



**Parish of Castle Hedingham**  
**Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)**  
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL,  
HELD ON MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019 AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Cllrs Bayes, Doe, Hood, Southgate (from item 8), Tassell, Toocaram, Westrop

**In the Chair:** Cllr Toocaram

**Clerk:** Claire Waters

**Also Present:** Cllr D Finch ECC to item 8

Cllr J Beavis BDC to item 8

Cllr H Johnson BDC to item 8

3 representatives of the Colne Valley Railway to item 5

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Jordan apologised for absence. Cllr Southgate apologised for late arrival due to a conflicting meeting.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of 23rd September 2019 were approved as a correct record of events and signed by the Chairman.

**Proposed:** Cllr Tassell

**Seconded:** Cllr Bayes

Agreed unanimously

**2.1 MEETING DATES:** It was proposed that meeting should be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month from January 2020 in order to publish minutes more promptly in the Parish Magazine

**Action:** All Councillors to check their diaries and report any problems with this plan to the clerk

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**4. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Paul Lemon, Chairman of Colne Valley Railway gave an update of developments and plans at the railway.

- A family fun weekend is planned for August Bank Holiday 2020, and the CVR is looking for help and support from local groups. Discounted entry will be available for residents of the 3 local villages. Stalls, talent events, music, etc. are all welcomed, please contact the Colne Valley Railway if you wish to be involved. Councillors expressed their support for the plans.
- Safety concerns were raised about visitors walking along the A1017 road verge between Crouch Green and the new Railway entrance. Cllr Finch offered to raise this with the Local Highways Panel if CVR and the Parish Council puts in a joint letter of application.
- Accident on A1017 at new CVR entrance, on Sunday morning 27<sup>th</sup> October. An attending traffic officer offered to support requests for extension of the 40mph speed limit from Crouch Green to the railway entrance. Cllr Finch suggested submitting a request together with evidence from the police officer.
- CVR bus stop. Although this listed as a bus stop, some drivers are refusing to stop. The railway is only accessible by bus on Saturdays, at other times bus users have to walk from the Crouch Green bus stop. An extension of the CVR car park to improve bus accessibility is planned but funding is not available at present. Mr Lemon is trying to contact Hedingham buses (Go Ahead group) to try to find a resolution to this problem
- The landowner of the remainder of the old CVR site has been in informal discussions with Braintree Planning about proposed Class B1 and B8 industrial units. The Colne Valley Railway would benefit from a carriage museum, cottages which would provide more museum space and holiday lets and an artisan street with craft shops. Access to this would be via the old railway entrance. Formal plans have not yet been submitted to Braintree District Council.

## 5. PROGRESS CHECK

- 5.1 Residents of Kirby Hall Road and Bowmans Park had contacted Councillors expressing concern over large trees near their properties. These trees are managed by Greenfields who are investigating.
- 5.2 The clerk reported on the damaged wall between the Memorial Hall and Ruffles Yard. The ownership of the wall is uncertain. Cllr Tassell suggested stepping the wall down to reduce the cost of repair and preventing further damage.
- 5.3 Village Defibrillators. The pads for all three defibrillators reach their expiry date at the end of November 2019, so new pads will be ordered.

## 6. HIGHWAYS

- 6.1 A resident of Falcon Square had reported vehicle damage to the concrete bollard which protects the corner of his house. Village Maintenance is scheduling in repainting of white lines by the bollard.
- 6.2 Cllr Bayes reported that drains in Castle Lane have not been cleaned as the jetting lorry driver said the vehicle was too big. Other drains in the village have also not been jetted and this has been reported to Cllr Finch, who will chase this up on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 6.3 A pothole on Nunnery Street Bridge has been reported to Highways but has been assessed as not urgent. This is increasing in size to a point where it is likely to cause damage to cars and danger to cyclists. Cllr Finch will chase up this repair.
- 6.4 Cllr Tassell reported that the car parking situation on the green verges at Crouch Green appears to be improved.

## 7. REPORTS

### 7.1 Police/Neighbourhood Watch:

Cllr Tassell continues to report crimes in the district on the Castle Hedingham Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page and is giving more focus to the most local incidents. Recent vandalism to the Public Toilets has been reported to the police.

### 7.2 ECC Report: Cllr Finch reported on:

- Continued work on potholes in the county and an increased spend for highways, footpaths and country lanes.
- £318 million committed to Highways Infrastructure before 2026, including relief roads and improved rail access at Chelmsford. £100 million of the fund is designated for the A134 to A12 and a rapid transit system for the proposed North Essex Garden Communities
- An ECC Climate Commission with County Councillors and independent experts and an independent Chair is being set up to promote positive action on reducing CO2. This will include a range of possible initiatives including options for sustainability in the North Essex Garden Communities, and will probably start in January 2020

### 7.3 BDC Report: Cllr Beavis reported on:

- Pleased to be able to grant £2000 jointly with Cllr Johnson to the new Village Park for Castle Hedingham.
- The proposed joint medical centre in Sible Hedingham is still awaiting a planning application. Residents have expressed concerns about highway traffic and access and this needs to be resolved.
- Attending the official opening of the Colne Valley Railway who have achieved enormous improvements in the last few years and are still planning to progress.
- Feedback on the Local Plan for housing development. The Planning Inspector has the consultation results and it is expected his analysis of the evidence will start on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Regeneration of Braintree Town Centre is in progress but footpaths and pavements are still poor.
- Plans for 200 new homes on Sudbury Rd at Halstead have been rejected by Braintree Planning
- Despite all efforts, obesity levels are still rising in young children
- Hedingham School has achieved excellent exam results
- In our continuing focus on leisure, culture and tourism we must not take our eye off the needs of existing communities

Cllr Johnson reported on:

- The continued need to protect the environment including tree planting

- His concerns about the road speed by Colne Valley Railway
- The state of the river Colne. A report is awaited from an Environment Agency inspection
- A signpost to Footpath 16 at Queen Street has had its direction arm broken off and removed.

