

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. C. Cannell, S. Glen, R. Green, E. Jones, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, F. Swallow and L. Waller
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. H. Johnson (District Councillor)
Together with Sgt. D. Wright and PCSO K. Chapman of Essex Police, Miss. J. Laken, Village Agent and 15 (fifteen) members of the public

Public comment

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

- a) Miss. J. Laken, Village Agent, reported on the following:
 - i. Carers Rights Day at Priory Hall, Colchester Road, Halstead on 30th November from 10am.
 - ii. RCCE has started a new oil buying scheme for bulk buying of oil to make savings.
 - iii. BDC has arranged another four week computer training course at Hedingham School.
- b) Ms. M. Hine stated she was representing residents living around the Recreation Ground who are happy with the improvements to the skatepark, providing it is quieter, but strongly object to the proposed Youth Shelter. She considered that this will not reduce ASB, nuisance, noise, under age drinking, smoking, drugs or sex and will provide somewhere for the youth to hide. She stated that the proposed Youth Shelter needs careful consideration.
- c) Mr. M. Tucker asked for an alcohol ban on the Recreation Ground and the whole village.
- d) Mrs. L. Tucker considered that a Youth Shelter will make the problem of ASB worse.
- e) Sgt. D. Wright of Essex Police stated that an application for an alcohol free zone must be made to the Local Authority (BDC) rather than the Police. He gave details of recent incidents reported to the Police in the village of which only two related to nuisance youths or ASB and that none related to the Recreation Ground. He considered that ASB in SH was far less than it was a few years ago. He confirmed that the Police will deal with all ASB reported and asked residents to report ASB for which Police contact details are on the internet.

The Chairman confirmed that all comments from the public would be taken into consideration.

174. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. J. Beavis (attending another meeting), D. Holmes (work commitment). D. Finch and W. Scattergood

175. **Declarations of interest**

Mrs. E. Jones declared a non pecuniary interest in connection with an email from Mr. A. Bacon to be considered under correspondence as it related to her husband and High Street Green Village Green. There were no other declarations of interest.

176. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 8th October 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2012, having been circulated, were taken as read were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

177. **Matters arising from those minutes**

Minute 162 – Brick wall adjacent to the former Swan PH

Mrs. L. Waller reported that the brick wall adjacent to the former Swan PH had been completed.

178. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported upon her attendance at the recent EALC Chairman's Day course. She also reported upon the BDC LDF Panel Meeting on 7th November when the following two items relating to SH had been considered:

- a) The Premdor site – The land to be set aside for the new Doctor’s Surgery should be increased from 0.2ha to 0.25ha. At the consultation with Bloor Homes on 14th November it was agreed to ask if the additional land can come from housing and not out of other community uses.
- b) The former Tanners Dairy – re-designation was suggested of B1 industrial and D1 leisure and not housing. A meeting is to be arranged between BDC Officers, District and all Parish Councillors to discuss this. The Chairman read an email from Emma Goodings of BDC suggesting an early meeting but it was decided to ask BDC to defer this meeting until 2013 so that Mrs. W. Scattergood can attend as she is the only LDF Panel Member with a working knowledge of SH.

179. **Youth Council Report**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that no meeting was held the previous week. Mrs. Massey reported that there were no incidents in SH at either Halloween or Bonfire Night. Thanks were recorded to Mrs. Anne Thrussell for arranging trips during half term to keep the youth occupied.

180. **County Councillor’s Report**

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

181. **District Councillor’s Reports**

Mr. H. Johnson reported on the following items:

- a) Efforts to prevent Ash Tree Dieback but there were no plans to seal off footpaths.
- b) The former Dairy site needs employment.
- c) The Police Commissioners Election on 15th November.
- d) The reason for the barrier/obstruction in Wethersfield Road was unknown.
- e) He will continue to help Hedingham Environmental Volunteers with footpath maintenance work.
- f) He had received a number of complaints from residents claiming poor consultation about proposed improvements to Skatepark and the Youth Shelter at the Recreation Ground.
- g) Mr. Day’s site, adjacent to Rippers Court and the Premdor site was being considered for employment use as it is designated for industry.

