

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 10th DECEMBER 2012 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey
Present: Cllrs. C. Cannell, S. Glen, R. Green, D. Holmes, A. Law, S. Partridge, J. Skittrall, F. Swallow and L. Waller
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor)
Together with a PCSO from Essex Police and 6 (six) members of the public

Public comment

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chairman read out the relevant extract from SHPC Standing Orders regarding public comment.

The following item was raised:

Mrs. A. Larkin asked for an update with regard to the culvert/crossing for HRW, which will be answered during the meeting. (Please see minute no. 200a. below).

194. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (attending BDC meeting), E. Jones (work commitment), A. Prill (in USA), H. Johnson and W. Scattergood

195. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

196. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 12th November 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2012, having been circulated, were taken as read and subject to an amendment from two letters to one letter in paragraph 191 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

197. **Matters arising from those minutes**

Minute 181 – Wethersfield Road

It was reported that the barriers in Wethersfield Road were temporary, until a permanent retaining wall is constructed. In the meantime ECC has ruled out the use of traffic lights.

Minute 189 – Hedingham School

Mrs. G. Massey reported that she had spoken to the Chairman of Governors and to the Bursar of Hedingham School and that the School would be pleased to accept a grant of £1,000, conditional upon a new Sports Hall being built. It was agreed to write a letter of support to the School when required.

198. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that she had checked with Sgt. Wright of Essex Police prior to the meeting and there had been no reports of ASB in the Recreation Ground since the previous meeting.

199. **Youth Council Report**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that two residents of Recreation Ground had attended a recent Youth Club meeting. Ms. M. Hine supported the Youth Club, had researched Youth Shelters and could see the advantage of them. Brief details were given of a forthcoming youth event at the Village Hall.

200. **County Councillor's Report**

Mr. D. Finch reported upon the following:

a. A meeting with Mr. R. Jamieson and Mr. A. Corder-Birch when funding for repairing the retaining wall at Alderford Street had been discussed. This was estimated to cost about £30 to £40,000 and will be considered at the Braintree District Local Highways Panel Meeting on 17th January 2013. He confirmed that Councillors, members of HRW and the public are welcome to attend this meeting and to speak under public comment for up to three minutes each. Mr. Finch was very hopeful that funding to

repair the retaining wall will be arranged at that meeting so that the culvert/crossing can be installed immediately afterwards.

b. ECC had been very active with the salting of roads.

c. At the last Braintree District Local Highways Panel meeting held on 22nd November 2012 a new snow clearing machine for use on pavements had been considered. BDC should be contacting the larger parishes with details.

d. ECC is working with District Councils in Essex regarding Localizing Support for Council Tax. Mrs. Massey raised an email from Mr. P. Partridge of BDC regarding a recommendation from BDC's Local Highways Liaison Group to devolve responsibility for undertaking minor highway works to Parish Councils, using their own resources. Mrs. L. Waller expressed concern that PC's are being asked to carry out highway work voluntarily and with no funding, which should be done by ECC Highways. Mr. Finch explained the background to the email from BDC but made it clear that ECC is not endorsing the proposal from BDC. Mr. S. Partridge stated that SHPC had included a parish lengthsman in the Community Budget, which had been declined. It was proposed by Mrs. Waller, seconded by Mr. Swallow and carried that SHPC asks for a parish lengthsman, providing it is properly funded.

201. **District Councillor's Reports**

The Clerk read a written report from Mrs. J. Beavis regarding the following items:

- a) Allen Reid, CEO, BDC is retiring and Nicola Beech, formerly BDC Corporate Director is new CEO.
- b) BDC should determine the Premdor/Rockways Master Plan including the alternative option for the provision of a registered care home on the Rockways part of the site and 0.25ha for new surgery.
- c) BDC will consider Welfare Reform and the reduction in housing benefit.
- d) It will also consider Technical Reform of Council Tax including the removal of discount on second or empty homes and to bring back empty homes into use.
- e) A discussion paper is being sent to PCs regarding PSG in good time for the Parish Summit on 31st January 2013.

202. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 16th November 2012, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

203. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Arising from these minutes, it was suggested that the Youth Shelter is monitored by CCTV weekly not daily or once every two days. Mr. Skittrall claimed that he had said weekly at the meeting but others disagreed. Mrs. Waller and Mr. Partridge were both concerned about the CCTV being used as a surveillance tool. With regard to minute 79 Mrs. Massey claimed that the reference to the grant application required amendment but others disagreed.

204. **Meeting with local Doctors to take the new Medical Centre and Doctor's Surgery forward**

Mrs. G. Massey reported that a meeting of SHPC Planning Committee with local Doctors and Mrs. A. Weatherley, to take forward the new Medical Centre and Doctor's Surgery had been arranged for 19th December. It was confirmed that Mr. A. Prill had been invited to attend this meeting.

205. **Parish Summit**

It was agreed that Mrs. G. Massey and Mr. J. Skittrall represent SHPC at the BDC/RCCE Parish Summit on 31st January 2013.

206. **To consider production of a Community Engagement Strategy**

Mrs. G. Massey reported that the idea of a Community Engagement Strategy had arisen at a recent EALC Chairman's Day, which she had attended. It related to engagement with the community, but was mainly for larger authorities. Mr. S. Partridge suggested that Mrs. Massey circulates a draft for consideration.

207. **Report of meeting with ECC**

The Clerk reported on a meeting with Mr. D. Finch and Mr. R. Jameson of ECC as follows:

- a. Inspection of drains in highways, particularly along the A1017 following complaints from residents about blocked drains. The drains had been cleared to reduce the risk of flooding.
- b. The new brick wall between the former Swan and Swan Chase was inspected and found to be satisfactory.
- c. Excavations adjacent to the pavement in Potter Street inspected following complaints from residents about mud on pavement and damage to a driveway.
- d. Repairs to retaining wall in advance of culvert/crossing. (Please see minute 200a. above)
- e. Transfer of land south of Station Road from ECC to SHPC for HRW – high priority.
- f. Transfer of Birds Green Village Green from ECC to SHPC.
- g. Transfer of the Willow Plantation, south of Alderford Mill from ECC to SHPC, which may be more complex because of commercial implications.

The Clerk explained that in connection with e. f. & g. he is working on expressions of interest and business cases, but progress is slow because of bureaucracy at County Hall.

Arising from this item, Mrs. L. Waller reported water on the road at Rectory Road and it was agreed to invite Mr. S. Partridge to future meetings with Highway Officers.

208. 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. It was agreed that Mrs. L. Waller would represent SHPC at a housing needs meeting on 8th January 2013 being arranged by BDC and GCH.
- b. Items 10, 11 & 12 are referred to the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee.
- c. The Clerk will order a quantity of bus and train maps for Essex. (Post meeting note – maps ordered, received and in Councillors trays and copies also available for members of Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee).
- d. With regard to a letter from the Open Spaces Society relating to the attack on village greens it was agreed to write and support OSS and oppose proposed legislation.
- e. Mrs. L. Waller referred to the letter from BDC relating to Localizing Support for Council Tax. It was noted that further information is to follow, which it is hoped to receive before SHPC finalizes its Precept at the January 2013 meeting.

209. Accounts for payment

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Mr. J. Skittrall, seconded by Mrs. L. Waller and carried that the accounts are paid together with an additional account from Supreme Clean Limited for £55.92 for the provision of cleaning materials for public toilets.

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

Mr. D. Holmes reported a serious defect in the A1124 road near Brook Street Farm following repair of a water main. As the site is in Halstead, the Clerk agreed to report it to Halstead Council.

Mr. A. Law reported that the millwright at Alderford Mill had restored a pair of mill stones and it is likely that corn will be ground next year.

Mr. A. Law reported that a grille had been removed from a culvert in Alderford Street.

Mr. S. Partridge requested the following agenda items for the January 2013 meeting:

- a. Legacy Day 2013 and to ask the Finance and Funding Committee to consider match funding for Legacy Day.
- b. To consider amendments to the Complaints Handling procedure, particularly vexatious complaints.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)