**Action:** The clerk will add this to the list of footpath work.

The clerk thanked Cllrs Beavis and Johnson on behalf of the Parish Council for the Councillors Community Grant of £2000 towards equipment for the Village Park. It was also noted that the meeting date for a decision on the ECC CIF fund application has been put back again and will now take place in November. In answer to a question from Cllr Doe about TetraPaks no longer being recycled by BDC, Cllr Beavis said that Cllr James Abbott has raised this question with Braintree District Council.

## 8. PLANNING

*Applications received:*

**19/00248/TPOCON** Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Fell all 5 Cypress trees and grind stumps and fell and grind stump from 1 Juniper

1 Crown Street CO9 3DB

*No objections, however it was suggested that tree sponsorship be encouraged to replace a tree in the parish for every tree removed.*

**19/00257/TPOCON** Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Reduce an Acer by 1.5 metres, selected branches growing over boundary wall from 5 King Street

5 King Street CO9 3ER

*No objections*

**19/00258/TPOCON** Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Reduction of selected branches growing over boundary by 1.5 metres

United Reformed Church 32 Queen Street CO9 3HA

*No objections*

*Applications determined:*

**19/01406/HH** Two storey rear extension, extension to garage and raised patio.

3 Nunnery Street CO9 3DN

*Application PERMITTED*

**19/01682/HH** Proposed three bay cart lodge

Green Crofts Sheepcot Road CO9 3AA

*Application PERMITTED*

**19/01556/HH** Extensions and alterations to existing two storey dwelling and detached ancillary outbuilding.

Rosemary Farm Cottage Rushley Green CO9 3AJ

*Application REFUSED*

**19/00486/FUL** Change of use of barn and 2 no holiday lets to form 1 no (C3) dwelling, including extension, alterations and improvement of existing vehicular access.

Rosemary Farm Rushley Green CO9 3AJ

*Application PERMITTED*

**19/01083/VAR** Application for a variation of Condition 4 of planning permission 02/02249/COU - to allow use as 2no. residential units.

*Application WITHDRAWN*

Lawrences Farm (Cartlodges) Rushley Green CO9 3AJ

In answer to a question raised by Cllr Bayes, it was clarified that a revised planning application for an underground house behind Bayley Street and Castle Lane was submitted in August and has not yet been decided by Braintree Planning.

## 9. FINANCE

**9.1** The monthly accounts were approved and payments agreed for authorisation.

**Proposed:** Cllr Hood

**Seconded:** Cllr Doe

Agreed unanimously

Oct-19	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Anglian Water	Water Cemetery	£17.74
DD	Anglian Water	Water Toilets	£74.63
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£30.22
DD	British Gas	Electricity Toilets	£10.97
DD	B&CE Holdings	Peoples Pension	£0.00
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,411.12
B/P	Alan Henry	Village Maintenance expenses	£34.12

B/P	CH Club	Meeting October	£20.00
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office October	£60.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses	£52.74
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge September	£11.40
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI	£108.73
B/P	M D Landscapes	Grass Cutting September	£186.00
B/P	Abacus Accountancy	Payroll July Aug Sept	£43.20
B/P	Braintree District Council	Rates, Pump House October	£9.77
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£2,070.64</b>

<b>Oct-19</b>	<b>Receipts in Month</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
17-Oct	Clarke	Transfer EROB Grave 592	£90.00
<b>TOTAL in month</b>			<b>£90.00</b>

**9.2** .The clerk reported that an initial enquiry had been raised about supporting the Community Shop with a temporary loan in order to reinstate sale or return newspapers. *Agenda item for next meeting.*

## **10. CASTLE HEDINGHAM COMMUNITY SHOP AND POST OFFICE**

The owner of the premises is in support of the suggestion that the building is registered as an Asset of Community Value. This would give the community 6 months to come up with a plan to purchase the building for community use in the event of it being sold, but the owner would have no obligation to accept the community offer.

**RESOLVED:** To apply for the building to be placed on the register of Assets of Community Value

**Proposed:** Cllr Southgate

**Seconded:** Cllr Tassell

Agreed unanimously

## **11. CASTLE HEDINGHAM VILLAGE PARK**

**11.1** A meeting of the Village Park group was arranged for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November to agree a revised, more detailed project time line and also to consider more small grant possibilities. Some S106 money is available to the Parish Council, also Cllr Southgate will write to Cllr Graham Butland at BDC for support.

**11.2** Cllr Tassell had summarised information for Councillors to consider about the possible use of CCTV at the Public Toilets, following recent vandalism. *Agenda item for November meeting*

**11.3** Following on from earlier discussions about tree planting in the parish, it was suggested that residents be asked for donations of 4–5 foot trees to replace dead trees in the Memorial Avenue at Sheepcot Road. It was agreed to apply for free packs of trees from TCV – the Conservation Volunteers, for planting at the Village Park. The purchase of tree sleeves for protection will also be looked into.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

None

## **13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Consideration of a loan to the Community Shop for reinstatement of sale or return newspapers
- Consideration of CCTV for the Public Toilets

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

<b>Monday 25 November 2019</b>	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Castle Hedingham Club
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b>	7.30pm	Extraordinary Parish Council	Castle Hedingham Club
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Castle Hedingham Club

**The meeting closed at 9.45pm**

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATE