

Minutes of Sible Hedingham Parish Council Meeting Held at the Village Hall, Parkfields, Sible Hedingham on Monday 9th April 2018 at 7.30pm

In the chair: Cllr R Volkwyn

Present: Cllrs G Jefferson, P Sarel, J Skittrall, L Parkin, J Stopher, B Newman, B Gardener, L Heywood, S Metson, County Cllr D Finch, District Cllr H Johnson, Mrs G McCoyd (clerk) and 12 members of public.

Public Comment

Grass cutting of the churchyard was raised by 2 members of public. It was mentioned that the issue regarding grass cutting was difficult due to a technical problem, discussions between Cllr R Volkwyn and the church had been positive and helpful and research and discussions would continue.

A resident from the Earls Garden Residents Association asked when the Parish Council would be adopting the various areas in the estate. Cllr R Volkwyn explained that eventually the Parish Council would be accepting the transfer of the Riverside walk, the Poppy Park and the play area at the back of the estate but at the moment there was no news of a date for the transfer.

Cllr H Johnson said he had started clearing the brambles on the Riverside Walk ready for the placing of a bench. He stated that he had noticed a lot of dog mess around the village and on the footpaths; it was unacceptable that people did not clear up their dog mess. Cllr H Johnson said there was available a small community fund which was aimed at projects that were of benefit to the community, he would like any suggestions given to the Parish Council who could then liaise with him.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Gammon (business)

2. Members declarations

There were no declarations.

3. To confirm the minutes of meeting held 12th March 2018

The minutes of 12th March having been circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

Cllr R Volkwyn said there was a new SID sign which has been installed in the village.

He has had sandbags placed around the old bank to stop vehicles, like the cars for sale van, parking on that piece of land. The gateway signs on the road to Halstead have had to be re-sited again, hopefully for the last time.

6. County Councillor's Report

Cllr D Finch said it was possible to raise money for a community project through the Essex Crowd initiative. Regarding dog fouling he stated that Great Yeldham has applied to have stencils on the pavement reminding people to pick up dog mess. It was possible that Sible Hedingham Parish Council could request a similar scheme.

Essex County Council have put aside 3 million pounds for the repair of potholes, they have successfully applied to the Government for a further 2.6 million pounds so there was now 5.6 million pounds to be spent on potholes, unfortunately they cannot be repaired in wet weather but as soon as the weather is drier work to repair potholes around the County would start.

Essex County Council continues to lobby the Government for the retention of business rates. It has put a bid into the Government for 650 million pounds to fund the infrastructure necessary for the development of the proposed garden community villages.

Cllr D Finch said that Essex has 94% of schools performing at good or outstanding and the exam results were above the national average.

7. To receive minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee held 16th March 2018

The minutes having been circulated were accepted in lieu of a report

8. To note that the Annual Parish Assembly will take place on Tuesday 22nd May 2018

It was duly noted that the Annual Parish Assembly would take place on Tuesday 22nd May at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. All organisations are invited to attend and set up displays.

9. To comment on planning application 18/00484/FUL 28 Station Road. Demolition of existing garage & replacement with a double garage with a first floor games room.

The parish council has no objection to this application.

10. To receive the Accounts for payment. Appendix 1

Cllr J Skittrall proposed the accounts be approved and paid, Cllr L Heywood seconded, the motion was carried

11. Any other business

Cllr B Gardener informed the council that the licence for the Heditude Festival had been obtained.

Cllr G Jefferson said that James (the new handy person) had done a good job of refurbishing the notice boards.

Cllr J Stopher asked if it was possible to prosecute people for dog fouling, Cllr R Volkwyn explained that the Dog Warden had to actually see the dog foul and the owner walking away from the mess. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the Dog Warden and ask for him to concentrate on various areas in Sible Hedingham, especially Swan Street. Post meeting this has been agreed.

Cllr R Volkwyn said the grass cutting issue was not as simple as people thought; there was more to it which would become clearer in the next few weeks.

The meeting closed.