

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday, 22nd. March, 2001 at 8.01 pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT

Mr. Parker in the Chair, Messrs. Draper and Wigglesworth. The Clerk and one member of the public were also in attendance.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Messrs. Dixon and Feehan had sent messages that they would arrive late.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting held on 22nd February, 2001.

Miss Waters arrived at this point.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Alands Farm Planning Application (Cc p.70)

An informative letter from Mr. and Mrs. Virgoe has been received which reports on the disciplinary hearing at the DETR Cambridge on 23rd. February concerning operations beyond the restricted hours at Alands Farm. The letter has been acknowledged and has been in circulation.

Mr. Applegate arrived at this point.

Just Bin it Campaign (LiPa p.72)

It will not be possible to have a skip taken away on the morning of the Tidy-up. CBC is able to arrange for bags to be collected from a prearranged point on the Monday morning, or for a skip to be taken away on the Monday.

The Clerk was instructed to find out whether a trailer could be found locally to take the rubbish to the civic amenity site, on the basis of the mileage being refunded to the driver.

Fingerpost, Highfields Farm (MfRb p.74)

Mr. Applegate confirmed that the fingerpost had been installed.

Path to School beside Endymion (MfRc p.74)

This matter is being dealt with by Sue Frost, Project manager, Capital Programme and Building Developments at County Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Association of Chelmsford District Parish Councils:

A meeting of the Association is to be held on Wednesday, 4th. April 2001 in the Council Chamber at Springfield Parish Centre at 7.45. Martin Eastal Chief Executive of Chelmsford Borough Council will speak on the subject of the new political management structure at



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Chelmsford Borough Council to be introduced in May 2001 and its effects on the relationship between the Borough and parish councils.

The Clerk is to attend as PC representative, and Miss Waters will attend if she is available.

b) East Hanningfield Women's Institute

The WI asks whether they need permission to attach a new sign to their building, and whether it would be possible to have a finger sign put up in the village to direct visitors to the WI Hall as there is often confusion with the Village Hall.

The Clerk was instructed to contact CBC with the request for information and to inform WI that PC has no objection to the sign but that there might be a cost implication for the WI.

c) A130 Exhibition

Eric Dunleavy drew attention to the forthcoming A130 exhibition and the fact that there had been no publicity in the Village. Posters were produced and posted by the Clerk, as none appeared from ECC. Posters have been received publicising the exhibition at County Hall.

d) Kerbside Collection of Recyclable Material:

CBC intends to introduce kerbside collection of recyclable materials in the parishes in 2004, but it might be possible to site a paper bank in the village if space is available. Should Parish Council consider, in the short term, that this would be a viable option, CBC asks to be contacted.

Mr. Applegate is to ask HFC whether it would be possible to use the Village Hall car park for a paper bank, and the Clerk was instructed to ask the School whether they could accommodate one in the school grounds.

Mr. Feehan arrived at this point.

e) Closure of Public Rights of Way:

ECC, under the Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) (England) (No2) Order 2001 has closed all public rights of way in the County of Essex until further notice. This includes footpaths, bridleways and byways, the only exceptions to the order being urban footpaths with a metalled surface.

f) WPP Architects

WPP Architects declined the invitation to submit a bid for the contract for architectural services for the Village hall extension project. The letter has been circulated.


At this point it was agreed to defer the Finance items until the arrival of the Chairman.

PLANNING

01/360/FUL 14 Industrial Estate, Old Church Road (siting of portable office building)

There was no objection to the proposed portable office building.

Miss Waters declared an interest in the following planning application, signed the interest book, and took no part in the discussion thereon.



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01/394/FUL The Cabin, Bennetts Avenue (insertion of dormer)

PC objected to this application. The property lies in the greenbelt where policy limits development to addressing basic deficiencies in facilities. The property is not lacking in the basic amenities and has already been substantially extended.

01/421/FUL 6 Highfields Mead, (2 metre close boarded fence to Bicknacre Road frontage)

There was no objection to this application, but PC would wish to see the landscaping planted for full obscuration of the fencing and to the full height of the fencing.

The Chairman arrived at this point and assumed the Chair.

01/479/FUL St. Giles Lodge, Bicknacre Road (conservatory).

There was no objection to the application, but PC wishes to see a resolution of the outstanding enforcement issues at the site.

01/415/FUL Little Maples, The Common (side dormer window extension)

PC objected to the application because there was serious concern about overlooking of the neighbouring property from the proposed new first floor windows.

FINANCEa) Quotations for Preparation of Drawings for the Village Hall Extension

The Clerk was instructed to ask Fordham Johns for references for similar projects and to ask for an indication of the likely number of site visits.

The Clerk was asked to convey PC's thanks to Mr. Plumridge, Village Hall Treasurer, for preparing a comparative summary of the bids.

b) Loan Sanction

It was agreed that the Clerk should reapply for loan sanction should the existing sanction not be extended into the new financial year.

c) Funding of Project

It was agreed that the Clerk should apply for an extra £30,000 of loan sanction, she should investigate other funding available including landfill grant and she should obtain a cost breakdown of the project as soon as possible.

d) Portacabin

It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate whether a long term lease of the portacabin would be cheaper, and to write to PO Counters to ask them to pay the non domestic rate which amounts to £108.58 for the forthcoming financial year and to contribute towards the cost of the portacabin hire.

e) Payments

The following cheques were signed:

To:	NET £	VAT £	Total £	Explanation
D. Sherry			6.68	Editor's expenses;
R. Harvey			70.00	Grounds work;
PO Counters Ltd			141.77	NIC & PAYE
K. Plumridge			488.87	March salary etc.
Premier Transline Hire	95.34	16.68	112.02	Portacabin hire to 31/3/01

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PARISH FOOTPATHS LEAFLET

Mr. Draper reported that he had made some improvements to the design of the walks leaflet, but is waiting for the publication of the definitive map before progressing the project further. The Clerk was instructed to ask ECC for information regarding the timing of the publication of the definitive map.

Mr. Draper undertook to seek advice about the reproduction of the Ordnance Survey map with regard to copyright.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

It was agreed that the village should be entered in the competition again and that the Clerk should complete the application forms.

CONSULTATION: THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – DRAFT MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, FINAL PROPOSALS ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

It was agreed to defer this item until the next Meeting.

CONSULTATION: A130 POST BYPASS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Chairman's notes are to be copied and circulated in two directions for councillors to add their comments, so that a draft response can be prepared for the next Meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to West Hanningfield Parish Council's request for a joint representation objecting to the proposed closure of the old A130 with an affirmative.

CONSULTATION: CBC BEST VALUE REVIEW 'STREET SCENE' – THE CLEANLINESS OF OUR STREETS

It was agreed that the Clerk should be delegated to produce a response from councillors' comments.

MATTERS FOR REPORT**a) County Route Liaison**

The meeting on 21st. March had been attended by Mr. Parker and Miss Waters. The weather had delayed work and the completion was now scheduled for the November contract date. There will be side road closures over the Easter period. There is to be a computerised traffic light system at the intersection with the A12, which will be sensitive to traffic queues. There is a prediction of 90% transfer of traffic from the old to the new road. They were unable to supply information about the acoustic performance of barriers. There is to be another meeting in June. It was agreed that the planting scheme should be reviewed, and is therefore to be an Agenda item for the April Meeting. In the meantime, the original submission is to be circulated, with updates if necessary, for councillors to add their comments.



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b) Main Road, Potholes

There are two large potholes between the bus shelter and the Bicknacre Road junction. There are also several potholes between the bottom of Days Hill and Butts Green Road. The Clerk was asked to write to CBC about them.

c) New Speed Limit

The Clerk was asked to find out whether there had been a speed check in the new speed limit areas.

d) Southern New A130

It was noted that work had started on the southern section of the new road, and that it will not have a junction with the A127 causing Southend and Basildon bound traffic to use the existing road.

