

EASTON
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FRIDAY MAY 5th 2017 – 7.30PM
EASTON & LETHERINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attendance - 6 members of public. 2 Parish Councillors

Chair – Cllr S Piggott **Minutes:** - Parish Clerk W Dicks

1 APOLOGIES

Jolyon Kimmerling – Cricket Club Chair; Chery Singleton – Primary School Principal

2 MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING –2016

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2016 were approved, and signed by the chair.

3 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – Chairs Report

Over the past year, the new Parish Council has settled in and endeavours to meet the duties of a Parish Council and work for the village within the parameters and protocol set for this tier of Government.

During the latter half of last year the Clerks Vacancy was filled. There were two applicants Jackie Thomas and Bill Dicks and Bill Dicks was appointed.

During the first half of the year the decision was received for the Planning Appeal that Hopkins Homes lodged against the decision of SCDC to refuse permission for their development. The Appeal resulted in the Government Inspector over-ruling SCDC and permission was granted. Following this, the Parish Council submitted correspondence to SCDC to make them aware that their expectation is that all the Conditions attached to the development are met, and that sympathetic materials such as flint and brick be used should any securing of the bank be necessary to affect the highways sight splay.

As the grass growing season progressed it became apparent that the Grass cutting contractors that had completed the previous year's contracts were not honouring their contract. The management of grass cutting and hedging in the Cemetery suffered neglect and the commemorative circle which they were asked on numerous occasions to make good underfoot was ignored. The Parish Council invited and considered tenders from other contractors, and Kindewood were appointed, they very quickly put in place Cemetery hedge cutting before the bird nesting season. It is hoped that Kindewood will meet the expectations of the Parish Council and Village. The Parish Council are so grateful for Carol and John Rook in the time they have given to cut grass at important burial times and for Carol who has managed the burials and registers whilst the council were without a Clerk. Over the year the problems of HGV's routing through the village became a regular occurrence and in that time enough people had seen and experienced the routing of trucks and were reporting in to the Chair. On one occasion a customer of the Pub was so upset by the experience of sitting outside the pub for a long lunch period that she contacted the Chair, expressing this problem not only for customers of the pub but road users.

The Chair has spoken to both the police and highways. Eventually after recording the times and that the trucks were mainly tippers r us over several sample days, the Chair made repeated contact with Highways and the County Cllr. The Chair had reports in and had noted the destination of the trucks,

so contacted the manager of Tippers R Us who confirmed that his trucks were delivering to a cement mixing business in Earl Soham and the timings concurred with those logged. The Chair contacted SCDC to ascertain the conditions that would have been attached to the permission granted for this cement mixing business which operates from farm buildings. SCDC investigated and found the business to be operating without permissions, and enforcement officers have taken up the case. The regular occurrence of Tippers R Us routing through the village from Kesgrave to Earl Soham appears now to have ceased, the case is on-going.

The Chair has been in contact with Suffolk County Council with regard to Speed Indicator signs; this followed a conversation with Hopkins who confirmed that they would not be following up their statement to provide Speed Indicator signage. Eventually SCC agreed to provide cost free speed indicators on a rota basis. SCC decided on the positioning of the poles and will attach the Indicator signs for a 2 week period with around 3 weeks between. It is expected that Easton will see the signs this month.

The Parish Council supported the Village Green Christmas tree by purchasing and delivering the tree.

The Parish Council has followed up their decision to install new lighting for the Car Park which will meet the Eco/LED requirements and on shorter posts to allow manageable maintenance. There will be two lights to replace the tall floodlight, they will be in black Victorian style that will be more aesthetic and in line with the locations conservation status. The installation fits with SCDC Planning permitted development for the site. Aeron Nobbs will start installation at the end of May.

A new Notice Board has been purchased and will be installed at the Car Park entrance, this will be for all Parish Council notices and minutes and will complement the present notice board by not using space needed for general notices.

The Vice Chair Alun Thomas has recently moved away from Easton and the Hunt Kennels with his wife Jackie to Hampshire. There are now 2 vacancies on the Parish Council.

4 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT - None

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – None

6 REPORTS INVITED FROM ALL VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING:

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

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

To give you a few figures first: in 2016 we had 1 wedding, 3 baptisms and 3 funerals. These occasions usually involve people from outside the village as well as local people and are important, even life-changing, events for those involved. There were regular services twice a month and Easton School came to the church for their own services on three occasions. The church here is part of the seven parish Orebeck benefice [Orebeck was explained] and on the first Sunday of the month the one benefice service takes place in one of the seven churches by rota.

The Sunday Cafe has been running very successfully here in the Village Hall for several years now on the 3rd Sunday of each month. I'm sure many of you have been along to sample the home bakes and bacon rolls and meet up with friends. This is a great community event and we couldn't do it without a large number of willing helpers. We are very thankful for their participation.

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 [COSMIC was explained]. 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 contributions and insights benefit us all. 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/talk in a formal service.

There are other special services during the year such as the Remembrance Sunday service, our Carol service, and the COSMIC Nativity on Christmas Eve and 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. Those of you who were here last weekend will know that this is a "whole village" event and involves a great deal of work and preparation. The funds raised are essential to the survival of our church here in Easton. It costs about £15,000 a year including paying for our shared priest's salary, pension and training, also maintenance of the building, insurance, electricity, etc. to keep the church running (which if my maths is right is almost £300 a week). So thank you to all of you who contribute to events like the May Fair and our Christmas Bazaar and our next special event which will be Hidden Gardens on 2nd July.

