



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 14th MARCH 2022, 7.30PM AT CASTLE HEDINGHAM CLUB**

Present: Cllrs Bayes, Doe, Dover, Gransden, Jordan, Southgate, Toocaram, Veater, Westrop.
In the Chair: Cllr Southgate
Clerk: Claire Waters
Also Present: One parishioner
Mr Andrew Hull, Chairman Wethersfield Airfield Scrutiny Committee (WASC)
Cllrs J Beavis & H Johnson BDC (item 7)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of 14th February 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Bayes **Seconded:** Cllr Westrop Agreed unanimously

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Bayes, Gransden & Toocaram declared an interest in a planning application at item 8

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident made the Parish Council aware of local objections to planning application 22/00563/FUL at item 8

The resident left the meeting.

Mr Andrew Hull, Chairman Wethersfield Airfield Scrutiny Committee (WASC) addressed the Parish Council on the work being done by this group of local Parish Councils to oppose the proposed mega prisons development at Wethersfield Airfield. At the suggestion of the Chairman, item 13 was brought forward and discussed at this point on the agenda. (*see item 13*) *Mr Hull left the meeting*

5. PROGRESS CHECK

Clerk's report, village maintenance issues and update on actions from last meeting

5.1. Community Speedwatch: 9 volunteers attended the morning's training session on Monday 14th March. 2 village speedwatch locations have been approved, one at the junction of Bayley Street and Sudbury Hill and one along Nunnery Street near the Rising Sun. Cllr Charlie Jordan is applying for further sites to be approved but this may take time.

5.2. Dog Fouling: Leaflets are being handed out to dog walkers asking for their help. Recycled dog poo bag dispensers with a public notice are now sited at the dog poo bin at Pye Corner, the street bin at the junction of Church Ponds/Church Lane and the Village Park dog poo bins.

5.3. BDC Anti-litter signs: Temporary signs are being trialled by BDC to reduce litter being thrown from vehicles. The Parish Council will recommend to BDC that problem littering spots in Castle Hedingham include the A1017 approach from Great Yeldham, the layby near Pannells Ash on the Sudbury Road and the approach from Maplestead along Sheepcot Road.

5.4. Memorial Hall smoking area: At the request of the Village Hall Committee, the smoking area will be discussed with Castle Hedingham Club and moved away from the front of the building.

5.5. Village Hall storage: due to a kitchen refurbishment, the Parish Council has been asked to remove archive files stored at the hall.

Action: Cllr Dover and the clerk will arrange to access and sort the materials.

6. HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

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

6.1. Footpath 15: With thanks to Cllr Peter Schwier, ECC, the clerk is now in touch with the new Public Rights of Way officer for Braintree District. Planings will be laid by Essex PROW maintenance to improve the walking surface at the start of Footpath 15 from Station Rd alongside the old woodyard. Clearance of this section from fallen trees and rubbish will also be carried out by Essex PROW.

6.2. Noticeboard St James St: Essex Highways will not permit the noticeboard being returned to its original location due to safety requirements. Alternative locations have been looked at in detail

RESOLVED: The new noticeboard will be sited alongside the house wall by the bus stop.

Proposed: Cllr Gransden

Seconded: Cllr Bayes

Agreed unanimously

6.3. Dangerous parking: Concerns have been raised by residents about parking during school drop off and pick up times at the junction of Bowmans Park and Nunnery Street . Contact has been made with the Head of De Vere Primary to discuss walking bus options. Residents are encouraged to call the police on 101 to report dangerous parking and abusive behaviour from drivers.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Police/PCSO/Neighbourhood Watch. Police reports have been circulated to Councillors. Police have been asked to keep an eye on dangerous parking at Bowmans Park junction with Nunnery Street, and also anti-social behaviour, drug taking and vandalism at the Village Park and public toilets by Hedingham School students. The school has also been informed.