Arising from the above report the following items were raised:

- i) The Clerk reported that Mr. D. Finch had notified SHPC that the barrier in Wethersfield Road had been installed by ECC Highways to protect Tortoise House. Mr. F. Swallow was concerned about the risk of accidents and was particularly critical that it had been erected without consultation with SHPC. The Clerk was asked to enquire with ECC its future plans, how long it will remain and if in the meantime traffic lights can be provided in the interests of road safety.
- ii) Mrs. E. Jones was concerned about ash trees on her property and the cost of removing them if they have to be felled or destroyed.
- iii) Mr. S. Partridge confirmed that residents were keen for employment units on Mr. Day’s site.

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

- a) Will attend Premdor consultation event on 14th November and support SHPC.
- b) Delighted that additional land for Medical Centre was agreed by BDC.
- c) Will attend meeting requested by BDC regarding the former Tanners Dairy site and will support employment and leisure uses.
- d) Meeting with the Boundary Commission regarding District Wards and Member Numbers (but not Parish Wards). BDC will be holding a full council meeting in January 2013 to debate this issue.
- e) In partnership with RCCE, BDC is arranging a town and parish evening on 31st January 2013 to which two representatives of SHPC will be invited.

182. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 5th and 26th October 2012, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

183. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 19th October 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Arising from these minutes, Mrs. G. Massey reported that the Finance and Funding Committee had agreed match funding for the Youth Shelter and the BDC Cabinet Member for People had been consulted and there was no evidence of any ASB around any Youth Shelters

in the Braintree District. Mrs. Massey had searched the internet and numerous websites state that Youth Shelters decreases ASB and she read out relevant extracts. Mr. S. Partridge expanded upon this research and read out further extracts and confirmed that all Youth Shelters referred to in other locations were in the centre of houses. He reported that Youth Shelters reduce ASB and alcohol related crimes by 70%. Mr. A. Prill stated that SHPC had considered a Youth Shelter at the request of the Youth Council and there was much evidence to support the idea. He emphasized that if it goes ahead it should be monitored closely. Monitoring was delegated to the R&A Committee and Mr. J. Skittrall confirmed that it would be considered at the next R&A Meeting. In view of public concern, Dr. R. Green requested a well advertised meeting with residents without any time limits. The Chairman rejected this proposal because SHPC had already made a resolution to proceed. Mrs. L. Waller understands the public's views, which have been taken into account but SHPC, must take into consideration requests from all age groups. Mr. J. Skittrall reported that much time had been spent considering previous projects on the Recreation Ground such as the MUGA and Skatepark, which had all been monitored with no problems and therefore felt that the Youth Shelter would not be detrimental to residents.

184. **Finance and Funding Committee**

The minutes of the Finance and Funding Committee Meeting held 12th October 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Arising from these minutes Mrs. Massey reiterated that the committee proposed a nil increase in the budget for 2013-2014.

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

The minutes of the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee Meeting held 17th October 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Miss. C. Cannell reported that new bus timetables had been published but no buses go to Braintree Railway Station. Ms. S. Glen and Mr. S. Partridge will both attend the Bus Passenger Meeting on 13th November when this issue will be raised. Mrs. E. Jones stated that she opposes yellow lines in SH, which makes the village "too urban".

186. **Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group**

The minutes of the Footpaths and PROW Advisory Group Meeting held on 16th October 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report. Mrs. L. Waller expanded upon the work of Hedingham Environmental Volunteers, which was a vital group, who had carried out very good work during the last year. Mr. B. Read had offered to be the P3 coordinator and Mrs. Waller and Mr. Read will be joint coordinators for Hedingham Environmental Volunteers, which will continue the work of maintaining the footpaths. This decision had been approved by HRW.

187. **HRW Report**

Dr. R. Green gave a report of a meeting of HRW held 22nd October when Brian Stacey had been thanked for all his work for HRW over the last few years. A balance of £633 is in HRW account. New volunteers are required for training for use of trimmers. Mr. J. Nicholson has been elected as Acting Chairman for the remainder of the year. The ash trees had been inspected for ash die back and no evidence found. Dr. R. Green asked everyone to resist felling ash trees if the disease is found. Mr. R. Parmee and BDC engineers had inspected the site of the culvert and the report had been circulated to all Councillors. Mr. A. Law was thanked for operating the floodgates to reduce the water level to facilitate inspection.

