

Parish of Castle Hedingham Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk) 25 Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3DG 07845 056597 castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2021 BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE AT 7.30PM

Present:Cllrs Bayes, Doe, Gransden, Jordan, Southgate, Toocaram, Veater, Westrop.In the Chair:Cllr SouthgateClerk:Claire WatersAlso Present:Cllr J Beavis BDC from item 7. Cllr D Finch ECC from item 9 to 10

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

1.1 Following the recent resignation of Cllr Trevor Hood, the Chairman expressed his personal thanks to Trevor for all his hard work and everything he has achieved for the village. His resignation was a personal decision as he felt that the time was right to step down. He will remain a friend and supporter of the Parish Council.

1.2 RESOLVED: To approve Mr Trevor Hood continuing to act as Parish Council representative on the Castle Hedingham Club Committee

Proposed: Cllr JordanSeconded: Cllr BayesAgreed unanimously1.3 RESOLVED: To elect Cllr Charlie Jordan as Chairman of the Village Park groupProposed: Cllr GransdenSeconded: Cllr SouthgateAgreed unanimously1.4 RESOLVED: To elect Cllr PhilGransden as an additional member of the Village Park groupProposed: Cllr SouthgateSeconded: Cllr VeaterAgreed unanimously

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2021 were approved as a correct record of events and remote
arrangements were made for them to be signed by the ChairmanProposed: Cllr JordanSeconded: Cllr DoeAgreed unanimously

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present. On behalf of the Governing body of De Vere Primary School, Cllr Gransden informed the Council that they were looking for two new governors, preferably from the community rather than parent governors. The Chair of the Governors is Mr Matt Savage. Any member of the public wishing to act as governor at De Vere primary can contact him direct by email at savagematt@gmail.com

5. PROGRESS CHECK

5.1 Electric Car Charging point: Of 150 properties surveyed by a leaflet drop in the village centre, only 21 responses were received so insufficient to demonstrate enough demand to access grant funding. Not all responses were positively in favour of a charging point in the Memorial Hall car park and logistical issues would still need to be worked out.

Action: The issue will be kept under consideration and demand will be re-assessed annually.

5.2 Health & Wellbeing Plan: This was the subject of a workshop attended in 2020 and could now be revitalised and completed, possibly with the aid of some grant funding to help communication with residents.

Action: Cllr Doe, Cllr Veater and the clerk will scope out a plan of action to take this forward.

6. HIGHWAYS

6.1 Verge Cutting: Cllr Bayes raised a question from a resident about BDC proposals to cut verges only once a year, in the autumn. This has been the subject of a trial in certain parts of the district and a recent

public consultation by BDC. In general it appears to be a popular proposal to protect wildlife and endangered plant species. An autumn only cut enables endangered plants to thrive as long as the cuttings are raked away promptly. The Parish Council has been paying for an autumn cut of the protected verge at Edeys Lane, with the Heritage Society raking afterwards.

Action: The Chairman suggested that Cllr Johnson be asked to raise this issue with Braintree District Council, to ask that if they are to resume cutting the protected verge the Parish Council can be informed of the date for subsequent raking and removal of the cuttings. The clerk will contact Cllr Johnson.

6.2 Footpath 25 Pye Corner to Rosemary Lane: following contact from a landowner about re-routing of the path, the Parish Council has now received advice from Essex Highways about the process to be followed.

Action: With the agreement of Councillors, the clerk will forward the information to the landowner.

7. REPORTS

- 7.1 Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch: A recent Police report will be forwarded to Councillors.
- 7.2 Essex CC report: Cllr D Finch ECC gave his report after item 9
- **Council tax**: A zero% increase has been approved, with a 1.5% increase in the Social Care precept, which is ringfenced for older vulnerable residents including those with learning disabilities. The zero% increase reflects the difficult economic circumstances for many residents due to Covid-19
- **Flooding** continues to be a problem and ECC are now working on getting an agreement with the Fire Brigades in the county to set up joint working practices to tackle urgent problems.
- **Green agenda** UK Government aims to achieve zero carbon by 2050. In 2019 ECC allocated funding to the Essex Climate Action Commission, and is aiming for Essex County Council to be carbon neutral by 2030. This will include the ECC estate e.g schools, solar panels, new builds, street lights as well as the green environment such as flood schemes, sustainable drainage and tree planting. The Climate Action Commission is evaluating current policy and will be announcing 2030 targets
- **Domestic abuse** UK Government has launched a consultation paper in recognition of the rise in cases of emotional and physical domestic abuse during lockdown. The aim in Essex is to marshal forces bringing together police, councils, voluntary sector & NHS for a more effective response.
- Election in answer to a question from the clerk, Cllr Finch confirmed that 6th May County Council elections are still going ahead by post and voting in person. He has lobbied the government to have them postponed due to democratic processes being hampered by the pandemic.

