

## EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes** of the Meeting held at Easton and Letheringham Village Hall at 8:00pm  
on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

<b>Present:</b> Cllr Owen (Chair) Cllr Gibbon Cllr Smith Cllr Boon Cllr Coney Cllr Kerr Cllr Hollins	<b>In Attendance:</b> John Lavery ( <i>Clerk</i> ) SCDC Cllr Snell	<b>Apologies</b> SCC Cllr Bellfield PCSO Hassler (Arrived after meeting)
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<b>EPC112/14 Chairman's Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>EPC113/14 Public Forum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No member of the Public wished to speak</li> </ul>	
<b>EPC114/14 To Receive Apologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No apologies were received</li> </ul>	
<b>EPC115/14 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None received</li> </ul>	
<b>EPC116/14 To Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record. Proposer: Cllr Coney, Seconder: Cllr Smith.</li> </ul>	
<i>Meeting adjourned for the District and County Cllr's Reports and Police Report.</i>	
<b>EPC117/14 District Cllr Bob Snell's Report</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Planning.</b> The outcome of the fast tracked oral hearing on 30 July, of which I previously spoke optimistically, was both disappointing and surprising, as the application was granted by a judge in the High Court, with the hearing in the Court of Appeal now established for 21 or 22 January 2015. This inflicts another frustrating delay on the completion of our Local Plan process. Meanwhile, early consultation has been launched to PCs (part of today's agenda item 15) on the current state of the site specific programme to preface its launch proper once the outcome of this latest NANT hearing is known.                 </li> <li> <b>Boundary Committee review.</b> The Committee's decision at the end of August was to confirm the transfer of villages in the Earl Soham ward to an enlarged Framlingham ward, with the exception of Charsfield (into Wickham Market) and Easton and Letheringham (into an enlarged Hacheston ward). Not even the district council was advised of their conclusion before it was made public. The SCDC leader expressed his satisfaction with the outcome, which was more or less in line with the District Council's own recommendations, and, of course, your own preference if change was inevitable.                 </li> <li> <b>SCDC HQ office</b> In a special meeting last night, Monday 15 September, full Council approved in principle the cabinet's recommendation on our proposed office move to a location in the Woodbridge area. A press release was issued last night but the matter remains confidential, as commercially sensitive negotiations will now begin in earnest. The leader has reported that the move is not financially dependent on the sale of the Melton Hill site and will save £200,000 a year. The investment is expected to be recouped in eight years.                 </li> </ol>	

#### 4. Benefit Fraud

Two more prosecutions in the past month: On 16 August, a Woodbridge woman was a two-year conditional discharge, and will have to repay the money, when she pleaded guilty to £6K's worth of benefit fraud, after claiming she was single, whereas she was in fact living with her partner. A Felixstowe woman will have to repay about £20K overpaid Housing and Council Tax Benefit and was given a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 1 year, as well as 120 hours of Community Service, after she admitted she had been receiving a regular income from trading commercially on EBay, from which she had not declared a bank account.

#### **EPC117/14 PCSO Christian Hassler** (report received after meeting)

##### **CRIME UPDATE**

There have been No reported crimes from 1st July 2014 to 31st August 2014

The next SNT public priority setting meeting will be held at Saxmundham Market Hall on the 8th of October 2014 at 2pm. All are welcome to attend

#### **EPC118/14 County Cllr Peter Bellfield** (received after the meeting)

I regret that I am unable to be with you this evening, please give my apologies. I am attempting to keep in contact from home so please contact me by telephone or e-mail if you require any help and please pass that onto all members of the P.C.

I am now halfway through my medication and while the side effects do not make life easy I will battle on. If I am not able to be with you in November I hope that things will be back to normal by the new year.

#### **EPC119/14 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

Nearly everything I would have referred to in this report is already being covered on the Agenda. Here are a couple of items that aren't.

##### **Village of the Year Competition**

The presentation of the Village of the Year competition prizes was made by Cllr Snell at Walpole Annual Produce Show on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August. As the Clerk lives nearby he collected our Certificate and Cheque for £75 for achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> place in this year's contest.

**Clerk**

#### **EPC120/14 Finance Report**

##### Current Balances

(after all approved payments)

Current Account	£5,173-40
Deposit Account	£11,922.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,096-20</b>

##### Receipts since last meeting:

Nil	£0-00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£17,096-20</b>

##### Payments to be approved at this meeting

SCL Landscape Management	£80-40	(Grass cutting in July & August)
Clerk's Pay for August & September.	£306-28	
Ladywell Accountancy (Payroll)	£37-00	
Suffolk Community Action (Insurance)	£426-55	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£850-23</b>	