7.2. Essex CC report. Cllr Schwier apologised for absence

Cllrs Beavis & Johnson arrived

7.3. Braintree DC reports: Cllr Johnson reported:

- Boundaries Commission Review: *see item 12*
- Wethersfield Airfield prison proposals: At this stage they are proposals only. No planning application has been submitted yet. People need to be clear about what they are objecting to.
- Fuel theft: With increasing cost, residents are advised to take sensible precautions against theft
- Planning Enforcement, Cycling Strategy and Climate Strategies are all supported by the budget

Cllr Beavis reported:

- BDC budget: generally in support of this as it is good for business growth and green initiatives, as well as increasing the planning enforcement budget and capacity
- Ukraine Aid collection: Castle Hedingham Village Shop is full of donations and an enormous thank you is due to everyone who gave so generously. A lorry is due to collect late on Wednesday 16th March. In answer to a question from Cllr Doe, Cllr Beavis confirmed that Braintree District plans to co-ordinate accommodation offers for refugees are in progress and she will report back.
- Cybersecurity: This is a priority at BDC as local government could be a target. A review of BDC assets is also being done to identify any Russian investments
- Hedinghams Medical Centre: Planning Committee are still awaiting the application at committee
- Footpath 15: In answer to a question from Cllr Southgate, Cllr Beavis confirmed that she would support in asking BDC to identify the landowner of the old woodyard as it is falling into disrepair and causing obstruction of the footpath, as well as the whole site attracting unwanted behaviour.

Cllrs Beavis & Johnson left the meeting

8. PLANNING

Applications received:

22/00299/FUL & 22/00300/LBC Conversion of single storey barn to form 1 No. 3 bedroom dwelling
Nunnery Farm Barn Nunnery Street *No objections*

22/00563/FUL Erection of 1 No. two storey 4 bedroom dwelling house, detached double garage and gardens

Land Adjacent 13 Bayley Street

Objection: comments as for previous application

Applications determined:

22/00236/TPO Notice of intent to carry out works to tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 12/11 - Sycamore (T1) Fell tree due to decay at the basal union between the 2 co-dominant leads. The neighbour's house is within striking distance, should this lead fail. The recommendation would be fell the tree, grind the stump and plant a suitable replacement in a similar location

Bailey Lodge Pye Corner CO9 3DE

Application PERMITTED

22/00239/TPOCON Notice of intent - works to tree in a Conservation Area - Cut down Conifer tree

7 Castle Close CO9 3DH

Application WITHDRAWN

22/00036/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Reduce Plum tree to the height of the wall approx 7ft high which is an 8ft reduction in height

23 Bayley Street CO9 3DG

Application PERMITTED

22/00006/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Removal of 5 densely grown Cupressus/Cypress spp. due to excessive shading and overcrowding of 2 cherry trees and 2 Hawthorns. Proposal to replant native hedgerow plants at boundary, behind current trees

7 Church Lane CO9 3DA

Application PERMITTED

21/03756/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Sycamore (T1) Remove the lowest 3 branches. Crown thin by 25% and crown clean, Cypress (T2) (neighbour's tree) Cut back all overhanging branches and reduce in height by 1.5metres

9 Church Lane CO9 3DA

Application PERMITTED

21/03757/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area - Birch (T1&2) Crown reduction of both trees to the previous cuts

The Silvers Pottery Lane CO9 3EU

Application PERMITTED

21/03754/HH Proposed single storey rear and side extension

The Meadow Sheepcot Road CO9 3HB

Application PERMITTED

21/03465/LBC Repairs to section of existing boundary wall to Southwest of vehicular access gate including the rebuilding of approximately 1/3 of the brickwork.

The Old Vicarage 15 Queen Street CO9 3EZ

Application PERMITTED

21/02261/FUL & 21/02262/LBC Conversion and change of use of a Grade II* listed property known as 'Castle Hedingham URC' to 1 private dwelling

Castle Hedingham United Reformed Church 32 Queen Street CO9 3HA

Application PERMITTED

9. FINANCE

9.1. The monthly payments were approved for authorisation by two Councillors. The monthly bank reconciliation was checked and signed by Cllr Gransden.

Proposed: Cllr Veater

Seconded: Cllr Jordan

Agreed unanimously

Feb-22	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Eon	Electricity New Park	£56.25
DD	Bulb	Electricity Toilets	£22.64
DD	Invoco (GOCARDLESS)	Portable telephone number	£1.21
DD	B&CE Holdings	Peoples Pension	£67.80
B/P	Staff	Salaries	£1,566.87
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI January month 10	£81.73
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office January	£75.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses Dec 20th to Feb 14th	£53.12
B/P	EALC	Council Finance Course - 3rd Feb PG	£84.00
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge February	£11.40

B/P	CH Club	February meeting	£20.00
TOTAL in month			£2,040.02

Feb-22	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
24-Feb	EALC	Clerk Bursary Budget & Precept training	£52.50
TOTAL in month			£52.50

