**EASTON**

 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**FRIDAY MAY 24TH, 2019 – 7.30PM**

**EASTON & LETHERINGHAM VILLAGE HALL**

**Attendance-** 12 members of public. 3 Parish Councillors

**Chair** – Cllr S Piggott

 The Chair welcomed everyone.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Cllr F Siddall

 J.McEvoy

**2 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2018**

 The Minutes were signed off.

**3 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT –** Chair’s Report

The Parish Council continues with its responsibilities, the cemetery and burials, village car park, village play area, village grass cutting, along with projects for the village. Minutes, Financial Statements and documents can be found on the website and Minutes on the Notice Board. The Parish Council may be contacted directly as well. Over the year the Car Park has had a concrete bay installed for the Recycling Bins, this keeps the bins off the car parking area. The fly tipping problems at the bins seem to have ceased. The Parish Council organised the WW1 Centenary Beacon event which took place on the 11th of the 11th last year and was very well attended and received, the bells were rung, and beacon lit and a hog roast was provided.

The village green Christmas tree was arranged by the Parish Council, volunteers decorated it and the tree look beautiful. The PC are happy to ensure that this is organised each year. The PC continues to financially support the Speed-watch initiative which requires the speed-gun to be calibrated annually and incidentals that arise throughout the year. The WWI centenary village signposts have now been put in place. The Signposts are owned by the PC but under licence and jurisdiction of Suffolk County Council and as a result of their lengthy processes it was not until this week that they were finally installed and despite starting the process back in 2017. Last year the Parish Council passed over to the Village Hall, notification and application forms for SCDC CIL funding. The Parish Council congratulates the Village Hall for their successful application the result of which was given in October last year, which was to grant the Village Hall £38,000 to fund a programme of works for the Village Hall. The Parish Council was pleased to receive a grant application from the Village Hall, although the request was for £400 to aid the running expenses of the hall the accounts showed that income and expenditure was healthy and the income gave a surplus, the PC congratulates the Village Hall committee in its hard work to achieve this. This year the Parish Council decided to grant £400 to the Village Hall to develop a bespoke Website. Easton Village Hall will be able to have visible booking fees, booking conditions, booking enquiry forms, details of classes, promote events, news, committee membership details, charity details and documents, which should help and support promoting village hall bookings. Also, to support the village hall the Parish Council would like to put forward a member to join the village hall committee, as in previous years. The Neighbourhood Plan has had to stall, because, the East Suffolk Local Plan Review is in process and has to be adopted and concluded before the NP can reach completion, this ensures that the Easton NP will be examined against the most up to date Local Plan and ensure the greatest strength to its policies. The next stage will be a community event which will display the NP in its draft form, prior to the examination and adoption by East Suffolk council, it is hoped this will happen by the end of this year. The PC have decided to pursue some projects to spend the community infrastructure levy money that comes to the Parish Council. The money from Hopkins development comes in three instalments, one has been received along with an individual build in the village which totals £15,700, there will be two more instalments from the Hopkins Homes which will bring the total to approx £44,500. The details of these funds are within Financial Statements produced by the Parish Council and can be viewed at any time on the website or by contacting the Parish Council. The Household Survey conducted for the NP guided the PC on their decisions for spending the CIL monies which must be within criteria set by EastSuffolk council. A high percentage indicated that addressing volume and speed of traffic was a priority. The PC are hoping to pursue a project to put physical speed calming in to the village by way of pull outs which create points of road narrowing, it means that the space left will not allow for two cars to pass, and has shown to be effective in other parts of the country. These pull outs can be simple with a pair of rustic posts with a reflector and would fit in to the conservation status of the village. Almost 100 percent of respondents wished to see a wildflower meadow and community orchard. The PC will explore purchasing a parcel of land to deliver a wildflower meadow and community orchard. Also, replacement of equipment in the PlayArea. The ROSPA reports are starting to show that replacements are needed. This year has been an election year which has resulted in 6 elected Parish Cllrs, with one vacant seat. There is a vacancy for a Clerk, the Parish Council is advertising for an experienced and suitable Clerk. The Chair has many years of Clerking experience and can keep the Parish Council administration going on an interim basis as Acting Clerk which is legally accepted by the district council and is the situation that many other Parish Councils have.

On behalf of the Parish Cllrs I would like to thank all the members of the community who consistently thank the council and show their appreciation for the work that the Parish Council does. All Councillors give a lot of their time to meet their duty as a Parish Councillor and they do their very best to ensure the Parish Council meets its legal obligations and works within its powers.