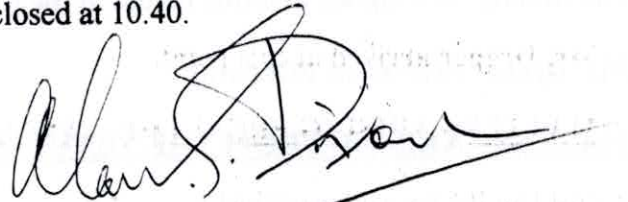
e) A12/A120

The Chairman undertook to circulate the documents on the consultative study.

f) M25 Orbit

The Chairman undertook to circulate documents on this consultation.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 10.40.



Chairman

26th April, 2001

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday, 26th. April, 2001 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT

Mr. Dixon in the Chair, Messrs. Parker, Applegate and Wigglesworth. The Clerk and two members of the public were in attendance.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. Feehan and Miss Waters had indicated that her arrival would be delayed.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting held on 22nd. March, 2001.

Mr. Draper arrived at this point.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Just Bin It Campaign (p.75 MA)

A local driver will take the rubbish to the civic amenity site following the Village Tidy-up.

Path to School beside Enymion (MA p.75)

The Clerk is to pass information regarding the proposed drop kerb to Mr. Applegate.

Association of Chelmsford District Parish Councils (p.75 Ca)

The presentation, on 4th. April, by Martin Eastal was attended by the Clerk and Miss Waters. He outlined the new structure at C.B.C., describing how councillors who were not in the Cabinet would be involved with policy making and scrutiny of decisions. Members of the Scrutiny Committee would be able to prevent decisions being enacted during a short period after the cabinet meeting. Cabinet meetings are to be in public. He also mentioned that, as a result of the best value review of the planning department, fewer planning applications would be decided by committee, but would be dealt with by officers under delegated functions. There was also reference to a forthcoming consultation with parish councils concerning the Standards Committee and how it will deal with parish council matters, either through the Committee or a special parish councils subcommittee. (This was on the Standards Committee Agenda for 18th. April, so consultation can be expected soon).

Notice has been received of the ACDPC AGM on Tuesday, 5th. June at Springfield Parish Centre. The guest speaker will be Leo Brennan, Acting Head of IT Services at CBC who will talk on the subject of *Setting Up a Parish Council Website*.

Kerbside Collection of Recyclable Material (p.76 Cd)

On the subject of a paper bank, HFC has responded that whilst the Charity would like to be involved in the recycling process it could not accept the extra responsibility for a waste paper facility without support from the Parish Council, especially as this facility might be likely to have extra litter consequences. This is a reference to the letter informing the Charity that PC would not be contributing to a litter collection at Hanna's Field.

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On behalf of the School, Mrs. Hardy has responded that the matter will be put to the Premises Committee on 9th. May.

Closure of Public Rights of Way (p.76 Ce)

A procedure is now in place to remove restrictions in the County in stages. In non-infected districts paths will be re-opened, apart from those passing through land with livestock. ECC will erect new signs on all rights of way. Closed paths will have red A4 notices and open paths will have multi-coloured A4 notices. ECC will give PC written notice of the paths to remain closed.

PARISH FOOTPATHS LEAFLET (P.78)

Mr. Draper is to meet a representative of Ordnance Survey to confirm copyright issues regarding the use of OS maps for the footpath leaflets. The situation appears to be that use of the maps would be permissible as long as PC is not making a commercial gain from their use.

New Speed Limit (MfRc p.79)

The Clerk had only just written to the Police, but would send a reminder if no response arrived within a reasonable time.

A12/A120 (MfRe p.79)

The documents on the consultation have been circulated and are to be an Agenda item for the May Meeting.

M25 Orbit (MfRf p.79)

The consultation documents have been circulated and are to be the subject of an Agenda item for the May Meeting.

The following item was brought forward on the Agenda for the benefit of members of the public.

