

EASTON
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FRIDAY MAY 20th 2016 – 7.30PM
EASTON & LETHERINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attendance- 8 members of public. 3 Parish Councillors

Chair – Cllr S Piggott

1 APOLOGIES

Cllr B Gibbon, Cllr F Siddall, Cllr A Thomas, Jolyon Kimmerling –Cricket Club Chair,
Cliff Green-Bowls Club Chair

2 MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING –2015

There were no recorded minutes available from the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2015.

3 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – Chairs Report

This last year has been a very busy year. The elections in May resulted in four new councillors, at this point a Clerk was in place, however she left the following month.

The Government External Audit had not and could not be signed off due to non- compliance. As a result the External Auditor registered a Qualified Audit which records a state of non- compliance for the year ending March 31st 2015, a period prior to the elections and the new council.

The Planning Application submitted by Hopkins Homes became an Appeal. The Parish Council submitted its report to support its objection. The Appeal Hearing took place at the beginning of March this year and the Chair gave representation on behalf of the Parish Council, this also included a Planning Inspector Site meeting which followed the Hearing.

The Parish Council has started a training programme for Councillors which is ongoing. The Play Area and Cemetery together with the Village grass cutting is now on a regular grass cutting management programme. The cemetery programme fits in with Nigel Wright's voluntary work at the cemetery. The Parish Council continues to support the Village Hall and gives a grant of £400 each year to the committee.

Last year the Parish Council made contact with Highways concerning the poor condition of the pavement along the street. It was arranged for the re-surfacing to take place from the Car Park to the School. SCC met with the Chair to arrange timing and to adjust road closure times to have the least impact for the school. The works were completed and have improved the pavements considerably. The Parish Council funded Community Speed Gun initiative is now fully operational, the Chief Co-Ordinator Jenny McEvoy and Deputy Co-Ordinator Christine Burgoyne's organisation in maintaining a rota of volunteers is very much appreciated and valued.

The Parish Council decided to take part in the Royal Beacon Lighting Event on April 21st to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday. The support and gratitude from the community was tremendous and made the event not only successful but worthwhile. Easton now has an official beacon and can continue to be in the historic records each time they take part in a National Beacon lighting event.

The Council still seeks a Clerk and until one is in place only essential administration can be given priority.

4 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - Report Attached

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – None

6 REPORTS INVITED FROM ALL VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING:

All Saints Church – Presented by Mrs J Woodbury-Eggins, Lay Reader.

Mrs Jane Woodbury-Eggins thanked the Parish Council Chair for the invitation letter to give a report, it was the first time that one had been sent.

Thank you for asking us to make a presentation to your AGM, we hope that means you feel that the church is an essential part of the village of Easton.

A few figures first: in 2015 we had 4 weddings, 1 baptism and 5 funerals. These are usually occasions when the church looks to a wider group than our own village and are really special events for those involved. There were 33 regular services and Easton School came to the church for their own services three times.

One of the features of our church of which we are proud is that we have an active children's ministry. We have the COSMIC club which meets on the 4th Sunday during our communion service. They go to their own special room and come back to the service for a blessing and to tell us what they have been doing. Their insights are often amazing. We also have a Family service on the second Sunday which is more informal and allows a mix of young and old to worship together. We often make things or have a story instead of the sermon or talk in a formal service.

The Sunday Cafe has been running very successfully for several years now. I'm sure many of you have been along to sample the homebakes and bacon rolls and have a chat to friends. This is a good community event on the 3rd Sunday each month and involves quite a large number of willing helpers. Thank you.

There are other special services during the year such as our Carol service, the Remembrance Sunday service and last year we had a service of thanksgiving for departed loved ones on All Souls Day. We also celebrate Harvest with a festival service and lunch.

I would particularly like to thank the large number of people who help us with our May Fair. This is a "whole village" event and involves a great deal of work and preparation. Thank you to all of you who contribute to our funds at this event and at our Christmas Bazaar. Our church does not manage to fully pay its way and our financial situation would be even more dire if these events did not raise funds to help us to stay solvent. It costs between £10,000 and £15,000 a year to maintain the church (by which I mean the whole church, not just the building) and you can imagine that this is a big "ask" for a small parish.

Village Hall – Mr I Palfryman - Chairman

Mr Palfryman reported that the Village Hall was operating successfully and that it could support itself financially. The AGM will be held in the following week and that a full report will be forwarded after this meeting.

