

MINUTES of HELIONS BUMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on

MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2008

129/08 ATTENDANCES

The Chairman welcomed everyone present at the meeting, which commenced at 20.00 Hrs.

NAME	POSITION	PRESENT
Mr M. Rowson	Chairman	Yes
Mr J. Collar	District Councillor	Yes
Mr G. Moore	Parish Councillor	Yes
Mr B. Freight	Parish Councillor	No
Dr. M. Lawfield	Parish Councillor	Yes
Mr M. Istance	Parish Councillor	Yes
Mrs J. Catchesides	Parish Councillor	Yes
Mrs C. Purdie	Parish Councillor	Yes
Mrs T. Freight	Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer	Yes
Mr D. Finch	County Councillor	Yes

130/08 HEALTH & SAFETY

Persons attending meetings at the Village Hall Committee Room are requested to take a few moments to familiarise themselves with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of the alarm being raised during the meeting, you must evacuate the building immediately and follow the instructions provided by the Parish Clerk. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point in the car park until it is safe to return to the building.

131/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr B. Freight.

132/08 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8th September 2008 were agreed to be a correct record and then duly signed by the Chairman.

133/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Information: Personal and prejudicial matters relating to agenda items: -

Mrs Catchesides declared her personal interest in item 139/08, as she is a member of the management committee.

Decision: In accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, the councillor remained in the meeting, unless stated otherwise, and took part in the discussion for all the above items and the vote thereon.

134/08 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

135/08 ECC SCHOOL TRANSPORT PROVISION

Information: Mr Istance reported that at the beginning of the autumn school term there were two issues regarding the provision for the village.

Primary school children aged from 4 years old were being collected at 7.30 am on one large coach, which then travelled to Sturmer and Birdbrook before going on to Stanley Drapkin School. This was unacceptable for many parents and as a result the service has been reverted to a minibus collecting children from Helions Bumpstead only at 8.15 am.

The Saffron Walden County High school coach previously operated by Ruffles was discontinued. The new provision for our secondary school children was for them to use the public bus service operated by Stansted Coaches. Unfortunately the new drivers were not informed of the collection point at the crossroads. The timetable has been revised to include the stop at the crossroads.

136/08 WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Information: Clerk reported award given by ECC under the new grant funding scheme "Making It Happen". She also gave a presentation at the "Making It Happen" event on 15th October 2008 organised by RCCE as Memorial Plaque was used as a pilot for this funding scheme.

Action: Mr Rowson and Mrs Catchesides to obtain quotes for lettering.

137/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Information: Mr Finch reported the following information from ECC:-

- a) ECC ended the financial year 2007/8 under budget by £38 million and carried forward £22 million.
- b) The 2009/10 budget preparations underway. Council Tax increase predicted to be lower than the inflation rate of 2.9%.
- c) ECC has no funds invested with Ice Bank.
- d) ECC and Essex Police to fund additional 600 police officers over the next five years. Once training completed they will be stationed within the twenty two divisions in Essex and two of these officers will be based at Great Yeldham. Essex has the third lowest crime rate in the country. The Chief Constable will hopefully be staying in Essex.
- e) ECC recently commissioned an A12 enquiry, Minerals and Waste Strategy and commissioned a Rural Policy.
- f) The newly introduced Insurance Brokerage Scheme made savings of £50,000 for the 230 Parish Councils that applied. Mrs Catchesides enquired if the scheme could include Village Halls, Sports Pavilions and Churches. **Action:** Mr Finch to investigate.
- g) The free bus pass scheme in Essex has been extended for use between 9.30 and 23.00 hrs week days and from 9.00 until midnight at weekends at a cost of £8 million.
- h) ECC trying to support post offices in rural areas.
- i) Introduction of the new £1 million CIF – Highways. Essex also considering introducing 30mph limit for villages.

Mr Finch then thanked the Chairman and left the meeting.

138/08 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS / DECISIONS

Information:

- a) The current Planning list was circulated to members (copy attached) and the Clerk informed members of most recent decision / applications.
- b) For the following planning applications the recommendations made by tonight's Planning Sub-Committee are as follows: -
08/01769/08 Helions Farm, Sages End Road, Helions Bumpstead.
Decision: No objections. Proposals meet the criteria of Policy RLP 17 Extensions and Alterations to Dwellings in Towns and Villages and Policy RLP 18 Extensions to Existing Dwellings in the Countryside.
Action: Clerk to inform BDC of observations.

139/08 VILLAGE HALL MAJOR PROJECTS

- Information:** Mrs Catchesides reported the following applications had been submitted for the kitchen refurbishment with the outcome in November 2008:-
Community Initiatives Fund, Essex Environment Trust and Grass Roots.
- Action:** Tender documents with the revised lay out plans sent to three local builders for quotes.

140/08 HIGHWAYS

Information: The Clerk reported the following: -

- a) *Water Lane* – Informed that overhanging tree has been felled with the branches dumped in the ditch and on the verge by owners of Whitegates. Action: Matt Reeve ECC Highways had written requesting landowner to remove tree on 26 August 2008. Clerk also made investigations with ECC highways and Anglian Water concerning the posts marking out a driveway in Water Lane. Work not carried out by either of these organisations.
- b) *Village Green Culvert* – Engineering work to commence end of October 2008.
- c) *ECC CIF Highways* – Information: Following initial expressions of interest made with Highways the projects listed below could be considered for grant funding: -
 - i) Village gateways.
 - ii) Grass Crete for driveway from car park to Pavilion.
 - iii) Refurbishment of two traditional Finger posts replacing the Village Hall metal directional sign with a bespoke wooden sign.
 - iv) Replace chevron signs at Wiggins Green and Church Hill with wooden oak posts on edge of highway.
 - v) Two new Footlights in Haverhill Road.
 - vi) Replace two metal footpath signs in conservation area with wooden signs.

Action: Clerk to complete application form before closing date 31st October 2008.

141/08 FOOTPATHS

Information: Dr Lawfield reported the following: -

- a) Still waiting for delivery of Bridge Kit.
- b) Way marker posts delivered.
- c) Approval given by ECC to change gradient and width of steps on FP behind Three Horseshoes.
- d) Highways ordered road planeings to redress bridleway in Sages End Road entrance up to the concrete section.

- e) Regional Manager Jim Barclay ECC visited Whitegates recently and will be returning in a few weeks but from records he has established the line of Right Of Way for FP. Encouraged to record all incidents concerning obstructions on land owned by Whitegates.
- f) P3 scheme have agreed to replace several missing finger posts. Also agreed to fund two bespoke wooden finger posts giving directions to both Haverhill and Steeple Bumpstead stating distance.

142/08 FINANCE

Information: Members were circulated copies of the following financial information (copies attached): -

- a) Current Parish Council Accounts
- b) Retrospective payments.
- c) Copies of current Bank Statements.
- d) Cheque List.
- e) Monthly Budget

Clerk also reported the following: -

Completion of Parish Support Grant application for 2008/9 provision based on end of year figures 31/03/08.

Decision: Agreed correct information and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Action: Clerk to forward completed PSG3 to BDC.

143/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr Collar reported the following: -

- a) Now a member of Economic Development Board.
- b) As part of Local Democracy week he attended the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the opening of Braintree Town Hall.
- c) BDC had invested £5 million in Iceland. Situation at present unclear if investment will be returned although interest of £230,000 lost. Other investments ING £1 million and £4 million Northern Rock. Mrs Purdie enquired what services would be affected due to this loss of revenue. Mr Collar replied that at this stage he did not know.

144/08 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- a) *Clerk's report* – A brief outline of items highlighted on the attached report was given to members.
- b) *Parish Plan Update* – Mrs Catchesides to submit application to Greenfields Housing Association for funding to produce PPU and VDS.
- c) *Incidents Report- Information:*
 - i) On three occasions in a week cars had been driven on Recreation Ground and damaged both the cricket and football pitch. Statement made to Police. Thanks to chairman for taking photographs. Temporary barrier erected with assistance from Jonathan Ramsey. Village Hall Committee purchased new gate and fencing, which many volunteers erected. Latch and lock to be fitted.
 - ii) Mrs Purdie reported that lead had been stolen from the south aisle roof of the church on 6th October 2008. Incident reported to police.

Meeting closed at 21.35 hrs

145/08 NEXT MEETINGS

Planning Sub-Committee: Monday 27th October and 10th November 2008 at 19.30 hrs.
Parish Council Meeting: Monday 10th November 2008 at 20.00hrs.

Malcolm Rowson - Chairman

*For further information regarding these minutes, please contact: -
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Abbreviations: -

PC – Parish council

BDC – Braintree District council

ECC – Essex County Council

FP – Footpath

PPU – Parish Plan Update

CIF - Community Initiative Fund

VDS – Village Design Statement

