



Annual Report April 2024

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr Garry Southgate
CHAIRMAN

07905 628117
garryschpc@gmail.com

Cllr Julia Allen
cllrjallenchpc@gmail.com

Cllr Andy Deeks
andydchpc@gmail.com

Cllr Penny Doe
pennychpc@gmail.com

Cllr Will Dover
williamchpc@gmail.com

Cllr Beverlee Foulkes
beverleefchpc@hotmail.com

Cllr Stuart Mowle
stuartmchpc@gmail.com

Cllr Andy Smith
smithawchpcc@gmail.com

Cllr Jessica Westrop
jessicachpc@gmail.com

**Sign up for membership of
our website for news at
www.castlehedingham.org**

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Parish Council page on
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**CASTLE
HEDINGHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

Claire Waters, Parish Clerk
25 Bayley Street
Castle Hedingham
CO9 3DG

07845 056597
castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com

Castle Hedingham ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

**Monday 20th May 2024, from 7.00pm
at the Village Hall - please join us**

All residents of Castle Hedingham are most welcome - light snacks and soft drinks will be available. Find out what's going on in our village and share your views or news. Village groups and clubs are also very welcome to set up a display table or make a short presentation. This is not a formal Parish Council meeting but an opportunity to meet with other residents who have the best interests of our community at heart.
Contact: castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com



St James's Fair Saturday 27th July, 2-5pm at the Village Park

Save the date! Would you like to run a stall or game, maybe to raise funds for your village group or to promote your local craft or artisan products? We are planning an afternoon of village park picnic fun with food and drinks available to buy and a performance by our own Hells Bells Morris Dancers.

For hundreds of years a fair was held in Castle Hedingham to celebrate the Feast of St James. We are hoping to bring back this annual tradition - if you can help in any way please contact castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail - 07845 056597

20s Plenty for Castle Hedingham?

Our survey at www.castlehedingham.org asks your opinion about which roads in the village would be suitable for a 20mph speed limit. Essex County Council is reviewing their speed management strategy later in 2024 and we hope they will include 20mph limits in their public consultation.

Our website aims to be a one-stop shop for information about the work of the Parish Council and important village, District & County news. If you request membership of our website (click on the globe icon top right of the home page) you can sign up for daily or weekly email updates when new content is added.

We will continue to work in the best interests of the village in the year ahead. With our best wishes,

Garry Southgate
Parish Council Chairman



CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

THE ROLE OF YOUR PARISH COUNCIL IS TO:

Represent the views of the people who live in Castle Hedingham

Raise issues of public concern with other authorities, such as Braintree District Council for environment & planning issues, Essex County Council for highways & drains and Essex Police.

Comment on planning applications and other proposals which affect the village – Braintree Planning has the final say on all planning applications

Provide and/or maintain public areas and facilities, including the cemetery at Sheepcot Road, the public toilets and our Village Park & Community Allotment

Maintain grassed areas, village greens, some footpaths and roadside verges, and report maintenance issues to landowners or appropriate authorities

Keep streets clean and collect litter on behalf of Braintree District Council

Maintain the closed churchyard at St Nicholas Church, and carry out repairs and maintenance to the church clock

Undertake other projects and obtain grant funding to support the parish, e.g. our 3 Public Access Defibrillators

www.castlehedingham.org

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Community Allotment



Our allotment at the Village Park was created for the benefit of all residents - whether you want to get out in the open air and volunteer with our friendly team, pick up freshly harvested produce from the Village Shop or just drop by to rest and take in the view. This year we have received a further £3,500 grant from Braintree District Council and a donation of £1,000 from Castle Hedingham Parochial Charities - this will be used for raised beds with increased height to reduce bending, more tools, and a bike rack for visitors to the park. Allotment sessions are held on Wednesday mornings 10am to 12noon, with plant sales and seed swaps coming later this year. We look forward to seeing you!

What else are we doing?

We believe Castle Hedingham is a wonderful place to live in so many ways, including the heritage, environment and community spirit. This is why we are submitting an entry for **Essex Village of the Year 2024** which has been relaunched after a 4-year break. Please send your ideas and examples of why Castle Hedingham is special to castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com by Friday 17th May - every contribution will help with our application!

Parish Council Accounts

The precept is the Parish Council share of the Council Tax. In January 2024 the Parish Council requested a precept of £34,047.00 for the 2024-25 financial year, an increase of 4.99%. For a Band D property, this is a contribution of £71.49 per year to the Parish Council. All financial information is reported in the monthly meeting minutes which are published at www.castlehedingham.org and on the noticeboard at the Memorial Hall car park.

INCOME 2023-24	£
Precept	32,838.00
Agency Grant Income	5,915.89
Cemetery Income	5,656.00
Grants (Community Allotment)	4,500.00
Other Income (inc .donations)	1,884.19
Interest on deposit accounts	1,090.83
VAT reclaim	1,431.89
Total income	53,316.80
EXPENDITURE 2023-24	£
All staff costs - wages/Tax/Nl/Payroll	25,990.25
Village maintenance (excluding staff costs)	9,114.77
Administration & office costs	6,317.38
Projects (inc. allotment, church clock)	5,804.96
Grants - British Legion Remembrance Wreath	60.00
VAT (to be reclaimed)	3,191.91
Total expenditure	50,479.27
Year end balance 2023-2024	2,837.53