Easton Primary School – Mr M Churchill, Chair of Governors

Mr Churchill thanked the Parish Council Chair for the invitation letter and appreciated this having not received one before and was glad to present a report.

The school is proud of the results of the children that completed their years at the school and that the requirements for moving on to High School for pupils were met. The staffing levels at the school are high and the school manages to cope with the impositions from government that result in very rapid changes to the curriculum and SATS criteria. The ethos to deliver good education amongst the staff is very positive and they fully and willingly take part in a constant self-assessment programme, and are happy for observations to be made with feedback from Governors. The school role at present is 67 with availability which always is hoped to be filled, for each pupil comes funding. The Primary School is now an Academy and is part of a three school organisation. Following the realisation that the future of small schools were compromised if their total role numbers were less than 150, the decision to become an Academy was made in the hope that the future of Easton Primary School would be more secure. There is a vacancy for School Governors and anyone with an interest in education of Primary years children would be a welcome applicant and addition to the board.

Easton PlaySchool - None

W.I. – Mrs J Prentice, President, Easton Belles WI

We continue to be a successful and happy group of ladies, celebrating our 4th birthday last month. Bringing in membership from Easton, Letheringham, Cretingham, Framlingham and Parham, we number 24 with average attendance each month of 20. We always welcome visitors to our meetings and we'd love to see you all (menfolk included) at our annual open evening- this year being held on Tuesday 25th October, 7.30pm here in the village hall, the subject is 'Turkish delights' followed by refreshments. We were delighted to run the tea stall again this year at the Church May Fair and continue to be involved in local events. Please look for details of our meetings in both the monthly Parish Magazine and on the village notice boards.

Cricket Club – Presented by Mr J Rook on behalf of Jolyon Kimmerling-Chair

In their various leagues and divisions the Mens 1st XI finished 4th, Men's 2nd XI finished 1st and the Ladies XI finished 1st with the Sunday XI finishing 5th. In the Junior section the U19 T20 Colts lost in the semi-final having won their previous 4 games. Under 15s 1st with 6 wins, Under 13s 4th with 1 win, 4 losses and 3 No Result, Under 11s finished 2nd with 3 wins and 2 losses. Unfortunately I don't have results for the Under 9s, Under 15 Girls played and lost 1 game. Numbers of juniors within the club have stayed roughly the same with approximately 100 juniors participating 2015. During 2015 and start of the 2016 season we have completed the following:

Installed a new scores hut and provided electricity

- Dug a drainage trench by the grounds equipment shed
- Acquired a 4th pitch cover providing protection for the bowlers run-ups
- Seen the establishment of a car park hedge
- Cleaned and refurbished the net area
- Purchased an outfield mower with cabin

This year has seen a reduction in interest from senior cricketers, for whatever reason, and we have struggled to put out 2 Saturday teams for the first 5 weeks of the season. Those who have played have all had a chance to shine in the games, and many have come back to me and said how much fun the cricket has been. We are trying to coax some old and new faces to the club this year in the hope that we can continue to offer as much senior cricket as possible for this and future years.

Finally I need to mention that midway through the last season we lost Fred Mitchell, my predecessor, to an illness he battled against for many years. I feel the club is still trying to come to terms with this sad event but we are trying to continue with the values and standards he taught us. His sons are working to keep the pitch and outfield in perfect condition, and I am encouraging all to follow his motto to 'Play hard, play fair, but most of all enjoy'. We have planted an English Oak in the North corner of the ground, which has a circular seat, and is the perfect spot to watch cricket, and remember departed friends. Many thanks to Maureen Mitchell and family, Steve Pearce and Mary and Jonathan Duggan for their fitting tribute to Fred.

Bowls Club- Presented by Mrs C Rook on behalf of Cliff Green- Chair

Easton Bowls Club had a good season and enjoyed the new facilities – new toilets and the extra room in the pavilion. Both our teams did well in their respective leagues finishing runners up in both. Three open tournaments were held and were well attended. Carol organised coaching for Easton Primary School pupils and the children all seemed to enjoy it. This year has seen a tricky start, due to difficulties with the green. Work was carried out during the winter months and due to the cold early spring the grass hasn't grown as we hoped, but with the warmer weather I'm sure the green will be restored to its former glory. New members are always welcome so if you fancy having a go at bowls please contact myself or one of the village players

Meeting closed 8.15pm

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Chair

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Date