188. **To consider the feasibility of acquiring the former Sugar Loaves PH for community use**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that the post auction sale of the former Sugar Loaves PH was progressing. If it had not been sold it would have made a good community facility as in the centre of the village near the Premdor site and at the Annual Parish Meeting SHPC was asked to look into its acquisition. Mr. A. Law stated that insurance would be expensive as it is a listed building. The Clerk was asked to investigate inclusion on the Community Asset Register and report back. Mrs. L. Waller suggested that a business case is written for a community building. A working group comprising of Ms. S. Glen, Mr. S. Partridge, Mr. J. Skittrall and Mr. F. Swallow was formed plus Mrs. G. Massey and Mr. A. Prill, if required.

189. **To express support for Hedingham School's initiative to provide a Sports Centre**

Mrs. G. Massey reported that the Hedingham School Bursar had made a good case to the BDC LDF Panel for a Sports Hall, which could be used out of school hours and had asked for a contribution, which was not

approved by the Panel. If the School becomes an Academy by 1st January 2013 then more funding will be available. The Bursar is putting together a funding application and it will help if evidence can be given of community support by way of both a letter and donation. Following some discussion, during which it was agreed to support the School and an initial donation of £250 was suggested, it was proposed by Mrs. G. Massey, seconded by Miss C. Cannell and carried that the Chairman reverts to the Bursar to ascertain exactly what is required in the letter of support and an indication of the amount of the donation.

190. **Finance Agreement between The Veolia Environmental Trust and SHPC**

It was proposed by Mr. S. Partridge, seconded by Mr. A. Prill and carried that the Chairman is authorized to sign a Finance Agreement between The Veolia Environmental Trust and SHPC for grant funding towards improvements to the skatepark in the Recreation Ground.

191. **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. Letter from BDC regarding HRW – The Clerk confirmed that he had replied to BDC stating that SHPC requires the transfer of the freehold and is not interested in a lease. An acknowledgment had been received from Janet Whyte who is consulting Paul Partridge regarding transfer of the freehold, but this will not occur until (i) the crossing is complete in Spring 2013 and (ii) the ‘Wimpey’ land is transferred to BDC by the end of 2012.
- b. An email from HRW to Bloor Homes asking for construction of a path across ‘Premdor’ land prior to transfer of the freehold to SHPC will be raised at the consultation on 14th November 2012.
- c. Two letters from Mrs. A. Weatherley relating to (i) Work hub and (ii) Doctor’s Surgery were noted and these items will be raised with Bloor Homes at the consultation on 14th November 2012.
- d. Two letters from Mr. J. Nicholson to Mr. J. Skittrall relating to issues about the skatepark and proposed Youth Shelter on the Recreation Ground were noted. Mr. Skittrall agreed to reply to both letters.
- e. An email from Mr. A. Bacon relating to issues at High Street Green was considered. It was agreed that these issues were not a matter for the PC but for the Police to whom Mr. Bacon will be referred.
- f. Letters of complaint from two residents of Oak Walk relating to hedge cutting were considered. The Clerk had replied to one letter but the second letter did not require a reply. The hedge cutting work had been satisfactorily completed and it was agreed that no further action was required.

192. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment. It was proposed by Miss. C. Cannell, seconded by Mr. J. Skittrall and carried that the accounts are paid subject to deletion of £2500 to SHALGA.

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

The Chairman thanked members of the public for staying for the whole PC meeting, which had provided them with a good insight into the work carried out by the PC.

Mr. J. Skittrall reported that he had laid a wreath on behalf of SHPC at the Remembrance Service. Mrs. E. Jones added that the service was well supported.

Mr. Skittrall stated that 96 people had attended the recent HTA dinner, which had resulted in good reports.

Mr. A. Law reported that the brook at Alderford Street had overflowed and thanked all volunteers who had helped clear it. Arising from this item, Mrs. L. Waller reported that the grille will be modified.

Mr. S. Partridge reported upon further trips being organized for the Community Mini Bus including one to Cambridge on 10th January 2013. All trips are advertised on SHPC website.

Mr. A. Prill suggested a preliminary meeting prior to the consultation by Bloor Homes on 14th November. and a stakeholders meeting comprising of Bloor Homes, BDC, NHS, Local Doctors, Mrs. A. Weatherley and SHPC to take the Doctor’s Surgery scheme forward. It was agreed to agenda this for the next meeting.

Mr. S. Partridge reported upon comments made by Mr. G. Butland at the LDF meeting on 7th November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)

