

## Minutes of Sible Hedingham Parish Council Meeting Held at the Village Hall, Parkfields, Sible Hedingham on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm

In the chair: Cllr R Volkwyn

Present: Cllrs G Jefferson, L Parkin, S Metson, J Stopher, L Heywood, district Cllr H Johnson, Mrs G McCoyd (clerk) and 5 members of public

### Public Comment

Part of the hedge at the football field has been cut down and the roots have been removed, is it all being cut down? Cllr R Volkwyn replied that the Parish Council had originally been advised to reduce the height of the hedge but residents in the area had been angry at the hedge being reduced so work had stopped, after a discussion with the residents a compromise had been reached, the hedge which has been cut is unsafe, it is only being held by ivy so that part of the hedge will be totally removed and new bushes/trees will be replanted in the area.

Dog fouling is getting worse in the village especially along Swan Street near the Dr.s surgery. Cllr R Volkwyn said he had spoken to the dog warden who has only been able to prosecute 3 people in a year as he has to see and photograph the dog fouling and the owner ignoring it. The clerk will email the dog warden regarding the increasing concerns (post meeting this has been done).

How soon will the Riverside Walk be finished? Cllr R Volkwyn said negotiations were taking place between BDC and the builders.

Cllr H Johnson said dog fouling was a problem across the district, it usually occurs at night but in Witham they had successfully heavily fined a dog owner. He understood that the Riverside Walk was a frustration to everyone and he will be talking to planning officers about it. He would like to see a crossing by the library and suggested the Parish Council contacted Highways again. It was noted that Highways have refused previous applications as they say there is no safe place to place a crossing, but it was agreed that the clerk will apply to Highways once again. Cllr H Johnson said that Osier House does have some clients planning to use it in the future.

### 130. Apologies for Absence

Cllr B Gardener (childcare), Cllr P Sarel (traffic), Cllr P Gammon absent.

### 131. Members declarations

There were no declarations.

### 132. To confirm the minutes of meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> February having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

133. Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

134. Chairman's Report

Cllr R Volkwyn said he had nothing to report.

135. County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr D Finch no report was given

136. To consider allowing the use of Grays Hall Meadow as a car park for the Heditude Festival

Cllr S Metson proposed the meadow be used as a car park so long as it was with the same terms and contingencies as last year, Cllr L Parkin seconded and the motion was passed.

137. To consider taking part in The Great British Spring Clean and if so to decide on a date between 22<sup>nd</sup> March-23<sup>rd</sup> April

It was agreed that the village would take part, two dates were suggested 7<sup>th</sup> April or 14<sup>th</sup> April, it was decided to contact the scouts to see which date was convenient to them.

138. To consider the purchase of a Community Public Access Defibrillator by either Managed Solution or Direct Purchase.

Cllr J stopher said there were 3 defibrillators in the village one at the Co-op, one at the school and one at the football club but he thought only the one at the Co-op was 24 hours accessible, he had received a lot of support on face book for the idea, he has used defibrillators and he is in support of another one in the village. There was a discussion about where to site one should the Parish Council agree to purchase one, Cllr L Parkin said it needed to be close to where a majority of people are based, the BT phone box was deemed unsuitable. Cllr R Volkwyn suggested this item be put on the agenda for the next meeting after more consideration.

139. To consider the purchase of CCTV signs for the car park

Cllr S Metson said it was known that there was a high drug use in the car park and signage may act as a deterrent. There was a discussion about how effective signage would be. Cllr G Jefferson said the eyes signage saying the area was being monitored had proved to be effective. Cllr S Metson proposed the sign be bought, Cllr J Stopher seconded and the motion was passed by a majority. The Cllrs would also like to encourage residents to phone 101 when they saw any drug use.

140. To receive the Accounts for payment. Appendix 1

Cllr L Parkin proposed the accounts be approved and paid, Cllr S Metson seconded, the motion was carried

141. Any other business

Cllr G Jefferson said she had been told there was a tree opposite Wash Farm at the end of FP63 that was in a dangerous condition, the clerk has reported it to Highways.

Cllr R Volkwyn said nomination packs for the forthcoming election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May were available from the clerk; he will be resigning at the next meeting which will be the last before the election.

Cllr R Volkwyn said the Thursday Club was in danger of closing due to lack of funds. He explained that there were 46 members and that originally those aged under 80 paid £5 per year to be a member whilst those aged over 80 belonged for free, they had now changed this rule so that everyone paid £5 per year, they had received money from the funds raised for the Christmas Tree and a small grant from Cllr H Johnson's community fund but were still short of the money required to keep it going. Cllr R Volkwyn proposed the Parish Council give a grant of £1000 to the Thursday Club as a one off gesture because it provided a service to the community. Cllr L Parkin seconded and the motion was carried.

The meeting closed.