CONSULTATION: A130 POST BYPASS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Clerk was instructed to send the following comments to ECC and Lord Hanningfield:

Site 1 – Overshot Bridge, Bicknacre: Parish Council is in favour of this proposal, but stresses that it must take place at the same time as the Creephedge Lane closure, or traffic from South Woodham Ferrers to Chelmsford which usually travels through East Hanningfield will simply divert through Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre.

Miss Waters arrived at this point.

Site 2 Bicknacre B1418 Main Road: The Parish Council is in favour of this proposal but suggests that additional calming is required in Priory Road to prevent traffic coming from the South turning left towards East Hanningfield when finding the Overshot Bridge queue. The 30mph speed limit should be extended to Overshot Bridge.

Site 3 East Hanningfield Main Road: The Main Road along the Tye needs to be reduced to the minimum required width in order to create a need for traffic to drive slowly. There should be pinch points at Highfields Mead to assist pedestrians crossing the Bicknacre Road and at Willis Farm to slow traffic before it reaches the village centre. The Parish Council would wish to see an investigation of the possibility of creating a walking area along the Common, perhaps by white line demarcation or the creation of a footway in combination with one-way priority for traffic. The Common is presently very dangerous for pedestrians because there is no footway or verge for part of its length.

Site 4 – West Hanningfield Village: The Parish Council supports the proposed measures in principle.

Site 5- South Hanningfield Road: The Parish Council supports the proposals.

Site 6 – A130 Closure: The Parish Council does not support the proposed closure. Mini-roundabouts and chicanes should be used to slow traffic, but the closure of the road would divert commercial traffic, which visits local businesses, through the nearby villages unnecessarily. Traffic calming and local destination signage should be used to prevent through-routing.

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Site 7 – Creephedge Lane and Workhouse Lane Closures: The Parish Council supports the proposed closure, but proposes that Lodge Road should also be closed to traffic to prevent it becoming a Creephedge Lane bypass. Lodge Road should be considered for use as a cycle/bridleway. Creephedge Lane could be considered as an access to the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Hyde Hall. This would allow vehicular traffic to access the garden from the main road network without passing through the villages of East Hanningfield or Rettendon Common.

Site 8 – West Hanningfield, Ship Road: West Hanningfield Parish Council has made some very sensible points regarding this proposal and this Parish Council accedes to that Council's greater knowledge of the area.

Site 9 – Present A130 in the Vicinity of the Bell Junction: The Parish Council supports the proposals.

Site 10 – Present A130 north of Rettendon Turnpike Junction: The Parish Council supports the proposals.

Site 12 – Mayes Lane: The Parish Council believes that the closure of Mayes Lane will be an unnecessary inconvenience to its residents, as its use as a rat-run will cease when the new road opens.

Site 13 – Main Road Woodham Ferrers: The Parish Council supports the proposals.

Site 15 – A130 Howe Green: The Parish Council is generally supportive of the proposals but suggests that a mini-roundabout would slow traffic.

Site 16 – Rettendon Village: The Parish Council supports the proposals.

Site 17 – Bushy Wood: The Parish Council supports the proposal for a pedestrian island.

In addition the Parish Council wishes to ensure that signage to Hyde Hall Garden will direct traffic via Rettendon Turnpike, to prevent a route being used from the A12 through Howe Green and East Hanningfield.

The Parish Council would also wish a package of proposals for cycle routes to be considered at this stage. Converting sections of the existing road to cycle lanes or routes would be easier to accomplish now than at a later date when some sections of road will have been destroyed.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Essex Rural Transport Partnership

EALC has obtained funding through Essex Rural Transport Partnership to obtain information on the ways Essex parishes can develop community transport in their areas. Chris Blake from E RTP will be making a presentation on transport in the early summer or September on the ways parishes can assist their areas to provide better transport. PC is asked to register interest if it would like a representative to attend. Cost: free to member councils.

The Clerk was instructed to register interest.

b) Chelmsford Community Transport Ltd.

The Trustee directors of Chelmsford Community Transport Ltd. invite members to attend their Annual General Meeting and the launch of the new Chelmsford Dial-A-Ride on Tuesday, 3rd. July. AGM at 5.30pm and Dial-A-Ride launch at 7pm, at the Link Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road.

