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 13th JUNE 2022, 7.30PM AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB

Present: Cllrs Doe, Gransden, Jordan, Southgate, Toocaram, Veater, Westrop.
In the Chair: Cllr Southgate
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: Mr Paul Lemon and Ms Sally Halls, Colne Valley Railway

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Bayes and Dover gave apologies for absence

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the annual meeting of 9th May 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
Proposed: Cllr Jordan **Seconded**: Cllr Veater Agreed unanimously

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Westrop declared an interest in item 6.1 and a planning application at item 8

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Paul Lemon wished to update the Parish Council on Colne Valley Railway news now that they are returning to more normal operations following the pandemic. In particular he was concerned about the actions of Essex Highways in imposing road closures with only two weeks notice, which has a major impact on CVR events, not just with visitor attendance but also with transporting visiting traction engines. One event was around 50% down in visitor numbers when roads were closed at High Garrett and Sible Hedingham on the same day, with a 30 mile diversion. Another event had many visitors arriving late due to diversions in place. He had been able to contact Anglian Water about a total road closure in Great Yeldham and agree that they would delay it, but he would appreciate the Parish Council's support in challenging Essex Highways. He believes that with reduced traffic on the roads during the pandemic, Essex Highways were able to close roads without being questioned and they are continuing to act in this way now without recognising the impact on businesses and events opening up. Having survived on grants during the Covid pandemic, CVR are hoping this coming year will be their first good year for visitors.
Action: The Parish Council will request support regarding Essex Highways from Cllr Peter Schwier, and also raise this issue with the Braintree Association of Local Councils.
Mr Lemon & Ms Halls left the meeting

5. PROGRESS CHECK

Clerk's report, village maintenance issues and update on actions from last meeting
5.1. Village Sign: The excellent refurbishment of the village sign at Forge Green by Trevor Squier with the original craftsman David Le Versha was noted, with grateful thanks that this was completed in time for the Platinum Jubilee events in the village
5.2. Village Hall Trustees: The appointment of two new trustees, John Fennelly and Trevor Hood was noted. Julie Matthews will continue for up to 12 months as Village Hall Secretary and Trustee to support the handover. Anyone else who is able to volunteer as a Trustee please call Julie on 07757 859944
5.3. Castle Hedingham Cemetery: A working party will clear unauthorised items from the Cemetery at Sheepcot Road on the morning of Friday 8th July. A notice will be placed at the Cemetery entrance to give advance warning of this clearance, to enable visitors to remove personal items which are not permitted.

6. HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Update on Highways & Footpath issues and any new problems to report.

6.1. Footpath 25, Pye Corner to Rushley Green: It was agreed that the Parish Council response to the Essex Highways Definitive Map Officer regarding a proposed diversion of Footpath 25 would be the same as previously communicated to the landowner to their enquiry in January 2021. If diversion plans go ahead, there will be a public consultation before the plans are approved by Essex Highways.

***6.2.* Noticeboard St James St**: A gas main has been identified below the location where the noticeboard installation was planned. **Action:** Clerk to explore other options. Councillors to meet at location with Village Maintenance and the noticeboard to work out the best alternative. *See item 6.3*

6.3. Flower Planters St James St: An Essex Highways licence has been received for signature. These galvanised steel planters will be donated and looked after by the Village Shop and volunteers. It may be that the noticeboard, with some modifications, can be returned to its original location in conjunction with the installation of the planters.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch. Police reports have been circulated to Councillors.

***7.2.* Essex CC report**. Cllr P Schwier apologised for absence

7.3. Braintree DC reports: Cllr J Beavis BDC and Cllr H Johnson BDC apologised for absence. Cllr Beavis sent a written report.

8. PLANNING

Applications received:

22/01307/HHPA Erection of single storey rear extension. Extension will extend beyond rear wall of the original house by 6.0m, with a maximum height of 3.0m and 2.85m to the eaves of the extension
10 New Park CO9 3HH *Information only, no comment required*

22/01163/HH: Conversion of garage to gym/home office/spare bedroom
The Vale Cottage Rushley Green CO9 3AJ *No objections*

22/01282/VAR Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of permission 19/00486/FUL granted 01.08.2019 for: 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. Variation would allow for: - Various improvements to design and access
Rosemary Farm Cottage Rushley Green CO9 3AJ *No objections, if Highways approve the change of access to the property. Also note that there appear to be no parking, garages, storage sheds applied for.*

22/01251/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to tree in a Conservation Area - Ash (T1) Pollard the tree to a height of 9-10m to the edge of the ivy. This has been requested by structural engineers, as part of a subsidence issue with The Silvers
The Silvers Pottery Lane CO9 3EU *Decision ratified, no objections*

Applications determined

22/00439/LBC Repainting of exterior walls from pink to cream
Badgers Sudbury Road CO9 3AG *Application PERMITTED*

