

**DRAFT MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON
MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM.**

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. J. Beavis (for items 192 to 209), J. Fennelly, S. Glen, E. Jones, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, R. Volkwyn and L. Waller.
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

Public comment

There was no public comment.

192. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. D. Holmes (work commitment), D. Horn (recovering from operation), D. Finch, H. Johnson and W. Scattergood

193. **Declarations of interest**

Mrs. J. Beavis declared an interest in connection with land at Oxford Meadow as a member of BDC.
There were no other declarations of interest.

194. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 9th December 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2013, having been circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

195. **Matters arising from those minutes**

a) **Play Area at Parkfields**

The Chairman reported that the play area at Parkfields had been added to the BDC Community Asset Register but nothing had been heard from GCH to date.

There were no other matters arising.

196. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported upon the following:

- a) That resident's had complained that street lights were out on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. It was agreed to ask ECC if street lights can be left on during these nights.
- b) That the Welcome Pack had been discussed with the Bursar of Hedingham School and will be progressed.

197. **Youth Council Report**

Mr. S. Partridge reported upon the following:

- a) Graffiti on the Youth Shelter and Skate Park, which the youth had tried to remove but without success.
- b) The requirement for a few car parking bays just inside the Recreation Ground, which will be referred to the R&A Committee for consideration.
- c) One Hedingham team had achieved success in the Essex Jail Break competition.
- d) Request for Motor Cross track – Mr. A. Prill will make enquiries with local clubs in Braintree and Halstead regarding the availability of (a) Foxborough Hills and (b) Beazley End sites and report back to Mr. Partridge.
- e) Request for BMX track – Mr. J. Skittrall confirmed that a BMX track was proposed for the Village Hall grounds but abandoned because of lack of feedback from the youth. However Mr. Skittrall will endeavour to resurrect the proposed BMX track at the Village Hall.

198. **County Councillor's Report**

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

199. **District Councillor's Report**

Mrs. J. Beavis reported on the following:

- a) That she had visited 49 Swan Street on 12th January 2014 when the open day had been well attended.
- b) Wicksteeds will shortly commence installing new play equipment at Oxford Meadow.
- c) Mr. R. Volkwyn and Mrs. Beavis had attended the BDC volunteer community transport driver's event on 23rd December, which was well supported.

200. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 6th December 2013, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

201. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 13th December 2013, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

202. **Transport and Highways Committee**

The minutes of the Transport and Highways Committee Meeting held on 18th December 2013, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

203. **Finance and Funding Committee**

The minutes of the Finance and Funding Committee Meeting held on 20th December 2013, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

204. **To settle Precept for 2014-2015 and complete Precept form**

The proposed budget recommended by the Finance and Funding Committee was circulated to all Councillors. The Chairman explained the new format and of the desire to keep the Band D equivalent the same. The request from Sible Hedingham Village Hall for a grant had been carefully considered but rather than giving a grant to the Village Hall, the Committee recommended offering help to local organizations with hire charges, which in turn should help the Village Hall with bookings income. This recommendation was approved. It was proposed by Mr. R. Volkwyn, seconded by Mr. J. Skittrall and carried that the budget is approved and that the net precept for 2014-2015 should be £82,549.00. The precept form was completed, signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the RFO.

205. **To promote attendance at training courses**

The Chairman promoted attendance at EALC training courses and reminded Councillors that there was money in the budget to attend training courses.

206. **Update on proposed allotments**

The Clerk reported that Mrs. G. Massey, Mr. S. Partridge and himself had inspected some land, which SHALGA had agreed was suitable for allotments. He had made enquiries with BDC to ascertain the current designation of the land and if COU is likely to be granted, if necessary. Enquiries are also being made with ECC Highways regarding access and an adjacent PROW. It was agreed to try and retain the existing vehicular access onto the public road if possible. The Clerk was authorized to obtain a valuation of the land, when the result of the enquiries is known. Three valuers were considered and Oswick Limited of Halstead was selected. It was noted that just over £40,000 will be available from S106 monies from the former Premdor site towards purchasing land for allotments. It was agreed to obtain details of the tariffs from other allotments in the area including Gosfield.

(Mrs. J. Beavis declared an interest in connection with the following item as a member of BDC)

In connection with land at Oxford Meadow, where allotments were requested, Mr. S. Partridge reported that it appeared that BDC had not obtained permission from the Secretary of State to sell this land to GCH. Mrs. L. Waller considered that the sale should be challenged with the Secretary of State. It was understood that Mr. & Mrs. Babbs were waiting for a decision upon their application for this land to be granted Village Green status. It was proposed by Mr. A. Prill, seconded by Mr. J. Skittrall and carried, with Mrs. J. Beavis abstaining, that the Parish Council ask the Secretary of State to intervene and provide an independent decision on the basis that (a) there is significant affordable housing elsewhere in the village, (b) that BDC

admits in its public notice that the land at Oxford Meadow is an open space and (c) that SHPC has offered £1,000 for this land, which is more than the proposed consideration of £1 intended to be paid by GCH.

207. **Report upon Legacy Day 2014**

Mr. S. Partridge reported that a grant had been applied for to Community Games 2014 and £600 was included in SHPC budget. Proposed dates were discussed with the 5th July being the first choice and 12th July second choice. It was noted that Legacy Day could coincide with the Tour de France, which will pass through Wethersfield and Finchingfield on 7th July.

208. **Correspondence**

The correspondence received and listed in appendix 1 was referred to relevant Councillors for information and action.

209. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment together with an account from Hedingham Fitted Interiors for mirror in ladies toilet for £34.08. It was proposed by Mrs. J. Beavis, seconded by Mr. A. Law and carried that the accounts are paid.

(Mrs. J. Beavis left the meeting)

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

Mr. A. Prill expressed concern that water voles may delay the construction of the footbridge between Alderford Street and HRW.

Mr. R. Volkwyn referred to the large quantity of water across Rectory Road from Grays Hall Meadow. Ms. S. Glen reported that it was not as bad this year as in previous years. Mr. Volkwyn disagreed and pointed out that if the water freezes it will make the road potentially dangerous. Councillors considered that the culvert under the road may be blocked and it was agreed to remind ECC Highways to investigate and clear the culvert and to also copy in Mr. D. Finch.

Mr. J. Skittrall reported that Hedingham Twinning Association will be entertaining friends from Choisy-au-Bac at the Village Hall on 3rd May 2014.

Mr. A. Law reported that the water level at Alderford Mill had been adjusted so that corn can be ground.

Mr. S. Partridge referred to the forthcoming APM, which the Chairman agreed to promote in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk will also invite all village organizations to attend.

Mrs. L. Waller reported that 42 Swan Street is beginning to be improved with new windows. Mr. A. Prill added that the replacement of the bay window may be the subject of a future planning application.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)