This is to be brought back to the next Meeting.

c) Village Design Statement Guidelines

The Rural Community Council of Essex is to launch the new Village Design Statements Guidelines for Essex Communities at Essex Showground Pavilion at 1pm on Thursday 17th. May. The Chairman is to attend if available.

d) Police Meetings

The Chelmsford/South Woodham Ferrers Community Policing Team will be holding the following public meetings: 24th. May at Boreham Primary School; 20th. July at Danbury Village Hall and 14th. November at Hylands School. Also the Chelmsford Public Police and community consultative Group will be holding the following meeting for the Chelmsford/South Woodham Ferrers Section: 20th. March 2002 at the William de Ferrers Centre.

This is to be brought back to the next Meeting.



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FINANCE.**a) RCCE Membership**

It was agreed that as this was not a budgeted item it should be considered for next year during the budget making process.

b) Annual Audit

It was noted that the auditor PKF has asked for the books to be delivered to Civic Centre for the audit on 18th. June and that an appointment for 10am on 20th July has been arranged for the Clerk's Meeting.

c) Portacabin Break-in

Following the break-in in the early hours of 24th. March, the Clerk arranged for emergency work to be carried out on the door and frame so that it could be locked at the end of the working day. A company called Reactfast was used as no local contractors were available.

d) Payments

The following cheque had been signed between Meetings:

To:	NET £	VAT £	Total £	Explanation
Reactfast (24/3/01)	262.10	45.92	308.02	Repairs to portacabin door.

The following cheques were signed at the Meeting:

To:	NET £	VAT £	Total £	Explanation
PKF	256.00	44.80	300.80	Annual audit 1999/2000;
Essex Association of Local Councils	28.40 141.60		170.00	NALC subscription 2001/2, EALC Subscription 2001/2;
Hanna's Field Charity	12.00 24.00 125.00		161.00	Hanna's Tots April Easter Playscheme Preschool 2 nd . half Spring term;
Chelmsford Borough Council			108.58	Rates for portacabin 2001/2;
Canon (UK) Ltd.	23.11	4.04	27.15	Copycharge;
Premier Transline Hire	95.34	16.68	112.02	Portacabin Hire April;
Cornhill Insurance			438.00	Premium 2001/2;
K. Plumridge			569.22	April salary, etc.
R. Harvey			56.00	Groundwork

PLANNING.**01/512/ful 5 Abbeyfields (ground floor extension to provide garden WC)**

There was no objection to the proposed extension.

01/610/FUL 14 Industrial Estate (warehouse and office building)

PC objected to the proposed building. The two storey building would be out of keeping with the neighbouring single storey buildings on the edge of the open countryside. The screen planting which has been established at the site is of a height which can only mask the existing

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single storey buildings. The proposed building would set a precedent for other buildings of a similar height and prominence.

01/653/01 Appledore, Bicknacre Road (two storey side extension)

PC objected to the proposed extension because it would result in the loss of off street parking, and a larger house is likely to need more rather than less parking space.

01/683/01 Lodge Farm (retention of redundant agricultural buildings in business use)

PC would wish to see personal permission given to the individual users of the site with the exception of the transport operators, because there needs to be control over the activities at the site due to its situation relative to the road network and in the countryside. If personal permission is not possible, then PC objects to the application.

NEW A130 – PLANTING

The Clerk was instructed to send the following submission to the County Planner and Lord Hanningfield.

Screening Near Housing

The choice of species near housing, for example on sheet 6, where planting should have the dual function of filtering pollution and providing visual screening in addition to its contribution to the restoration of the local wildlife habitat, needs to include native evergreens such as *buxus sempervivens*, *pinus sylvestris* and *taxus baccata*. These species would maintain some form of barrier during the half of the year when the deciduous species are bare. Holly is included in the planting scheme but, although it is evergreen and beneficial to the local wildlife, it does not filter pollution as well as the other evergreen species mentioned above. The health and well-being of those people who now find themselves living beside a major source of atmospheric and noise pollution should be considered at every stage of the road building project. This is an opportunity for some form of amelioration to be designed into the plan rather than added on at the end.