If you have any questions, I'll do my best to answer them. Thank you for listening."

Easton Primary School – Mrs C Singleton, Principal

As the primary school's report was sent just before the meeting but an e-mail failure meant it was not available at the meeting, it is attached to these minutes.

Easton Play School - None

Village Hall – Mr I Palfreyman, Chairman

Mr Palfreyman said that the Hall Committee AGM would be held in the following week and that a full report would be forwarded after that. [The Parish Clerk will associate the report with these minutes and will aim to arrange next year's Annual Parish Meeting after the Hall AGM, if feasible.]

In the meantime Mr Palfreyman outlined the process for arranging events, e.g. the 'Casino', and for selling tickets. This involved much negotiation with suppliers, and events can raise perhaps £500. But he contrasted this with the fact that a simple repair can cost the same figure. There have been a few maintenance issues this year, so the Hall committee needs to keep up its fund-raising efforts.

He acknowledged that the Parish Council had contributed £400 last year as it had in previous years, but expressed concern about the perceived bureaucracy of the Council's new grant application process and whether it should apply to the Village Hall. He said that he had contacted the District Council who had supported his views. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had not refused a 2017 grant and that the Grant Policy was in place as mandated to Parish Councils; this means that all those wishing to request a grant need to fill out the Grant Application Form, this process ensured a proper audit trail, essential where Public money and decisions were concerned.

Cricket Club – Jolyon Kimmerling, Chair

As the Cricket Club's report was sent just before the meeting but an e-mail failure meant it was not available at the meeting, it is included here.

"A summary of our club Year 2016 can be as follows: Junior cricket continues to thrive with over 100 juniors enjoying our game. Senior Saturday sides struggled with playing numbers and both

sides just avoiding relegation from respective 2 counties divisions. Ladies and Sunday sides were both Champions of their leagues.

This year: A good start to the season with a few new faces. Some concerns over playing numbers remain but it is a little better than 2016. A great atmosphere and family friendly club awaits all visitors and spectators alike.

Hope the meeting goes well.”

Bowls Club - Presented by Mr M Cattermole, Treasurer

“The report of Easton Bowls Club for season 2016.

On the green after a poor start where there was hardly any growth in the grass due to the cold and wet weather, we had a reasonable season.

With a small membership of approximately 26 members – we managed to finish third in the Woodbridge League. We also finished mid-table in the Fynn league. We also had good success in our seasonal friendlies.

The club also entered 6 cups and got through to the semi-final stage in three of them. We entered the Marie Curie Cup competition for the first time this year. This is a County wide competition. We got through 2 or 3 rounds which took us to new grounds in Suffolk. Easton won the final which was played at the British Sugar ground in Bury St Edmunds. Now we just have to defend it in 2017!

We also started a Monday Pairs competition, during 2016 to give players a chance to play during the day. These seemed to go down well and we will be running them again this season. We also had our three sponsored tournaments – the Eric Peck Memorial, the Hammond Salver, and the Ransome Trophy. Without these tournaments and our Sponsors we would find it increasingly difficult to continue financially as the cost of maintaining the Bowls Green alone is very high. To keep the green in a reasonable condition, we need to add fertiliser and sprays etc. which do not get any cheaper. Like any other sport there is also the cost of registration and affiliation with the County, which seem to increase each year. At a time when our membership is decreasing, mainly due to old age, we find our costs are increasing – and there does not seem to be any young members coming forward. We finished the season with our annual dinner and presentation dinner in November.

We have opened the green last month ready for 2017 and had our first Woodbridge League meeting. We would welcome new members and sponsors to carry on with our success this season.”

Easton Belles WI - None

Meeting closed 8.30 pm

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Chair

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Date



Apologies that I am not able to be at the meeting in person, I hope that this report is informative.

Easton Primary is a founder member of Avocet Academy Trust which is now made of four schools including Wickham Market, Leiston and most recently Aldeburgh Primary school. Over the past year the schools have been working together to continually improve and offer our children more opportunities. As all the schools are relatively small it enables the children to take part in more sport as cross academy tournaments and it also enables us to share costs leading to better resources and provision. This year Avocet Trust have been able to afford a mini bus which has been fantastic for our pupils in particular as we often have to transport small groups around which can be quite costly. For staff being part of the Academy group has meant that there are greater career opportunities and people can stay within the Trust for longer meaning we don't continuously lose excellent staff.

Easton pupils have performed excellently this last year gaining top spot in the county league tables and there was a piece in the East Anglian to celebrate our achievements. We are very proud of our pupils past and present and know that they give their best at school. League tables are limited and don't tell the full picture but it is good to be at the top all the same!

I understand that the housing development near to the school was controversial for the village but the new car park will make a huge difference to the school and the safety of our children. I also hope that the removal of the congestion at School Lane will be welcomed by the village and we look forward to the new car park possibly being in place by September.

Last year we took part in the Suffolk Show Pig Competition and were runners up in the final. The children designed, made and presented their pig at the show in front of a large audience including parents and teachers from the school.

This coming year we look forward to the summer production, sports evening, Year 6 leavers assembly and welcoming a new Reception in take. We will be welcoming a new leader to the school as I hand over the reins to a new Head of School who will manage the day to day element of school life. I will still be heavily involved in the development of the school and the wider Academy.

Volunteers are always welcome at the school to hear readers, etc. please contact us for more information.

Chery Singleton
Principal