



**6.4** Footway patching at the entrance to St Nicholas Church from King Street has started. The clerk has met with the workmen to explain the need for a more gentle slope for disabled access through the pedestrian gate.

**6.5** Gully (drainage) repair at Castle Lane is scheduled for March 2020

**6.6** Collapse of the retaining wall alongside the footpath at Station Road has been raised with Cllr David Finch as a danger to pedestrian safety. Repair is now being scheduled by Essex Highways

**6.7** A resident had reported obstruction of the footpath near Parkgate Farm. This will be investigated.

Cllr Beavis arrived.

## 7. REPORTS

**7.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch:** None

**7.2 Essex CC report:** None. Cllr Finch sent apologies for absence

**7.3 Braintree DC report:** Apologies were received from Cllr Beavis for late arrival and from Cllr Johnson for absence due to conflicting meetings.

Cllr Beavis gave a verbal report:

- The Planning Inspector's enquiry into the Braintree Local Plan has been underway and has been completely independent with all evidence questioned. The result is expected at the end of March.
- Essex County Council budget will be debated tomorrow, and the Braintree District Council budget next week. Central government funding for police is targeted at specific issues e.g. county lines. Local Police and Crime Commissioner funding for more PCSOs is likely to result in a rates increase following a public consultation.
- The clerk thanked Cllr Beavis for the first monthly £100 repayment of the £1000 loan to the Village Shop to enable the reinstatement of sale or return newspapers. The next volunteers meeting is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm at the Disraeli Room at the Bell, when the planned move back to 5 St James Street will be discussed.

## 8. PLANNING

*Applications received:*

**20/00048/LBC** Internal alterations to kitchen

1 Falcon Square CO9 3BS

*No objections*

**19/02314/FUL&19/02315/LBC** Conversion and change of use of a Grade II\* listed property known as 'Castle Hedingham URC' to 2 private dwellings

Castle Hedingham United Reformed Church 32 Queen Street CO9 3HA

*No objections. A*

*question will be raised about the change of use to residential*

**20/00133/FUL & 20/00134/LBC** Restoration and conversion of the rear building into a 2 bedroom private residential dwelling

Village Shop, 5 St James Street CO9 3EJ

*No objections. A*

*question will be raised about access to the building and the increased demand for parking is noted.*

*Applications determined:*

**19/02136/HH** Loft conversion and insertion of rear facing dormer.

20 St James Street CO9 3EN

*Application PERMITTED*

**19/01388/FUL** Erection of a single storey dwelling below ground level together with a garage and bin store at ground level

Land Rear Of 1 And 3 Castle Lane

*Application PERMITTED*

**19/00302/TPOCON** Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area

30 Queen Street O9 3HA

*Application PERMITTED*

## 9. FINANCE

**9.1** The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation. The January bank reconciliation was checked and signed by Cllr Westrop

**Proposed:** Cllr Hood

**Seconded:** Cllr Toocaram

Agreed unanimously



### Accounts balances at 10 February 2020

Unity Trust Current account	£12,293.84
Unity Trust Deposit account	£25,416.05
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£57,486.05
Nationwide Treasurers Trust	£20,147.59
	<b>£115,343.53</b>

## 10. CASTLE HEDINGHAM VILLAGE PARK

**10.1** Cllr Hood as Chairman of the Village Park group reported on an excellent response to the Village Park Open Day held in January. At a subsequent meeting of the Village Park group the feedback was carefully considered, and the decision was made to go ahead with the Earth Wrights design for the play equipment but removing bench and seating elements which can hopefully be donated and installing an additional play/seating structure with the money saved. The target for opening in May 2020 is still on schedule but solicitors are being chased to get the lease ready for signing, which will enable the manufacturer to schedule the play equipment construction and installation in time. Quotes for fencing and gates and a revised quote for the all-weather path have been sought, and further funding applications are being prepared.

**Action:** The clerk will contact Earth Wrights, Mr & Mrs Lindsay as landlords and the Parish Council solicitors to keep the project on track for the May 2020 completion deadline.

A letter had been received from Cllr Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, offering £25,000 towards the play equipment as a proportion of the capital receipt from the sale of a BDC asset at New Park which is in progress. The Parish Council has been asked to confirm whether they will accept this offer, although the letter arrived too late to be included as a decision at the February meeting.

**Action:** It was agreed that the clerk will request more information about which site is being sold at New Park, and a likely timescale for public transparency. The decision regarding acceptance of the funding will be an agenda item for the March Parish Council meeting.

**10.2** Councillors had been sent the “Passport to Compliance” documents from the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, to aid consideration of installation of CCTV at the Village Park in the area of the Public Toilets. It was agreed that proper feasibility planning is important to reach the right decision and avoid spending on ineffective or inappropriate equipment, particularly in this area where children will be playing. This will remain under consideration as plans for the Village Park progress. Agenda item for a future meeting, while other methods for improving security at the Public Toilets will be considered.

## 11. CASTLE HEDINGHAM CEMETERY

**11.1** Following a meeting of the Burial Board at the Cemetery, a new plastic bin store will be ordered to replace the broken wooden one. New graves in the lawn cemetery will be turfed and any unauthorised items e.g. glass, plastic and trees/shrubs at the lawn cemetery will be removed. Personal items will be left at the cemetery where possible for owners to collect and remove. Routine maintenance work to the lychgate is needed to protect it from weather damage and grant funding will be sought for this work.

**11.2 RESOLVED:** To accept the Burial Board’s recommendation to increase all Cemetery Fees by 10% from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. This will be the first fee increase since 2016

**Proposed:** Cllr Westrop

**Seconded:** Cllr Jordan

Agreed unanimously

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

**Essex County Council:** Essex County Council Energy Switch is now available. Taking part is free, it is simple and quick to do and there is no obligation to switch. The link to find out how it works is available at <https://essex.ichoosr.com/landing#>

**Essex Association of Local Councils:** The first EALC Health & Wellbeing Conference at Foakes Hall in Great Dunmow on Wednesday the 22nd April 2020. Attendance fee £25.00 per person.

**Action:** Councillors to inform clerk if they wish to attend.

**13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Appointment of new Internal Auditor
- Installation of an Eco noticeboard for recycling and plastic free advice for residents.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020</b>	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Castle Hedingham Club
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b>	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Castle Hedingham Club
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council	Castle Hedingham Club

**The meeting closed at 9.35pm**

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE