put in place to reduce incidents along this road.
2. Mr. S. Partridge reported upon an email from ECC Highways regarding the locations of SID/VAS, which required clarification. He will forward it to Mr. D. Finch for assistance.
3. Mr. J. Nicholson reported there was no further progress with the Alderford Street crossing to the HRW. The AGM will take place on 22nd April at 7.30pm at the White Lion PH to which everyone is invited to consider the future of HRW.
4. Mr. D. Finch reported that he had intervened with BDC leading to engagement with the Environment Agency and he agreed to follow up the Alderford Street crossing.
5. Mr. H. Johnson reported upon budget issues but was optimistic that the crossing will be completed
6. Mrs. G. Massey stated that the crossing should be funded out of S106 monies and therefore budget issues were not relevant.
7. Mrs. L. Waller suggested re-opening negotiations with Mr. F. Ladkin to secure a different access to HRW.

There was no other public comment.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (BDC Cabinet meeting) D. Holmes (wife's illness), E. Jones (holiday) and W. Scattergood

2. **Absent**

Cllr. A. Law

3. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 11th March 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2013, having been circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **PSG and Localism Fund**

Mr. S. Partridge asked for an update upon the difference between the SH and Coggeshall figures, upon which a report from Mrs. J. Beavis is awaited.

b) **Land adjacent to Civil Defence Hut, Oxford Meadow**

Mr. Partridge asked if a reply had been received from BDC. The Clerk reported that no reply had been received and agreed to send BDC a reminder.

c) **Skate ramps on Recreation Ground**

Mrs. L. Waller enquired about skate ramps. Mr. J. Skittrall reported that repairs were complete and he had spoken to Highline who had confirmed that the new ramps should be installed before the end of April 2013.

d) Youth Shelter

Mrs. G. Massey reported that the plans for the Youth Shelter will not be changed and will remain.

e) Blue plaques

There was no news upon the grant application made by Mrs. E. Jones to Essex Heritage Trust for blue plaques.

There were no other matters arising.

6. Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that the Annual Parish Meeting will follow the same format as last year. It was agreed that Committee Chairman should have tables and prepare an update/report. SH is entering the Best Kept Village Competition 2013 and it was therefore agreed to ask Mr. D. Holmes to tidy up the notice boards and to remove any out of date notices. The BDC LDF Panel will meet on 11th April 2013 to consider site allocations in SH. Mr. A. Prill and Mrs. L. Waller were both concerned about the BDC process in dealing with site allocations. Mr. Prill reported that many residents were outraged with proposals for the new site behind Alderford Grange. Mrs. Waller was concerned that two sites had been put forward after the closing date for consultations had expired. It was reiterated that SHPC does not wish to see the village envelope extended. Mr. S. Partridge, Mr. A. Prill, Mr. J. Skittrall and Mrs. L. Waller indicated that they may attend the LDF meeting.

7. Youth Council Report

Mr. S. Partridge had no report.

8. County Councillor's Report

Mr. D. Finch reported upon the following:

- a. That he will attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April and give an annual ECC report.
- b. That the Braintree District Local Highways Panel had approved expenditure for a snow plough for SH.
- c. As a result of bad weather the repair of potholes had been inhibited. With improved weather more potholes should be repaired. 55,000 pot holes had been repaired last year and a further 15,000 potholes remain for repair this year.
- d. The ECC review of speeding policy, which had been sent to Parish Councils, under which speed limits can be extended and new 20 mph limits imposed. All applications are to be sent to Braintree District Local Highways Panel.
- e. The Local Authority Mortgage Scheme was outlined.

Dr. R. Green enquired about progress with "Quiet Lanes" such as Hulls Mill Lane and Lamb Lane, which Mr. D. Finch agreed to look into.

Mrs. L. Waller referred to the lack of response from Mr. R. Venables regarding footpaths and PROWs. Mr. Finch agreed to pursue Mr. Venables whose contact number is 01245-437707 extn 8.

Concern was expressed about the closure of Wethersfield Road and a resident had suggested that the alternative routes along single track lanes should be one way. Mr. Finch will ask the engineers to consider a one way system and to consult SHPC.

Mrs. L. Waller reported upon some good pothole repairs in the area particularly along the Gosfield Road. Mr. Finch was thanked for his report.

9. District Councillor's Reports

Mr. H. Johnson reported upon the following:

- a. Speeding at Crouch Green and parked vehicles along Yeldham Road, which caused visibility problems for vehicles exiting Nunnery Street.
- b. He enquired about ASB on the Recreation Ground and Mrs. Massey confirmed that it was quiet with no problems.
- c. The construction of social housing at Park Court, which was progressing well.
- d. Dog fouling in the area, particularly at Bewick Court, was a problem.

