



CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2026

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr Garry Southgate
CHAIRMAN

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Cllr Julia Allen

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Cllr Penny Doe

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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 2026 **Thursday 30th April, 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

Some of our Parish Council activity during 2025-26

Village Maintenance: Danielle and Clive left our staff team, they will be greatly missed. We have appointed a cleaner for the **Public Toilets** and will be installing automatic door locks in May. Our thanks to Tony who continues to keep the village looking its best, with thanks also to Adam who has helped with one-off jobs. We are also grateful to the church keyholders who have supported us by unlocking & locking the toilets until the new locks are installed

A VE Day tea dance and St James Fair were appreciated by residents, and we raised £569 from the St James Fair raffle which funded two Kinder Essex social events for the village. **St James Fair 2026** will be on **Saturday 25th July, 2-5pm** at the Village Park **Village Christmas Tree Lighting** included festive shopping and was well attended, we hope to repeat this for Christmas 2026

BDC Local Plan review: we have responded to consultations and strongly object to the speculative development at Kirby Hall Road

Highways: we continue to report problems and escalate them where needed with our County Councillor e.g. Nunnery St. bridge

Memorial Hall car park: we consulted with Hall & Club users and nearby residents about an electric vehicle charging point, and concluded that there is not enough space available. A contractor has been appointed to repair the damaged car park surface areas

Village Park: We carry out regular maintenance and annual RoSPA inspections. We used the last of our S106 funding to purchase "loudspeaker" play equipment for all ages to enjoy. S106 funding is held by Braintree District Council as developer contributions for open spaces, and is now only applicable to developments of 10 or more homes in the village

Community Allotment: Produce is available at the Village Shop or from the allotment group on Tuesday mornings. A solar panel is now up and running to power a kettle and charge equipment

Bus services: When bus services changed, we printed timetables and made them available through the Village Shop. We then worked with Great Yeldham PC, Sible Hedingham PC and the bus operator to put in 3 successful bids for the Essex Love Your Bus grant

Our aim is to continue to support the village of Castle Hedingham and all its residents

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 for crime & public safety

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 projects and obtain grant funding to support the parish, e.g. 3 Public Access Defibrillators, 9 dog waste bag dispensers & bags, Community Allotment

Sign up via our website for news updates at <https://castlehedingham-pc.gov.uk/>

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What else are we doing?

Effective IT and data management has been a priority this year to make sure we are complying with the highest standards in accordance with new audit requirements. Our internal and external audits for the 2024-2025 year were all completed with no concerns raised

Local Government Reorganisation: The new Unitary Authority of North East Essex is confirmed, which includes Braintree, Colchester and Tendring. The Parish Council will monitor developments through the transition period and work to maintain good service and value for Castle Hedingham

Dog Waste Bag dispensers continue to help keep dog fouling to a minimum. We are grateful to our BDC Councillors for a grant of £325 to keep them supplied with biodegradable bags this year. Over 1000 bags are being used each year

Hedinghams Parish Magazine: we agreed to support the magazine financially this year by paying for the cost of pages to publish the abridged Parish Council minutes. We believe this is a valuable service to the community and are grateful also to the volunteers who deliver a copy to every household

Village Defibrillators we monitor these at least monthly and they are now registered with the Circuit which is the first line of access by the emergency services. One is in the telephone kiosk at St James Street and one at Rushley Green Farm. The defibrillator at Memories is temporarily out of action but when The Elms is up and running it will be reinstated

Parish Council Accounts

The precept is the Parish Council share of the Council Tax. In January 2026 the Parish Council requested a precept of £42,661.00 for the 2025-26 financial year, an increase of 5%. For a Band D property, this is a contribution of £86.32 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 2025-26	£
Precept	39434.00
Agency Grant Income	6101.21
Cemetery Income	7042.00
BDC Cllrs grant & S106 claim	2920.92
Other Income (inc. Memorial Bench & St James raffle)	1014.57
Interest on deposit accounts	2194.97
VAT reclaim	2231.82
Total income	60939.49
EXPENDITURE 2025-26	£
All staff costs - wages/Tax/NI	27609.43
Village maintenance (excluding staff costs)	10482.76
Administration & Office costs	6962.38
Community Allotment (funded from grants/donations)	635.30
Other spending from grants and reserves	5181.21
Grants awarded	729.00
VAT (£907.51 to be reclaimed)	2915.55
Total expenditure	54515.63
Year end balance 2025-2026	6423.86