

Minutes of Sible Hedingham Annual Parish Assembly Meeting Held in the Village Hall, Parkfields, Sible Hedingham on Monday 23rd May 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr R Volkwyn (Chairman), Cllrs J. Fennelly, G. Jefferson, J. Skittrall, J. Nicholson, S. Metson, L. Parkin, B. Newman, T. Pitts-Webster, P. Sarel, K. Greeno.

Cllr D Finch (County Councillor), Miss J. Laken (Community Agent), Mrs G. McCoyd (Clerk) and 52 members of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr R Volkwyn welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked representatives of organisations who had provided displays. He introduced the Councillors.

2 Apologies for Absence

Cllr D Holmes (business) and Cllr H Johnson (business)

3 To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held Wednesday 27th May 2015

The minutes of 27th May 2015 were confirmed by those present and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

5 Essex County Council Report

Cllr D Finch spoke on finance and devolution. He highlighted the following:

The introduction of the national living wage had put pressure on the budget and the impact of cuts from Central Government means that ECC faces having to save more than £1 million every week for the next four years.

The largest part of expenditure is on Adult Social Care, this covers 22% of the population in Essex; however, this figure is rising.

There is a need to stimulate business to grow the economy so ECC are investing over £200 million in an Essex growth package to boost economic growth by creating jobs, investing in roads and infrastructure, stimulating trade, and supporting business growth.

ECC are investing more than £365 million over the next three years in one of the biggest school building programmes the county has seen, creating nearly 10,000 new school places. Eighty-five percent of schools in Essex are in the good and outstanding category.

With regard to Devolution the 12 district, 1 city and 2 unitary areas in Essex are all working together. It would give more flexibility over skills training to fit the locality. Business Rates being collected locally would also give more flexibility with the result that more businesses would be attracted into Essex. Devolution requires having a Mayor and at the moment each district sees the Mayoral responsibilities differently. Essex County Council is deciding whether to go forward or postpone.

Cllr D Finch asked for questions:

a. With regard to the High-speed broadband roll out why is it so slow?

ECC were investing more money but there is only one provider, BT, there is an issue getting BT to install and they are slower to install in rural areas.

b. When will Sible Hedingham be on broadband superfast?

c. Is there a date for a Pelican crossing in Swan Street?

With regard to those questions Cllr Finch said he would investigate and report back. He stated that the problems of parking in Oxford Meadow would be brought before the Highways Panel in July.

6 Braintree District Council Reports

In the absence of both Cllr J Beavis and Cllr H Johnson no reports were given.

7. Parish Council Report.

Cllr R Volkwyn reported that it had been a challenging and exciting year and with the help and support of his fellow councillors a good year. He stated that there was a good balance of Cllr's in both age and experience. The previous clerk Adrian Corder-Birch had retired and Mrs Glenda McCoyd had started as clerk in January.

Cllr R Volkwyn highlighted the following points:

The Parish Council continues to press for an upgrading of the crossing outside the Post Office to a Pelican crossing, a further crossing near Hedingham School, Speed Indicator Devices and for Gateway Signs.

The new Poppy Park is almost complete.

Welcome Packs continue to be distributed to newcomers to the village.

New play equipment has been installed at the Recreation Ground and the CCTV system has been upgraded there.

The Parish Council continue to communicate with all parties regarding the proposed new Medical Centre, Cllr R Volkwyn read out a letter of support from MP Mr James Cleverly.

The Parish Council is in total agreement with Braintree District Council's decision not to approve the reduction in number of social housing as requested by Bloor Homes.

The Parish Council is in regular communication with the Post Office about its future. It has been told that the present premises will close at the end of the year and it will relocate to the Esso Garage.

Cllr R Volkwyn gave a vote of thanks to Sandra and Janet who voluntarily look after the Reflection Corner at Grays Hall Meadow.

8. Displays and Written Reports.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments and an opportunity to view display stands. Written reports and displays were provided by the following organisations: Hedingham School, Friends of St Peter's Church, Sible Hedingham Baptist Church, Friends of Alderford Mill, Friends of Molly's Wood, Hedingham Heritage Society, Sible Hedingham Library, Hedingham Twinning Association, Hedingham Women's Institute, Hedingham Guides, Hedingham Sports and Social Club, Darkins, Finishing Touch and Elite Hair Design. Following the break the meeting resumed.

9. Community Agent Report

Miss J Laken reported on her responsibilities as a Community Agent helping elderly, disabled and vulnerable people in Sible Hedingham. In particular she supports the Thursday Club which is also supported by the Breakfast Club. She spoke about the following activities she had arranged: Seated exercise, buggy fitness, pop up club for the elderly at the Social Club and Big cook Little cook with the Rainbow Children's Centre.

10. Public Question Time.

It was asked if the medical centre had any help filling in the required paperwork. Cllr R Volkwyn replied that Cllr J Beavis had said she would help but as she was not at the meeting he could give no update.

11. Chairman's Address

The Chairman thanked everyone who had provided displays and attended the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