<p><b><u>Usable Balance after the meeting</u></b>                      <b><u>£16,245.97</u></b></p>	
<p><b>EPC121/14 Planning Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the following planning application(s)</li> </ul> <p>Planning matters had been dealt with at the preceding planning meeting earlier this evening</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b> to inform Planning dept of Council's decisions</p>
<p><b>EPC122/14 Cemetery Maintenance</b></p> <p>The Clerk has checked the insurance situation regarding Volunteers working at the cemetery. We are covered under Public Liability under the current policy. However, Suffolk Community Action recommend that we hold a register of Volunteers. We should also perform a risk assessment on the equipment they are using and the capabilities of the individuals using the kit. As requested at the last meeting the clerk had obtained a couple of quotations for the grass-cutting and hedge trimming. Although we still have several reliable volunteers Councillors decided to consider doing one professional cut of grass and hedges at the Cemetery. This would give the volunteers a starting point which they would hopefully be able to maintain, from that point. The clerk will circulate the quotations to the Councillors who will decide which Contractor to use.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>EPC123/14 Cemetery – Painting of Headstones</b></p> <p>Enquiries had failed to reveal the identity of the person(s) responsible for painting the gravestones. Councillors felt that normal weathering would soon reduce the effects of the painting such that the headstones would soon not look quite so strange. Councillors unanimously decided to take no further action.</p>	
<p><b>EPC124/14 Cemetery – Burial Costs</b></p> <p>Cllr Owen has discussed pricing with Local Undertakers and other outside bodies to get a feel for the correct pricing levels. In order to ensure that Easton's rates weren't dramatically undercutting other local cemeteries Councillor Owen produced an updated price schedule. The prices were unanimously approved. Cllr Owen and the Clerk will work together to ensure notification of the new rates.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Owen &amp; Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>EPC125/14 Consider an application by Larry King to inter his Mother's ashes in Easton Cemetery</b></p> <p>Mr King's Mother was a resident of Tunstall, which doesn't have its own Cemetery. However she spent her final months living with Mr King in Easton. Mr King would therefore like to inter her ashes in Easton Cemetery. Councillors approved this unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>EPC126/14 Comments on the Conservation Area Report</b></p> <p>This would involve restrictions on the alteration of existing buildings including doors, windows, roof tiles etc. Cllr Owen also pointed out that on page 25 of the report reference was made to a Yew Tree at Ivy Cottage and another building. Since the report was originally written the yew tree has blown down and demolished the other building that was referred to.</p>	
<p><b>EPC127/14 Discuss Land Allocation from the Local Development Plan</b></p> <p>Unfortunately the meeting wasn't quorate in respect of this subject. 5 Councillors have a pecuniary interest in the Plan leaving only Cllrs Owen and Coney able to discuss the topic without dispensations. Clerk to look into / arrange dispensations for the next meeting. Item therefore carried over.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>EPC 128/14 Meeting with Easton School Headmistress</b></p> <p>The Chair had proposed meeting with the Headmistress to explain the Council's decision re the Hopkins Homes planning application. The Clerk was asked to ascertain that such a meeting was 'legal'. Following advice from SALC that there weren't any issues preventing the meeting the Clerk and Chair met with the Headmistress and one of the School Governors.</p>	

**EPC129/14 Speedwatch Update**

There are now 8 Volunteers available for Speedwatch. As a result PCSO Hassler is arranging site surveys to establish that there are sites in Easton that are suitable for Speedwatch groups to operate from. Once sites have been identified the scheme can go ahead.

**EPC130/14 Commercial Signage on the Village Green**

Here has been some public concern regarding the village Pub placing signs on the green which is Parish Council Property. A discussion ensued where it was felt that the signs were too large and there were worries that if the Pub was able to have signs on the Green then other commercial organisations could follow suit. The Councillors felt that one small 'A'-Board sign showing on the closest bit of green to the pub during opening hours only, could be allowed. Council to write to the Pub's landlord.

**EPC131/14 Clerk's Report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting**

Nothing new to report that hasn't been covered in this or recent meetings

**EPC132/14 Officers and Representatives Reports**

Footpath Report received from Cllr Boon today

This morning I reported the following problem to S.C.C.:-

SCC Ref No: 3480620

Footpath No 3

From Framlingham Road towards Maids Wood, (Beside Martley Hall.)

Map Ref: TM 282597

Problem:

Branches growing over adjacent fence from Martley Hall side are now below head height.

Side branches are dangerous, as they are spikey and at eye height.

Branches as thick as 2 inches.

Classed as: Dangerous - Partial obstruction.

There weren't any other reports

**EPC133/14 Correspondence (for information)**

All correspondence received related to planning issues and was dealt with already today at the preceding planning meeting earlier this evening.

**EPC134/14 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council for the next meeting.**

Headstones and tablets. Parking on the Village Green. Budget discussions for next year's budget to start at the November meeting.

**EPC135/14 Dates of Future Meetings**

- The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.15pm.

*Meeting closed at 9.15pm.*

Chairman: .....

Date: .....