8.1. PLANNING: CONSULTATION ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FORUM

RESOLVED: To fully support the Braintree District Council proposals for a Planning Members Forum. Proposals were presented to Members of the BDC's Planning Committee on 31st May 2022. The presentation and the subsequent discussion by Councillors is available to view here (from 1:37:45): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4NDNyebVCk

Proposed: Cllr Southgate **Seconded**: Cllr Toocaram Agreed unanimously

9. FINANCE

9.1. The monthly payments were approved for authorisation by two Councillors (*see Appendix 1*). The monthly bank reconciliation was checked and signed by Cllr Gransden

Proposed: Cllr Toocaram **Seconded**: Cllr Veater Agreed unanimously

9.2. RESOLVED: Hedinghams Parish Magazine: To agree to a request to fund the cost per page of the inclusion of the Parish Council abridged minutes, at an estimated cost of between £500 and £600 per year. A monthly invoice will be requested, and the cost will be reviewed at the January 2023 budget meeting to inform a decision about whether to continue the arrangement in the 2023-24 financial year.

Proposed: Cllr Southgate **Seconded**: Cllr Gransden Agreed unanimously

10. VILLAGE PARK

10.1. Community Garden/Allotment Cllr Jordan reported that work was delayed due to contractor illness, and is now planned to start on Wednesday 15th June. She has informed residents at Ruffles Yard.

10.2. Tree Planting: Platinum Jubilee Oak – due to oak moth infestation, only 3m high oak trees are available. If purchased from Kings, they would look after it for us until autumn planting season

Action: Clerk to contact family of Sonia Allfrey, who are sponsoring this tree in her memory. Other tree sponsors will be contacted closer to the autumn planting season.

10.3. Play Equipment RoSPA inspection: The report noted some minor actions which can be carried out by Village Maintenance

Action: Suggested dismantling of the cantilever swing mechanism for maintenance will be discussed with Earthwrights, the equipment manufacturer.

11. PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2ND – 5TH JUNE 2022

Cllrs Southgate congratulated all concerned who were involved with organising the weekend's festivities, which were excellent and it was fantastic to see so many people taking part. In particular, Cllrs Doe, Dover, Jordan, Toocaram and Westrop involved in the working party, Andrew Westrop and team for making a unique beacon which is so personal to Castle Hedingham, Clive Clark and Adam Redgewell for catering on the Thursday, Jayne Laken of United in Kind and Alan & Sandy Henry for all their hard work, as well as De Vere Primary for singing at the Beacon Lighting. It was truly a united village effort and everyone involved in any way is appreciated for their contribution

11.1. Platinum Jubilee photos: Cllr Doe suggested an exhibition at the Memorial Hall of photos contributed by residents from the events, together with the creation of a photo book for purchase, which would also be of historical value. If the Parish Council funded printing costs, any profit after sales could be donated to one of the Queen's charities. This proposal was met with general approval and will be put on the agenda for a future meeting once Cllr Doe is able to provide more details. Any photos of the Castle Hedingham Platinum Jubilee events can be forwarded to Cllr Doe in digital or hard copy, she can be contacted at pennychpc@gmail.com or drop hard copy photos into the Bell Inn.

12. REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

12.1. BALC AGM 18th May. Castle Hedingham representatives unable to attend, minutes will be forwarded when received by the clerk.

12.2. Wethersfield Airfield Scrutiny Committee meeting 30th May – Cllr Toocaram reported on activities by different agencies in opposition to the prison proposals. There is potential for listing the airbase, and it has been approved by WASC to proceed with an application for conservation status. The Wethersfield Airbase museum along with the curator have been given 1 month notice to quit the site and are looking for alternative accommodation. Military Police have to leave by 2023. A formal planning application through Braintree District Council may be forthcoming in August 2022

12.3. ECC Levelling up Launch meeting 10th June - Cllr Southgate & clerk attended. Rural north Braintree has been identified as a priority area due to hidden rural isolation and deprivation. The aim is to identify needs and co-ordinate support through community assets which already exist, as well as identifying new services needed. Funding will be available for local parish organisations.

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Community 360 Loneliness Awareness Week Road Show will visit the Memorial Hall, Church Lane on Tuesday June 14th from1.30pm to 3.00pm. The aim of the Road Show is to engage with as many people as possible who may suffer from isolation & loneliness in order to point them to agencies and clubs who can help them. Jayne Laken our United in Kind facilitator plans to attend.

14. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Essex County Council CIF funding projects for the village

15. NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th July	**7.30pm**	**Ordinary Parish Council**	**Castle Hedingham Club**
Monday 8th August	**7.30pm**	**Ordinary Parish Council**	**Castle Hedingham Club**
Monday 12th September	**7.30pm**	**Ordinary Parish Council**	**Castle Hedingham Club**

The meeting closed at 9.07pm

SIGNED DATE
(CHAIRMAN)