Restoration of Habitat

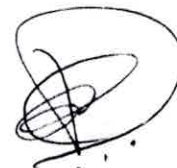
The new road will create a barrier across which many small fauna will not cross, or will die in the attempt. Hedgerows are known to be lines of communication and movement where small birds and animals are concerned, so where the new road creates a dead end by slicing through a hedgerow, that end should be joined to another by a freshly created hedge.

So, for example, on sheet 6 where there is an environmental barrier and only intermittent planting, there needs to be a hedge planted along the length of the barrier to join the cut off sections of existing hedge. Some dense planting at this point would also help alleviate the problem of turbulence which built obstructions of this kind inevitably create.

It is recognised that the planting represents species identified as present before the road construction began, and it is appreciated that replacing these species is the first step to restoring the landscape, but of course it cannot help the creatures that have perished through loss of habitat during the construction period: they will be replaced by fauna moving into the area from elsewhere. By reference to such documents as the *Flora of Essex (Stanley T. Jermyn)* it would be possible to identify species which have been in the area in the past but have already become locally extinct, perhaps due to modern farming techniques, and by including these in the planting scheme it would be possible to enhance the landscape and still keep it local.

It cannot be stressed enough how important it is for the plants which are used in this landscape scheme to be grown from local stock. Most supposedly native species sold in this country have been brought in from abroad and are grown from European stock. This means that they will be adapted to the climate of their place of origin. They probably flower and have bud burst at different times to the truly local plants: this has serious consequences for the fauna which rely on them for food and shelter, and also for the survival of the plants themselves in a possibly inhospitable environment.

It is unnecessary to set wildflower seeds, as there are already truly local seeds dormant in the soil waiting to germinate when the right conditions prevail. Again, local stock should take precedence over seeds brought in from elsewhere.



Conclusion

This planting scheme is an ideal opportunity for the County Council to set an example in the way the environment can be enhanced and biodiversity protected, but in its present form does neither sufficiently.

CONSULTATION: THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – DRAFT MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, FINAL PROPOSALS ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

The Clerk was instructed to send a response commenting that there should not be an acceptance that the receipt of gifts is acceptable.

VILLAGE HALL PROJECT

Loan Sanction has been confirmed for a further six months until the end of September. EALC has confirmed that it will be possible to increase the loan sanction without applying for a new sanction. No funding is available from PO Counters. The Portacabin is already on a long term lease. Fordham Johns have answered the question concerning site visits and provided three references. The Countryside Agency has been contacted concerning funding for rural regeneration. Funding for Village Hall by the Carnegie Trust is not available for this project as it does not fulfil the criteria.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the referees and subject to satisfactory references, delegated to confirm the contract with Fordham Johns. The Clerk was also instructed to confirm that the drawings would be the property of the PC.

ANNUAL MEETING

It was noted that the Meeting to be held on 24th. May will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council beginning at 7.30pm, and that that Meeting will be adjourned at 8 pm for the Annual Parish Meeting. Mr. Draper apologised for his absence at the forthcoming Annual Meeting.

MATTERS FOR REPORT

a) Old Church Road Footway

The hedge is encroaching across the footway. The Clerk is to inform CBC.

b) Footway beside Three Horseshoes

The Clerk is to inform CBC that the footway is low relative to the road, is very narrow and close to passing traffic. The surface has deteriorated because of splashing from the nearby potholes. Also a small pothole has opened up again in the road.

c) Planning Enforcement Matters

The Clerk is to ask CBC for an update.

d) HFC

A letter from HFC is to be circulated and is to be the subject of an Agenda item for the May Meeting.

e) Village Tidy-up 12th. May

The Clerk has arranged for pickers and sacks. Recyclables are to be separated. Volunteers are requested to meet at the Village Hall car park at 9am. The Clerk is to prepare leaflets for a house to house drop, which will be delivered with new bus timetable leaflets.



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