

**DRAFT MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON
MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM.**

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. J. Beavis (for items 220 to 228), J. Fennelly, D. Holmes, D. Horn, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, R. Volkwyn and L. Waller.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Cllr. H. Johnson (District Councillor)
Together with 2 (two) members of the public

Public comment

Mrs. Tracey Ashmeade reported that her husband and herself, had taken over as managers of The Hedingham Sports and Social Club. They could see the potential of improving the club and wish to build it up for the benefit of the whole community and families. They wish to improve marketing and advertising including posters on parish notice boards and items in the parish magazine. The sign in front of the club building will be reinstated. Mrs. L. Waller offered to provide a link to the PC website and the events calendar. Mr. D. Holmes enquired about meals. Sunday lunches will be reintroduced and may extend to evenings. Councillors referred to the lack of heating in the past and Mrs. Ashmeade confirmed that the building will be heated to try and encourage organizations to return. The Chairman and Councillors wished the club good luck in the future.

There was no other public comment.

211. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. S. Glen (no reason given), E. Jones (illness), D. Finch and W. Scattergood

212. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

213. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 13th January 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2014, having been circulated, were taken as read and subject to the addition of 'Council' in minute 197 (a) were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

214. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **Oxford Meadow**

The Chairman reported that in connection with the resident's application for Village Green status upon land at Oxford Meadow objections have been received from BDC and a response is awaited from GCH.

b) **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Chairman confirmed that details of the Annual Parish Meeting had been included in the last Parish Magazine and will also appear in the next Parish Magazine.

There were no other matters arising.

215. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that progress was being made with the Welcome Packs. Paul Clark Printing had provided costings and 500 outer covers was an economical number. Advertising and funding from two other sources was outlined.

216. **Youth Council Report**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that the request for a BMX track had not yet been considered by the Youth Council but will be raised at its next meeting.

217. **County Councillor's Report**

In the absence of Mr. D. Finch no report was given.

218. **District Councillor's Report**

Mr. H. Johnson reported on the following:

- a) The severe flooding, the number of trees fallen into the River Colne and the necessity of the Environment Agency to remove the trees and dredge the river.
- b) He had attended a recent JAG meeting when concern was raised about rural crimes including the theft of oil.
- c) Many rural lanes were deteriorating particularly in the centre and the lane between Alderford Street and Sheepcote Road remains badly flooded.

Arising from this report Mr. A. Law confirmed that the floodgates at both watermills had been open since before Christmas. Mr. A. Prill agreed that the Environment Agency need to dredge rivers. The Chairman reported that the number of PCSOs in SH had been reduced from two to one and it was agreed that the Clerk enquires with Essex Police when the PCSO will be replaced. Mrs. L. Waller reported upon a good response from Essex Police following a recent incident. Mr. D. Holmes referred to the significant saving by ECC with not gritting the roads this winter and asked if the money saved could be transferred to repairing potholes and clearing out drains in the highway, which Mr. Johnson agreed to raise with Mr. D. Finch.

219. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 10th and 24th January 2014, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

(Mrs. J. Beavis arrived at the meeting)

220. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2014, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

Arising from these minutes, Mr. D. Holmes thanked Mrs. G. Massey for her letter in the Halstead Gazette in connection with the GOR, which had clarified the position.

A long discussion then took place upon revisions to the GOR regulations. Mr. S. Partridge and Mrs. L. Waller raised questions, which Mr. D. Holmes, Mr. A. Prill and the Chairman answered. This included the definition of glass shades, windmills and inappropriate paraphernalia – such as beer cans left on one plot, which was deplored. The Chairman explained that the R&A Committee preferred fresh flowers in the GOR but sometimes other arrangements were acceptable. The issue had arisen because two residents had spoken to Mr. Holmes and the Clerk asking SHPC to consider revising its regulations to stop artificial or plastic flowers in the GOR and to get into line with Diocesan regulations which apply to the adjoining Churchyard. Unfortunately this sensitive subject had caused concern as a result of a misleading and incorrect report in the Halstead Gazette for which the newspaper had since printed an apology and correction. Mr. J. Fennelly reported that he had spoken to the family referred to in the newspaper who had accepted that they had no issue with SHPC. Mr. Holmes stated that another family had reported items from one plot encroaching onto another plot, which had been quickly resolved. Mr. J. Skittrall reported that since the articles in the Halstead Gazette several plots had been tidied up by the families and therefore there was a significant improvement in the appearance of the GOR. Members of the R&A Committee reported that they had carefully considered revisions to the regulations at length at two meetings. Mrs. J. Beavis considered that SHPC should accept the revisions and the decisions made by the R&A Committee. Mr. Partridge enquired if families had been informed of the changes to the regulations and this question will be referred back to the R&A Committee for review and to consider a notice/article in the Parish Magazine.

221. **To consider quotes for second hand container to replace container on Recreation Ground**

The Chairman reported that the container on the Recreation Ground needs to be repaired or replaced because of holes in the roof. The R&A Committee recommended replacement with a second hand container but require authority for the expenditure.

Mr. R. Volkwyn reported that it will cost about £700 - £800 to repair the roof. The floor was also rusty but the extent of any floor repairs could not be ascertained. Mr. Volkwyn had obtained three quotes for a second hand container to include transportation costs, the removal of the old container and painting the replacement green. The three quotes were £1600, £1800 and just over £2000. Mrs. L. Waller enquired about size and it was confirmed that the replacement will be exactly the same size as the existing. It was

proposed by Mrs. J. Beavis, seconded by Mr. S. Partridge and carried that an order is placed for a second hand container for £1600 and that it is paid for out of the budget for 2013-14.

222. **To consider repairs to shed roof on Recreation Ground**

Mr. R. Volkwyn reported that he had obtained two alternative quotes for replacing the shed roof as follows:

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| a. | Unduline | £575 |
| b. | Felt | £295 |

Although more expensive unduline was recommended because it will not need replacing so often as felt and it is more vandal proof. It was proposed by Mr. R. Volkwyn, seconded by Mrs. J. Beavis and carried that the quote of £575 for onduline is accepted. It was agreed to ask BH to clean down and creosote the walls when conditions are suitable.

223. **Update on proposed allotments**

The Clerk reported that the results of enquiries with BDC and ECC were awaited so a valuation had not yet been requested. Councillors expressed concern that the land may have flooded recently and that it may be liable to flooding in the future. It was therefore agreed that the possibility of flooding should be investigated and to ask the valuer for his professional opinion upon flooding as this may have some bearing on the value of the land.

224. **To consider the development of a local heritage list**

Mrs. L. Waller reported that the Planning Committee had at the request of BDC, considered the development of a local heritage list, the completion of a response form and the appointment of a representative to recommend heritage assets in SH. This item had been placed on the agenda so that it could be considered by Councillors who were not members of the Planning Committee. The idea had originated from a heritage group in Braintree and Bocking, which suggested a list all the 'Courtauld' buildings in the Braintree District, is compiled. This was supported by BDC, which desires to identify other heritage assets in the district that are not statutorily listed. Mrs. Waller was concerned that the list may become meaningless and be disregarded by planners. Mr. A. Prill suggested that SHPC Planning Committee compiles its own list. Mr. A. Law provided the example of the Baptist Church, which is not a listed building, but is an important building and part of the heritage of SH. Mr. H. Johnson supported the provision of photographic evidence of buildings in SH. The current proposal by BDC was to restrict the list to buildings but the Clerk suggested that BDC is asked to expand it to include parks, gardens, archaeological and industrial sites. He reported that he had already been appointed to the BDC team as one of the representatives of the Essex Industrial Archaeology Group and could also support SH but recommended that SHPC also appoints a Councillor. Mrs. J. Beavis supported the heritage list and offered to be the SHPC representative. It was understood that Hedingham Heritage Society had also been invited to participate and it was suggested that SHPC could work with HHS. Following a long discussion it was proposed by Mrs. L. Waller, seconded by Mr. J. Skittrall and carried that SHPC does not participate because the list would not have any benefit without statutory teeth and would be too bureaucratic.

225. **To confirm the appointment of Mrs. K. Hove as Relief Clerk**

The Chairman reported that the vacancy for a Relief Clerk had been advertised and there had been one applicant. On 31st January the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk had interviewed Mrs. Kathie Hove, a former resident of SH who now lives in Pentlow and is Clerk of Pentlow Parish Council. The interview panel recommended that Mrs. Hove is appointed on a trial period expiring early autumn 2014. Mrs. L. Waller questioned her computer skills because many PC websites are managed by Clerks and not voluntarily. The Chairman confirmed that Mrs. Hove has IT skills. It was proposed by Mr. D. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. L. Waller and carried that the recommendation of the interview panel is accepted and that Mrs. Hove is appointed as Relief Clerk.

226. **Correspondence**

The correspondence received and listed in appendix 1 was referred to relevant Councillors for information and action. Arising from the list Mrs. L. Waller referred to the letter from BDC relating to public engagement of Braintree Councils pre submission site allocations and development management plan and reported that this item was on the agenda for consideration at SHPC Planning Committee meeting on 14th

February. Mrs. J. Beavis asked if this item could thereafter be referred back to the full SHPC for ratification, which Mrs. Waller agreed.

227. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Mrs. J. Beavis, seconded by Mr. R. Volkwyn and carried that the accounts are paid.

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

Mr. D. Horn reported fly-tipping along the lane to the sewage treatment works off Hulls Mill Lane, which the Clerk agreed to report to BDC Clean Team.

Mr. D. Holmes thanked Mr. J. Skittrall for arranging the replacement oak tree on the Recreation Ground in memory of the late Dennis Lock.

Mr. R. Volkwyn reported that further rubbish had been dumped at the entrance to the former dairy at Prayers Hill, which the Clerk had asked BDC Clean Team to remove. BDC had declined because the site is in private ownership. The Clerk had therefore reported the fly-tipping to the owner who had arranged to have it cleared quickly.

Mr. Volkwyn expressed concern about large quantities of water still flowing across Rectory Road as reported at the last meeting. The Clerk reported that he had already sent three emails to ECC Highways about this problem and had copied in Mr. D. Finch with each. He agreed to continue to pursue it.

Mr. A. Law reported that the gully under the road at Alderford Street had been cleared out and was working well.

Mr. S. Partridge asked if new Councillors would write articles for the Parish Magazine.

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