

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2012 AT 6.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey
Present: Cllrs. J. Beavis, C. Cannell, R. Green, B. Howlett, E. Jones, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill, J. Skittrall, F. Swallow and L. Waller
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. A. Jenkins, ECC PROW Officer
Mr. B. Stacey, ECC Woodland Officer
Together with 9 (nine) members of the public

Fire regulations

Details were given of the fire regulations relating to the Hall and in particular the whereabouts of the fire exits, the assembly point in Parkfields and vehicles must not be removed from the Hall Car Park.

Public comment

Prior to commencement of the meeting, Mr. A. Jenkins, ECC PROW Officer made a presentation about the responsibilities of ECC and landowners in connection with PROWs. He outlined details of the 5 year programme and the P3 scheme, which includes SH. He congratulated SHPC for obtaining a grant from the CIF to replace stiles with gates and for the voluntary work carried out. Specific footpath issues relating to SH were discussed including: (a) collapsed footpath near Burnt House Farm, (b) printing of Phyllis Cox walk leaflet, (c) Gates at Crows Cross (new owner also has horses so new gates to be delivered and installed), (d) Gates at Baykers Farm (now installed) and (e) footpath maintenance costs but ECC cannot pay more than is paid to its own contractors and ECC cannot cut footpaths as often as SHPC. The main ethos of P3 is voluntary work, including maintenance and he recommended that SH has one co-ordinator who is not necessarily the Clerk or a Councillor. In connection with (a) it was agreed that this footpath must be repaired and as the cost is beyond the maintenance budget Mr. Jenkins will put in a special bid. The printing of leaflet to be deferred until footpath repaired. The service of a defect notice is not necessarily helpful but Mr. Jenkins will consider how best ECC and SHPC can work together to ensure this footpath is repaired. Mrs. J. Beavis will arrange a Footpath and PROW Advisory Group meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr. Jenkins for attending the meeting and for his presentation. There was no other public comment.

247. **Apologies for absence**

Mr. D. Holmes (illness), Mr. D. Finch, Mr. H. Johnson and Mrs. W. Scattergood

248. **Declarations of interest**

Dr. R. Green and Mr. S. Partridge declared personal interests as members of SHALGA in connection with agenda item 18 relating to the proposed use of PC meeting room free of charge by SHALGA. There were no other declarations of interest.

249. **To confirm minutes of extraordinary meeting held 6th December 2011**

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 6th December 2011, having been circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

250. **Matters arising from those minutes**

Mrs. E. Jones queried the last paragraph, which she felt was contradictory. The Chairman agreed but confirmed that the minutes were correct and had recorded the different views, which were discussed. The Chairman wished it to be placed on record, in the interests of accuracy, that the notice of motion of no confidence in the Chairman, which was purported to have been signed by six Councillors was signed by two on the day, two Councillors signed the following day and two did not sign. Mrs. G. Massey, Mr. B. Howlett, Mr. S. Partridge, Mr. A. Prill and Mrs. L. Waller reported that BDC had sent them letters stating that there has been no finding against them by the Allegations Panel in respect of the Code of Conduct.

Mrs. L. Waller reported that she had written to the Chief Executive of BDC and to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government about the process.

251. **To confirm minutes of previous meeting held 12th December 2011**

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 12th December 2011, having been circulated, were taken as read and subject to amendments to paragraphs 225(b), 242 and 244(c) were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

252. **Matters arising from those minutes**

Mr. A. Prill again raised the issue of the presence of County and District Councillors at Parish Council meetings and that their arrival and departure should be recorded in the minutes. The Clerk explained that County and District Councillors were not part of the Parish Council decision making process and therefore it was only the arrival and departure of Parish Councillors which must be recorded. Following some discussion it was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting. There were no other matters arising.

253. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that she had attended a recent JAG meeting and that a few anti theft kits are now available from Braintree Police Station. It was agreed that Mr. A. Law writes the PC report for the next Parish Magazine.

254. **Youth Council Report**

In the absence of a Youth Council representative no report was given.

255. **County Councillor's Report**

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

256. **District Councillor's Reports**

Mrs. J. Beavis reported that BDC is in the process of setting its Council Tax for 2012/13 with a zero increase. BDC had received 66 applications for the Mi Community Fund amounting to one and a half million pounds and Mrs. Beavis will support the SH applications. BDVSA will take over responsibility for the Wellbeing walks from BDC wef 1st April 2012.

Mrs. Beavis was thanked for her report.

257 **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 6th January 2012 was deferred to the next meeting.

258 **To consider Learning and Development Policy**

The Learning and Development Policy proposed by the Personnel Committee was circulated to Councillors for consideration. Mrs. E. Jones asked about the hierarchy of line managers. The Chairman advised that the Clerk is the Relief Clerk's line manager and the Chairman is the Clerk's line manager. It was proposed by Mr. F. Swallow, seconded by Mr. B. Howlett and carried that the Learning and Development Policy is adopted.

259. **To settle budget and precept for 2012-2013**

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had forwarded the tax base for 2012-13, which had showed a minor decrease but not sufficient to justify revising the figures agreed at the previous meeting. It was proposed by Mr. J. Skittrall, seconded by Mr. F. Swallow and carried that the Parish Council precepts for £90,132 for 2012-2013. The precept form was then completed and signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Clerk and RFO.

260. **Report of Alderford Street Flood Prevention Meeting**

Mr. A. Law reported upon a meeting with representatives of EA and ECC when an excellent scheme had been promoted, which will not proceed, because the property owner will not allow excavations across his land and there are also issues about responsibilities for maintenance and liability for costs.

Mrs. J. Beavis gave further details of the proposed scheme, which was very similar to one proposed during 2004 but opposed on grounds of cost. The schemes were designed to attempt to solve the flooding issues along Alderford Street and involve the construction of a ditch/pipe south east of Alderford Street into the River Colne downstream of Alderford Mill. The landowner will not consent to the scheme unless EA, ECC or BDC accepts responsibility for construction costs and thereafter maintaining it. However EA and ECC had made it clear that they will not fund the scheme save for some free excavation work and that the cost should fall upon the community. Curiously, the ECC Officers were not aware of the proposed flood lagoon at Cobbs Fenn about which they will make enquiries. It was agreed to invite EA and ECC to make a presentation of their proposals to a future SHPC meeting at 6.30pm when all residents of Alderford Street are to be invited.

261. **To consider consultation by ECC of Essex Wooded Estate Management Plan**

An email, letter, management strategy for willow plantations and nIt wp(I)-0 G-12(s)3(.I)-3()--12(s)3(.I)-Sta-4(f)8(8I)-10((s)3

Legacy Weekend, etc. (but not the water management presentation in respect of Alderford Street to which only Alderford Street residents should be invited). It was proposed by Mr. S. Partridge, seconded by Dr. R. Green and carried that another newsletter is prepared, which is to be the last newsletter before the Annual Report. The Chairman will contact and inform relevant groups about the newsletter for which all contributions are to be sent to Mr. Partridge to edit.

267. **Correspondence**

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