

**DRAFT MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON
MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM.**

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. S. Glen, D. Holmes, D. Horn, A. Law, S. Partridge, J. Skittrall and L. Waller.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor)
Mrs. W. Scattergood (District Councillor)
Together with 1 (one) member of the public

Public comment

There was no public comment.

115. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. J. Beavis (BDC meeting), E. Jones (holiday), A. Prill (abroad), R. Volkwyn (holiday) and H. Johnson

116. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

117. To confirm minutes of meeting held 12th August 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2013, having been circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

118. Matters arising from those minutes

a) Oxford Lane

Ms. S. Glen reported that in her opinion the number of concrete blocks at the rear of 27 Abbey Meadow exceeded that required for a one metre high wall but if some sympathetic planting is carried out it will be less detrimental to users of Oxford Lane. Consequent upon the Land Registry search made by the Clerk it was accepted that Mr. Holl & Ms. Rawle of 27 Abbey Meadow own the land between that property and Oxford Lane. Mr. D. Finch reported that he had visited the site with Mr. H. Johnson and the Clerk and will be checking with ECC Highways if there is any encroachment of the highway. Mrs. L. Waller understood that no wall or fence should be erected adjacent to a highway open to vehicular traffic of no higher than one metre but it appears that the wall may exceed this. Mr. D. Finch agreed to check the classification and the legal definition (highway or byway) with ECC Highways Department.

There were no other matters arising.

119. Chairman's report

The Chairman had nothing to report outside the agenda.

120. Youth Council Report

Mr. S. Partridge reported upon the following:

- a) The Youth Council had placed some black bin liners around the Youth Shelter to try and mitigate the amount of litter in its vicinity.
- b) The users of motorcycles and mopeds need a secure place to park them away from the public roads around the Recreation Ground.
- c) That fixings are being removed from the Youth Shelter. Mrs. G. Massey will ask the manufacturers for advice upon permanently fixing the nuts and bolts.
- d) A request for lighting the MUGA was referred to the R&A Committee for consideration although Mr. Skittrall advised that this would be very expensive.

121. County Councillor's Report

Mr. D. Finch reported upon the following:

- a) That ECC had been looking at ways of providing less expensive services, which had resulted in significant savings during the last few years.

- b) A recent meeting held with ten Essex Members of Parliament regarding ECC finance.
- c) Some reductions in services may be necessary in the future to continue saving expense.
- d) Details of Health Service finances were provided and that A&E services were under pressure.
- e) ECC was currently under-spending its budget by 3.6 million pounds.
- f) A Trading Standards programme about rogue traders to help elderly and vulnerable.
- g) ECC street lights are being turned off between midnight and 5am to save cost.

Councillors raised the following questions:

- a) Mr. S. Partridge enquired about lighting along the main road, which is in a 30mph limit. Mr. Finch advised that all lights may be turned off and where this has occurred there has been no increase in crime or RTAs. Mr. Finch suggested further enquiries are referred to Cllr. Bass.
- b) Mr. Partridge asked if any cuts were proposed to Library Services and Mr. Finch confirmed that no cuts in Libraries were proposed.
- c) Mrs. L. Waller asked where cuts were being proposed but Mr. Finch was unable to give details save that there will possibly be cuts with providing some non statutory services.
- d) Mr. J. Skittrall asked about highway repairs and Mr. Finch confirmed that A&B roads would continue to be repaired but possibly not some minor rural roads.
- e) Mrs. Waller enquired about procurement, which Mr. Finch explained was to try and keep prices down. In addition ECC usually pays invoices within ten days.
- f) Mrs. Waller reported upon an access onto the main A1017 road at Tile Kiln Farm, which is potentially dangerous, as it is a concealed entrance onto a 60 mph road on a bad corner. There is a dispute as to whether or not it is an existing access and the owners claim it is an historic access. Mrs. W. Scattergood agreed to discuss this issue with Mr. D. Finch outside the meeting to enable Mr. Finch to make enquiries with ECC Highways.
- g) Mr. D. Holmes thanked Mr. Finch for keeping SHPC informed about progress with Wethersfield Road. Mr. Finch agreed to continue to keep SHPC informed.
- h) Mr. A. Law asked about the ECC apprenticeship scheme, which Mr. Finch confirmed was bona fide and well recognized.