**4 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT -** None

**5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS’S REPORT- County Cllr R Vickery**

Throughout the past year I have tried to attend as many Parish Council meetings as I can, and Highways issues have again taken up most of my time, with funding being the main reason for delays in finding solutions. Last May, I was appointed to the Suffolk County Council Scrutiny Committee, which has meant a lot of extra work, particularly reading lengthy reports prior to the meetings. We have dealt with a number of controversial items, such as the Budget setting process, including the changes to the Citizen’s Advice Bureaux Funding, Home to School Transport changes, and the relocation of the Suffolk Records Offices in The Hold on Ipswich Waterfront. I was also appointed as a substitute member of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel last May, which has involved quite a lot of training before I could take part in any of the meetings. Gang culture and the County Lines Drug problems have been major topics we have had to scrutinise. I am still on the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Pension Board as an employer representative, and as Suffolk County Council Armed Forces Champion I have attended numerous meetings of the Armed Forces Community Covenant Board, and the East Anglian Army Reserve Force and Cadet Association. I was also very pleased to accompany the Suffolk County Council’s new Chief Executive Officer, Nicola Beach, on a visit to RAF Honnington, and further visits are being planned for later this year to Wattisham Flying Station and Rock Barracks at Woodbridge. During 2018, we commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Signing of the Armistice, which ended the First World War. Since April 2017, I was pleased to serve on the Lord Lieutenant’s Centenary Commemoration Committee and helped organise 5 major events across the County. The first was a Naval Parade and Service which took place in Lowestoft on October 7th. Then on Sunday 4th November we held a Service at Bury Cathedral, called the Crimson Glory Service, where local school children participated with singing and poetry. This was followed by another service at Bury Cathedral on Wednesday 7th November, called the Eve of Peace Service, which was attended by representatives of all the Military and Civil Leaders in the County, as well as Veterans organisations and Charities, and relatives of WW1 casualties. The following day, Primary School children from across the County laid Poppy Crosses and Commemorative Plaques on all of the 1332 WW1 Commonwealth War Graves across the County. It was a major task, implemented by members of the Royal British Legion, Churches, Schools, Parish Councils and members of the public. The final event was the Remembrance Day Services held across the County on Sunday 11th November, where record numbers of people turned out to mark this very significant event. As Chairman of Ipswich branch of The Royal British Legion I have been responsible for organising the Remembrance Day Service in Christchurch Park for the past 12 years, and it was estimated we had up to 10,000 people present in the park for the Service. I had given notice that I wished to retire as Chairman at the end of 2018, and I certainly went out on a high, as we had not previously experienced such a high turnout for the Remembrance Day Service. Following the Service, I had to dash up to London, as I was very honoured to have been asked to represent Suffolk at the Service of Thanksgiving held in Westminster Abbey that evening, in the presence of the Royal Family. During the past year I have been pleased to support local groups by funding various projects in Carlford Division. These have included traffic calming measures, and the provision of play equipment, and I hope they will all improve the lives of residents.

**6 REPORTS INVITED FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS:**

**All Saints Church** – Report attached

**Easton Play School** – Report attached

**Easton Primary School** – Report attached

**Easton & Letheringham Village Hall** – Report attached

**Easton Bowls Club** – Report attached

**Easton Cricket Club** – Report attached

**Easton W.I.**

The Chair of Easton Belles reported that their W.I has 30 members and always welcomes new members; they have had many interesting talks and activities throughout the year.

**Speed-watch Group**

Mr Ken Atkinson reported that he had tried to form a team of volunteers to make up the numbers required to be able to carry on with the Speed-Watch- speed-gun rota, but no volunteers have come forward. Mr Atkinson offered his suggestions of ‘speed bumps’, small gates at entry and exit of village, residents to be willing to participate in Speed-Watch- speed gun rota and apply to the Council for a 20mph speed limit through the village. That without a Speed Watch- speed gun team other methods of speed calming be explored.

**7 PUBLIC FORUM**

**FAREWELL PRESENTATION TO JOHN AND CAROL ROOK**

The Chair spoke in recognition of the time and energy that John and Carol gave to the village before presenting them with a leaving gift. Chairs speech:

Tonight, marks the last Easton Annual Parish meeting that John and Carol Rook will be at, they are soon to move to their new home in Dorset. The Parish Council would like to say farewell and thank you to both John and Carol for all that they have done for the village over the years. Carol for her sterling work as Parish Clerk for many years, also secretary to Easton Annual Festivals and her hard work for the Church too. John has also given much of his time to the village especially supporting the Cricket Club.

At times when the cemetery’s grass cutting regime meant the grass could be very long, John would take a lawn mower up ahead of a burial to make sure the site was neat and tidy, Carol has, despite being busy with her commitments in the village, managed burials at the cemetery whilst the Parish Council has been without a Clerk.

The unconditional time and effort that they have both given to the village is very much appreciated and as a token of our thanks and wishing you both a happy and settled time in your new home, we would like to present you with a David Austen rose bush for your new garden.

Carol and John spoke to say thank you for the kind words said and for the rose bush which they will enjoy planting in their new garden.

 **IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN NEWSON**

The Chair spoke in recognition of Johns time and work given to the village.

Very recently the village lost a member of the community, John Newson. Chairs speech.

Johns passion for the village meant he was always willing to help and was very much a part of village life. John led a hardworking team putting heart and soul into raising money for the village by organising and running the Easton Annual Festivals raising over £40,000 for village causes,

John was a committed bell tower team member and rang the Church bells.

The Parish Council in tribute to Johns life are placing a new seat on the village green, it is to be made by Ian Melton of Suffolk Welding and will be replacing the wooden seat in front of the church, when the bells ring out Johns soul will be ringing too, the ‘villagers seat’ will be there to remember all villagers who have sadly departed and who sadly depart in the future.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the closed the meeting.

**Meeting closed – 8.20pm**

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Chair Date