

MINUTES OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PARKFIELDS, SIBLE HEDINGHAM ON MONDAY 14th JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30PM.

In the chair: Mrs. G. Massey

Present: Cllrs. J. Beavis, S. Glen, E. Jones, A. Law, S. Partridge, A. Prill and J. Skittrall,
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mr. D. Finch (County Councillor)

Together with Sgt. D. Wright and PCSO K. Chapman from Essex Police and 7 (seven) members of the public

Public comment

The following items were raised:

- a. Mr. S. Partridge reported upon the RTA in Swan Street on 4th January 2013 and the extent of speeding through the village. It was apparent that when speed checks are carried out the number of RTAs during ensuing week's decrease but when there are no speed checks RTAs appear to increase. Mr. A. Prill agreed with Mr. Partridge and requested more speed enforcement. Sgt. D. Wright stated that there had been 20 reported collisions in SH in a year. Community Speedwatch had been set up by volunteers in SH and not by SHPC. Mr. Partridge took issue with the efficacy of Speedwatch and asked Sgt. Wright to produce evidence that it works. Sgt. Wright disagreed as Speedwatch, in his opinion, works well in other villages. Sgt. Wright stated that ECC, SHPC and the Police need to work together upon traffic calming issues. A suggestion about the involvement of schools with speeding issues will probably proceed as it has been successful in Braintree. Mr. J. Skittrall reported that the illuminated speed sign in Yeldham Road is activated by over 80% of vehicles, which are speeding. (see minute 231 below)
- b. Mr. Partridge asked for more visible policing in SH. Sgt. Wright explained the current position regarding police cover and reported upon the arrest of a burglar, responsible for numerous burglaries in SH, which had been given high priority recently.
- c. Mr. & Mrs. A. Babbs referred to the proposed affordable housing site at Oxford Meadow and reported that residents had carried out much work in support of an application for a Village Green, including a petition. Evidence had been collected of recreational activity for many years on the site. The suggestion of allotments was also supported as opposed to housing. (see minute 229 below)

211. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs. C. Cannell (weather conditions), Dr. R. Green (dental trouble and weather conditions), D. Holmes (wife's illness), F. Swallow (eye trouble), L. Waller (weather conditions), H. Johnson and W. Scattergood

212. **Declarations of interest**

Mrs. J. Beavis declared a non pecuniary interest in connection with the item relating to Oxford Meadow as a member of the Cabinet at BDC. Mr. S. Partridge declared a non pecuniary interest in connection with the same item as Chairman of SHALGA.

There were no other declarations of interest.

213. **To confirm minutes of meeting held 10th December 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2012, having been circulated, were taken as read, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

214. **Matters arising from those minutes**

There were no matters arising.

215. **Chairman's report**

The Chairman had nothing to report outside the agenda.

216. **Youth Council Report**

Mr. S. Partridge stated that a report will be circulated when approved by the Youth Council. The Christmas Party was not successful as a fund raising event but was enjoyed by those attending. The contribution of £1,000 towards the youth shelter had been approved. The Youth Council had asked if the May Day Fair can be reinstated.

217. **County Councillor's Report**

Mr. D. Finch reported upon the following:

- a. ECC Highways had found emergency funding to repair the retaining wall in Alderford Street so attendance at the Braintree District Local Highways Panel meeting on 17th January will no longer be necessary. ECC will work with BDC so the bridge can be installed at the same time. This work should be started within 2 to 3 months.
- b. ECC is proposing a zero increase in its budget but additional savings will have to be found in the future.
- c. ECC is one of four Councils in line for the Council of the Year Award and the result should be known in May 2013.

Mr. S. Partridge reported that SHPC had found sites for VAS and SIDs during October 2012, which had been communicated to ECC Highways but a reply is still awaited. Mr. Finch agreed to pursue this with ECC Highways. Mr. Finch was thanked for his report and left the meeting.

218. **District Councillor's Reports**

Mrs. J. Beavis reported upon the following:

- a) Discussion with Mr. R. Parmee on 11th January 2013 regarding HRW and will continue to apply pressure on BDC Officers to progress the Alderford Street crossing.
- b) Clarity required from BDC regarding the Oxford Meadow planning application.
- c) There will be a zero increase in BDC budget for 2013-2014.
- d) PSG is being reviewed and will be raised at the Parish Summit on 31st January 2013.

219. **Planning Committee**

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 7th and 21st December 2012, having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report.

220. **Recreation and Amenities Committee**

The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 14th December 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

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

The minutes of the Public Transport, Highways and Speedwatch Committee Meeting held on 12th December 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

222. **Finance and Funding Committee**

The minutes of the Finance and Funding Committee Meeting held on 21st December 2012, having been circulated, were accepted in lieu of a report.

223. **To settle Precept for 2013-2014**

The Chairman reported that the Finance and Funding Committee propose a nil increase in the Band D equivalent. SHPC has good reserves so there would be no loss of services and some reserves will be used for capital expenditure. Mr. S. Partridge raised the following questions:

- a. Provision for allotments – it was confirmed that £4,000 was left over from the previous year and it was agreed to carry this forward as a ring fenced item.
- b. Course fees – these had been discussed and reviewed and £1,000 allowed, which should be sufficient.
- c. Funds for the elderly – it was confirmed that the amount allowed could be used for anything that would benefit the elderly in the community.

It was proposed by Mrs. J. Beavis, seconded by Mr. A. Prill and carried that the budget is approved and that the net precept for 2013-2014 should be £82,847.00. The precept form was completed, signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Clerk. Mrs. J. Beavis thanked Mrs. G. Massey for her work in connection with the budget.