Arising from the ECC and BDC reports it was agreed to include proposed 20 mph limits and proposed one way system to avoid Wethersfield Road on the agenda for the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee meeting on 17th April.

Mr. Johnson was thanked for his report. (Mr. D. Finch left the meeting)

10. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 8th and 22nd March 2013, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report. Mr. A. Prill enquired about SHPC responses to BDC in respect of LDF site allocations. The Clerk confirmed that SHPC responses had been submitted on time and the standard acknowledgments and references had been received. Councillors considered that the BDC website was unfriendly and difficult to navigate. Mr. Johnson agreed to take this up with BDC and to report back.

11. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 15th March 2013, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Arising from the minutes it was reported that Councillors had met Mr. C. Mortimer, the new grass cutting contractor. He had since commenced grass cutting and SHPC had received compliments about his work. Mrs. L. Waller enquired about clearance of the drain across Rectory Road from Grays Hall Meadow. ECC Highways had originally been asked to carry out this work but had failed to do so. It was agreed to ask Mr. Finch to apply pressure. Bollards had been installed at High Street Green to prevent vehicles taking short cuts across the Village Green but SHPC would not get involved in disputes between neighbours.

12. **Report of advice from EALC and telephone conference with E. C. Harris**

Mr. F. Swallow reported that advice had been taken from EALC. SHPC can waive its standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a single tender to be accepted. He reported upon a telephone conference with Mr. G. Braterman of E. C. Harris LLP who had since sent a quote, (which had previously been circulated to councilors), for preparation of a business case for a new Doctor's Surgery and Medical Centre for SH. Mr. Swallow later negotiated with Mr. Braterman and asked for a reduction and as a result E. C. Harris LLP had agreed to encompass all disbursements into the fixed price figure, which will be held for six months, by which time the decision upon the planning application should be known. Mr. Swallow had also consulted Mr. J. Henry of the NHS who had advised that other consultants would charge an additional £6,000 on average. Mr. Swallow and Mr. Prill both considered that the business case should be obtained a.s.a.p. It was proposed by Mrs. G. Massey, seconded by Mrs. L. Waller and carried that SHPC should waive its standing orders and financial regulations to enable a single tender to be accepted. Castle Hedingham Parish Council will consider making a financial contribution towards the business plan at its next meeting on 15th April. Unfortunately, the NHS and local Doctors had declined to contribute towards the costs of a business case. A meeting had been arranged with Doctors on 1st May to request more commitment from them. It was proposed by Mrs. G. Massey, seconded by Mrs. L. Waller and carried that consideration of the quote from E. C. Harris LLP is deferred until the May meeting to follow the meeting with the Doctors.

13. **To consider increasing financial contribution towards Legacy Day**

Mrs. G. Massey reported that a grant of £5,000 had been offered towards the Youth Shelter on the Recreation Ground, which would release other funds for youth purposes. Mr. Partridge confirmed that sports and activities would be funded for Legacy Day and therefore suggested a contribution towards art and culture for Legacy Day or a permanent piece of equipment on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed to refer the suggestion of a new piece of equipment to the R&A Committee for consideration.

14. **To consider request by Colne Valley Railway of the former Nat West Bank building**

SHPC had been consulted by Bloor Homes upon a letter from Colne Valley Railway Preservation Society requesting relocation of the former Nat West Bank building to the railway site at Castle Hedingham for renovation and preservation as part of the heritage of the village. The Parish Council considered that the building should be retained on its present site as part of the street scene.

15. **To appoint two Councillors to execute transfers of land to SHPC**

The Clerk reported that progress was being made with the transfer of ownership of (a) land south of Station Road for HRW and (b) part of Birds Green Village Green from ECC to SHPC. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorized to execute both transfers on behalf of the Parish Council.

16. **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 considered:

- a. A letter from The Local Government Boundary Commission for England, enclosing a copy of a letter to BDC, relating to the Electoral Review of Braintree District was considered. The proposal to reduce the number of District Councillors to save costs was noted. It was agreed to ask for SH to become a single member ward.
- b. A letter from BDC reported that no request for an election had been made following the casual vacancy and that SHPC should co-opt to fill the vacancy as soon as is practicable.

17. **Accounts for payment**

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

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

Mr. S. Partridge reported that at the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee meeting on 17th April 2013 two representatives of Go Ahead Bus Company would attend at 4pm to meet Councillors.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)