Mr. Finch was thanked for his report and left the meeting.

122. **District Councillor's Reports**

Mrs. W. Scattergood reported upon the following items:

- a) That BDC also pays small traders within ten days.
- b) BDC supports the young with finding employment and apprenticeships.
- c) A meeting is to take place with Colleges to ask them to train the young in those skills, which are required by employers and not in unnecessary subjects.
- d) Progress with the LDF and the future procedure and meetings.
- e) A successful golf day when over £4,000 was raised for charities.
- f) Where street lights had been turned off in Sudbury there had been no increase in crime.

Mrs. Scattergood was thanked for her report.

123. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 23rd August 2013, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

124. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 16th August 2013, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

125. **Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee**

The minutes of the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee Meeting held on 28th August 2013, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

126. **Update upon issues arising from GCH Estates Inspection**

The Clerk reported that GCH had still failed to cut grass owned by it in front of Oxford Meadow/Yeldham Road. Whilst part of the grass is owned by ECC Highways, a significant area is owned by GCH. This had been proved by office copy entries and plans from the Land Registry. BDC had asked GCH to cut the

grass in its ownership and if it will also cut ECC Highway grass as a gesture of goodwill. GCH had failed to respond to either BDC or SHPC. The Clerk had asked ECC Highways if SHPC could cut the grass it owned and if so if it could be added to the existing agency agreement to which a reply was awaited. The Clerk had also asked the SHPC grass cutting contractors to quote. It was agreed that pressure should continue to be applied upon GCH to cut the grass it owns and Mrs. W. Scattergood agreed to raise this with Mr. M. Garnham and Mr. J. Allen of GCH.

127. **To consider communication from BDC relating to Strengthening Communities**

It was reported that BDC had been successful in obtaining funding for SH and Witham under the Strengthening Communities Health and Wellbeing Pilot Project Funding scheme. Mrs. G. Massey and Mr. S. Partridge had met officers earlier in the process, when unfortunately the information which BDC had provided about SH could not be recognized. It was agreed that SHPC needs to be involved with the future process to ensure that the information about SH is correct and Councillors agreed to meet with BDC representatives when required.

128. **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. In connection with the letter from Primogeniture Property Development inviting Councillors to an open meeting regarding the lane adjacent to the Post Office, Mrs. G. Massey, Mrs. L. Waller and Mr. J. Skittrall indicated that they would attend. Mr. D. Holmes reported that the lane was being measured recently. It was agreed that the possibility of removing bollards and railings at the front of the Post Office should be opposed in the interests of safety.
- b. In connection with Highway matters, Mr. D. Horn reported that he had spoken to Mr. D. Finch who had given his support for reapplying for speed limits in Halstead Road and other locations in the village.
- c. An email from Mr. R. Parmee of BDC regarding S106 monies for artwork in SH was considered. Concern was expressed that the proposals made by BDC may not be supported by the public and alternatives should be considered such as Village Gateways. It was agreed to agenda S106 monies for artwork for the next meeting and to inform Mr. Parmee that it had been deferred.

(Mrs. W. Scattergood left the meeting)

129. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Mr. J. Skittrall, seconded by Mr. A. Law and carried that the accounts are paid and that the donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion is made under S137 of the LGA 1972.

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

Mr. D. Holmes promoted the Rippers exhibition on 14th and 15th September.

Mr. A. Law reported that Mrs. S. Smith will soon be leaving the village and that a new Relief Clerk will be required.

Mr. S. Partridge reported that SHALGA officers are not seeking re-election at the forthcoming AGM.

Ms. S. Glen reported that a Safety Awareness Evening is being held at the Baptist Church on 11th October at 7.30pm covering safety on roads and pavements to which everyone is welcome to attend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)