7.3 Braintree DC report: Cllr Johnson apologised for absence due to a conflicting meeting at Sible Hedingham. Cllr Beavis arrived at item 8 and gave her report before item 9. Cllr Beavis reported:

- **Parish Council Zoom meeting**: a video of a recent meeting in Cheshire has gone viral due to the poor behaviour of some Councillors. Cllr Beavis works closely with the National Association of Local Councils and can honestly say she has never come across a parish locally that has acted so badly.
- National Grid: Recent press reports indicate that National Grid may be revisiting their plans to upgrade the electricity network across the region. Councillors are advised to keep an eye on this issue. Previous proposals included pylons across the landscape to save costs of putting cables underground and a new local substation; two of the suggested three sites were in Castle Hedingham.
- **Budget**: BDC will be having their budget planning meeting next week. Cllr Beavis would be pleased to see a Council tax freeze on the basis that they have above average reserves.
- Local Plan process: The Planning Inspector advises that Braintree proceeds with Section 1 without the two Braintree Garden Communities, then move on to adopting Section 2 which could take another year. Councillors are welcome to contact her with questions. Two proposed speculative developments in Sible Hedingham are causing concern locally.
- Vaccination centre in Halstead: In answer to a question from Cllr Gransden, Cllr Beavis said that the District and County Councils are asking for this to be progressed urgently but with no result yet.
- **Parish Council meeting dates:** It was asked at the Sible Hedingham Parish Council meeting why Castle and Sible Hedingham have their meetings on the same Monday of the month, which means District and County Councillors find it difficult to attend both. The clerk confirmed that Castle Hedingham Parish Council had in recent years moved its meeting to the 4th Monday to accommodate,

but had changed back to the 2nd Monday of the month as it made it impossible to publish minutes promptly in the Parish Magazine and was causing a disadvantage to Castle Hedingham residents.

8. PLANNING

Applications received: None

Applications determined:

20/00421/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Willow (T1)
 Crown reduction, 5 metres off the height and 3 metres off the remainder of the crown.
 3A Crown Street CO9 3DB
 20/01864/HH Replacement flue.
 Doulton Lodge Pottery Lane CO9 3EU
 Application PERMITTED

9. FINANCE

9.1 The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation. The bank reconciliation was checked and signed via email by Cllr Gransden.

Proposed: Cllr Jordan

Seconded: Cllr Veater

Agreed unanimously

Feb-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£31.23
DD	Bulb	Electricity Toilets	£18.36
DD	Invoco (GOCARDLESS)	Portable telephone number	£1.48
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office February	£75.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses Jan 11th to Feb 8th	£28.89
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£11.40
B/P	Abacus Accountancy	Payroll Oct, Nov, Dec 2020	£43.20
TOTAL in month £209.5			£209.56

Feb-21	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
04-Feb	Jones A & M	Purchase Grave plot 248	£484.00
		TOTAL in month	£484.00

Jan-21	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£31.23
DD	Bulb	Electricity Toilets	£14.66
DD	Invoco (GOCARDLESS)	Portable telephone number	£1.68
DD	B&CE Holdings	Peoples Pension	£67.80
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,501.49
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI January	£84.62
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office January	£75.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses Nov 9th to Jan 11th	£118.39
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge	£11.40
B/P	Atwells Solicitor	Deed of Adherence, Village Hall lease	£720.00
		TOTAL in month	£2,626.27

Jan-21	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
08-Jan	Harvey Darke	Memorial Inscription Grave 254	£77.00
15-Jan	UK Power Networks	Wayleave	£10.31
		TOTAL in month	£87.31

Accounts balances at 8th February 2021

	£63,987.17
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£33,552.30
Unity Trust Deposit account	£10,466.77
Unity Trust Current account	£19,968.10

10. CASTLE HEDINGHAM VILLAGE PARK

10.1 Fencing, Ruffles Yard boundary: The contractor has been instructed and will start work shortly.
10.2 Scrub clearance and bonfire: this is planned for better weather; residents of Ruffles Yard will be informed. Cllr Jordan will contact Jason Lindsay to discuss dates. Work will depend on social restrictions. Action: Cllr Jordan as new Chairman of the Village Park group will organise a Village Park meeting
10.3 Shipping Container: the Gosfield based supplier had provided a quote for a refurbished used container at a reduced cost of £2500, since it is for a local community group. However they cannot include delivery costs in this price.

RESOLVED: Subject to delivery costs being approved, to accept the quote from the Gosfield company since they have visited the site and understand the logistics in detail.

Proposed: Cllr JordanSeconded: Cllr GransdenAgreed unanimously10.4 Hedge cutting: The site at the Memorial Hall car park verge for the storage container to be sited will
need the hedge cut back and the ground clearedAgreed unanimously

Action: Clerk to speak to Village Maintenance to schedule in the work

11. CASTLE HEDINGHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

RESOLVED: To ratify the decision to nominate Mr Simon Daw as Nominative Trustee for Castle Hedingham Parochial Charities

Proposed: Cllr Southgate

Seconded: Cllr Jordan

Agreed unanimously

12. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

NEPP: Launch of virtual surgeries with North Essex Parking Partnership online (Zoom or Microsoft teams) every Tuesday afternoon (by appointment) starting Tuesday 19th January. The virtual surgery will run from 1pm to 4 pm and appointments for Councillors to attend can be made by emailing via the Parish Clerk. Sessions will be 1 to 1 to address any parking issues we have in the parish.

EALC: Micro Grant Communication & Technology Support Fund launch. Grants of up to £500 are available to help support grass roots organisations responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, who largely rely on volunteers to deliver their projects and have no infrastructure to support communications and technology.

Action: If the Parish Council is eligible, this might support communication of a Health & Wellbeing Plan for the parish – clerk to investigate

13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- **Co-option process** for Councillor vacancy, assuming 10 parishioners have not requested an election.
- Agenda items for the March meeting to be notified to the clerk by 9am on Monday 1st March

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: All meetings to be held via Video Conferencing until further notice

Monday 8th March 2021	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Zoom video conferencing
Monday 12th April 2021	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
Monday 10th May 2021	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council	Location to be confirmed
May 2021	7.30pm	Annual Parish Assembly	Event to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 8.43pm

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE