CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report May 2025

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr Garry Southgate
CHAIRMAN
garrys@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Julia Allen
juliaa@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Penny Doe
pennyd@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Will Dover
willd@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Beverlee Foulkes
beverleef@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Mike Hemes
mikeh@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Phil Jones
philj@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Stuart Mowle
stuartm@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Andy Smith
andys@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Sign up for membership of our website for news and updates at https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk/

Follow our Castle Hedingham Parish Council page on Facebook

Join us at any of our monthly meetings, 6.30pm on the second Monday of the month at Castle Hedingham Club

CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Claire Waters, Parish Clerk

07845 056597

clerk@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Castle Hedingham
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2025
Monday 19th May, 7.00pm at the Village Hall - please join us

All residents of Castle Hedingham are welcome - light snacks and soft drinks will be available and the social club bar will be open. Find out what's going on in our village and share your views or news. All village groups and clubs are very welcome to set up a small display or make a short presentation—please contact clerk@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk to book a display table.

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. We hope to see you there!

New Parish Council website and emails

To comply with new web accessibility standards, the Parish Council now uses the **castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk** domain for website and emails. This also means that we are better protected from possible cyber fraud. Follow our website at **https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk/** for all our news, meeting agendas and minutes.

Braintree District Local Plan Review

Call for Sites maps for the village and the Parish Council responses can be found on our Planning Applications page https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk/planning-applications/ **Castle Hedingham** is currently scheduled to be discussed at a Braintree Local Plan meeting on **Thursday 12th June 2025**



We will continue to do our best for the whole village in the year ahead.

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

Sign up for membership of our website for news and updates at https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk/

Follow our Castle Hedingham Parish Council page on Facebook

CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Claire Waters, Parish Clerk

07845 056597

clerk@castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk

Community Allotment



Our volunteers meet at the park on Tuesday mornings 10am to 12noon. Do please drop by for a chat if you can and see what's planned for the year ahead. New volunteers are always welcome. Allotment produce will be available from the Village Shop

What else are we doing?

Essex Village of the Year 2024 we were delighted to be awarded Highly Commended in last year's competition, and we congratulate our friends and neighbours at Great Maplestead for winning the first prize

Essex Clerk of the Year 2024 this is a new annual award from the Essex Association of Local Councillors and we were proud to congratulate our own Castle Hedingham Parish Clerk for being the first ever winner of the shield

Devolution and Local Government Reform will bring changes to the way our local government works, and the Parish Council will monitor any proposals closely to try to achieve best value for Castle Hedingham residents

Our Public Toilets have been praised by visitors. We installed new doors and new taps to prevent water waste.

Our Village Hall roof was repaired. The Parish Council takes responsibility for the building exterior and car park

Dog Waste Bag dispensers were installed thanks to a grant from our BDC Councillors and are helping reduce dog fouling

Parish Council Accounts

The precept is the Parish Council share of the Council Tax. In January 2025 the Parish Council requested a precept of £39434.00 for the 2025-26 financial year, an increase of 15%. For a Band D property, this is a contribution of £82.21 per year to the Parish Council. A monthly financial report is in all meeting minutes on our website https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk and on the noticeboard behind the Memorial Hall

INCOME 2024-25	£
Precept	34047.00
Agency Grant Income	5922.83
Cemetery Income	4489.00
Grants (BDC Councillors)	166.20
Other Income (inc .donations)	1329.16
Interest on deposit accounts	1987.18
VAT reclaim	4906.69
Total income	**52848.06**
EXPENDITURE 2024-25	£
All staff costs - wages/Tax/NI	26123.59
Village maintenance (excluding staff costs)	9067.15
Administration & Office costs	6910.23
Community Allotment (from grants)	5287.89
Other spending from grants and reserves	6672.51
Grants awarded	620.00
VAT (to be reclaimed)	3078.06
Total expenditure	**57759.43**
Year end balance 2024-2025 (financed from reserves)	-4911.37