Mar-22	Payments in Month	Details	Amount
DD	Bulb	Electricity Toilets	£25.56
DD	Invoco (GOCARDLESS)	Portable telephone number	£1.19
B/P	Staff	Salaries & back pay to 1 st April 2021	£2,032.14
B/P	HMRC	Tax/NI February month 11	£58.53
B/P	E C Waters	Home as Office March	£75.00
B/P	E C Waters	Clerk Expenses Feb 14th - March 14th	£55.73
B/P	A&J Lighting	Monthly Charge March	£11.40
B/P	CH Club	March meeting	£20.00
B/P	BDC	Rates Pump House	£5.42
B/P	Over 50's Tea Club	Grant Jubilee craft materials	£100.00
B/P	Garry Southgate	Chairmans Expenses: Pay Review meeting	£12.50
B/P	Rentokil Initial	Sanitary Disposal Public Toilets	£13.67
TOTAL in month			£2,411.14

Mar-22	Receipts in Month	Details	Amount
	None		
TOTAL in month			£0.00

Accounts balances at 14th March 2022

Unity Trust Current account	£17,368.92
Unity Trust Deposit account	£10,467.42
Cambridge & Counties 95 day	£34,915.63
	£62,751.97

The clerk left the meeting

9.2. Decision on Pay Review for clerk, village maintenance and public toilets operative positions, both for the 2021-22 financial year (backdated to April 2021) and for the 2022-23 financial year. The delay of the 2021-22 pay review is due to an inability nationally to reach a public sector pay agreement.

RESOLVED: A pay rise of 2.75% will apply across all staff roles for the year 2021-22, this will be backdated to April 1st 2021. A pay rise of 2.75% will also apply across all staff roles for the year 2022-23.

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

The clerk returned to the meeting.

10. VILLAGE PARK

10.1. The minutes and actions agreed at the Village Park group meeting on 25th February were noted

10.2. Community Garden/Allotment: one quote is still outstanding. Cllr Jordan will chase this up.

10.3. Tree Labels: Cllr Veater, as a tree sponsor herself, suggested that damaged tree labels should not be replaced as the tree is the memorial, not the label. A map of each tree planted could be made for the back of the Village Park noticeboards. **Action:** Village Park group to work on this idea

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

Cllr Doe reported on a meeting of the Jubilee working group on Monday 7th March:

- Thursday 2nd June, 5pm to 7.30pm at the Village Park with BBQ, Club bar and beacon lighting. Sarah at The Moot House and Adam Redgewell will be providing food at this event.
- Sunday 5th June, 2-5pm, St James Street party. Bring your own picnic. Competitions and events.

It was agreed that the priority for publicising events is to make sure residents of Castle Hedingham are kept informed. Requests to the clerk from Braintree and Essex Councils and other organisations for Platinum Jubilee event advance publicity will be answered with a simple list of events.

12. BOUNDARIES COMMISSION REVIEW

Castle Hedingham Parish Council does not support the proposed new Haverhill & Halstead parliamentary constituency. The response to the secondary consultation will reiterate the objections raised in the first consultation in 2021. The deadline for responses is Monday 4 April 2022. All responses can be viewed at <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>, and comments can be submitted via this website or by email or letter.

13. WETHERSFIELD PRISON PROPOSALS

Andrew Hull, Chair of WASC, urged all Parish Councils to appoint representatives to attend meetings. The scale of the proposals is unprecedented in Europe and at this stage a co-ordinated voice is more important than financial contributions. A traffic survey commissioned by WASC recorded 1700 vehicle movements a day at the A1017 junction with the Wethersfield Road – even by conservative estimates this will increase by 3000 further traffic movements per day at the junction once the prison is completed. At full capacity, the prisons would contain 4.5K people including staff, would be the size of 80 football pitches, all concrete and all illuminated, and situated on one of the highest ridges in the county. The WASC team has strong skills and hopes that together we can influence the use of the whole 800 acres of the airfield site in a positive way – maybe linking with a tourist trail and supporting the countryside and cultural elements of the surrounding area including Castle Hedingham.

Action: Cllrs Southgate and Toocaram will represent Castle Hedingham Parish Council at WASC meetings, with Cllr Doe standing in if either is not available

Action: Clerk to copy all Councillors in on the latest WASC reports.

14. CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

None

15. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Date and arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly (public meeting)
- Financial year end, arrangements for internal and external audits.

16. NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th April 2022	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council	Castle Hedingham Club
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The meeting closed at 9.25pm

SIGNED
(CHAIRMAN)

DATE