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

Mrs. G. Massey reported upon a meeting held 19th December 2012 with local Doctors and Mrs. A. Weatherley, to take forward the new Medical Centre and Doctor's Surgery. The Clerk agreed to forward the notes of the meeting to all Councillors. The following meetings had since been arranged:

- a. Meeting with Castle Hedingham Parish Council on 17th January 2013.
- b. Meeting with Bloor Homes on 21st January 2013.
- c. Meeting with NHS on 23rd January 2013.

225. **To consider grant towards arranging a Ripper History Exhibition**

An email from Mrs. A. Weatherley requesting a grant towards the expenses of arranging a Ripper History Exhibition at SH Village Hall on 14th and 15th September 2013 was considered. It was proposed by Mrs. J. Beavis, seconded by Mr. J. Skittrall and carried that a grant of £250 is made. It was suggested that local schools are involved.

226. **To consider arrangements for Legacy Day 2013**

It was agreed to hold the Legacy Day on 20th July 2013 and to form a Working Party to include Ms. S. Glen, Mrs. E. Jones, Mrs. G. Massey, Mr. S. Partridge and Mr. F. Swallow. SHPC had allowed £400 in its budget towards activities/events and Mr. Partridge will also apply for a grant of £400 towards activities/events. A budget of an additional £150 was requested and approved towards advertising and banners. It was suggested that the Legacy Day is combined with the official opening of the improved skatepark with a possible skateboard demonstration.

227. **To consider amendments to SHPC Complaints Handling procedure**

An amended draft prepared by Mr. S. Partridge was circulated to Councillors. The Clerk advised revisions to ensure consistency with Police action and outlined a situation where this had occurred in the past. Revised wording was agreed and it was proposed, seconded and carried that the amendments to the Complaints Handling procedure, as revised, be adopted. The final version is to be circulated to Councillors. Mr. Partridge was thanked for his work in this respect.

228. **Report of GCH and BDC affordable housing needs day meeting held 8th January 2013**

Mr. S. Partridge reported on behalf of Mrs. L. Waller that she did not attend because the paperwork sent prior to the meeting had been excellent. Mrs. J. Beavis reported that she had attended this meeting and that housing needs data will soon be available online. The Chairman requested that a copy of the meeting notes is placed in the correspondence file for Councillors to peruse.

229. **To consider request to BDC for transfer of land at Oxford Meadow to SHPC for allotments**

Mr. S. Partridge circulated a paper to Councillors and asked that a formal request is made to BDC for the transfer of the vacant land adjacent to the former Scout Hunt at Oxford Meadow to SHPC for allotments. He emphasized that the National Policy Framework requires local authorities 'to undertake robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open spaces, sports and recreational and opportunities for new provision' and states that existing open spaces, recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless an assessment has clearly shown it to be surplus to requirements or it is for alternative recreational provision. There is evidence that it has been an open space for many years.

Mrs. J. Beavis, speaking as a District Councillor and not a Parish Councillor, disclosed that she was a member of the BDC Cabinet when it had decided to transfer the land to GCH, subject to planning permission because there was a need for affordable housing in SH. It was previously SHPC policy to support affordable housing on that site and referred to meetings which had taken place between BDC, GCH and SHPC.

It was noted that funding for allotments should come from the Premdor site.

It was proposed by Mr. S. Partridge and seconded by Mr. A. Prill that SHPC writes to BDC to seek transfer of the land for allotments and if not forthcoming an application would be made to the Secretary of State to

compulsory acquire this land under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 and in accordance with the Acquisition of Land Act 1981. Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried with Mrs. J. Beavis abstaining.

230. **To consider planning application**

The following planning application was considered:

12/01560/MMA – The Work Shop, Cobbs Fenn – application for a minor material amendment to approved application 10/01182/FUL – Amendment to allow new supporting structure to be placed outside of the existing structure and not within as originally intended – no objection.

(Mrs. J. Beavis left the meeting)

231. **To consider action following serious RTA in Swan Street on 4th January 2013**

Mr. S. Partridge gave details of collision statistics in SH from December 2007 to October 2012, many of which had occurred on straight sections of road as a result of speeding. Mr. A. Prill reported that it was a long time before the Police arrived at the RTA on 4th January 2013 and considered that more dynamic policing is required. Councillors questioned why it takes serious collisions before the Police arrange speed checks in SH? Following some discussion it was agreed to accept the offer of October 2012 from Mr. D. Finch to set up a meeting for Parish Councils with the new Police and Crime Commissioner and to also write to the MP.

232. **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. Mrs. G. Massey referred to the letter from SH Village Hall and reported that SHPC has offered help in the past, which has not been taken up.
- b. Various training courses arranged by EALC.

233. **Accounts for payment**

The accounts listed in appendix 2 were presented for payment and subject to the deletion of £1000 grant to Hedingham School, which had been pledged, it was proposed by Mr. J. Skittrall, seconded by Mr. A. Law and carried that the accounts are paid.

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

Mr. S. Partridge reported that a member of the public had suggested lighting near the swings in the Recreation Ground to prevent ASB. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for the next meeting and to consider consulting the residents. In the meantime Mr. J. Skittrall offered to look into the possibility of lighting.

Ms. S. Glen expressed concern about the lack of glass recycling containers at the Sugar Loaves end of the village. Mr. J. Skittrall suggested that the matter is left in abeyance for a few weeks.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)