

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on Monday 11th September 2017 at 7.30pm at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

Reports from District & County Councillors, and questions from members of public: District Councillor Carol Porter and one member of the public were present.

Meeting opened at 7.40 pm.

- 1 PRESENT**
Cllr S Piggott – Chair
Cllr A Hollins – Vice Chair
Cllr B Gibbon
Cllr F Siddall
Clerk – Bill Dicks
- APOLOGIES**
Cllr M Coney
- 2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – Cllr Siddall item 9.2 (part).
- 3 CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS** – None
- 4 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS** – consider implications for Easton
The Chair brought forward Item 7 to help a member of the public. SCDC was considering amending dog controls in force. It was noted that Easton has not taken on a bye law regarding control of dogs. One of the new Orders aimed to keep dogs on leads on all public roads. Although the SCDC notes mentioned ‘nuisance’ dogs, this distinction was not made in the draft Order. The Order as drafted would create major difficulties for the Easton Hunt. PC and Cllr Porter were sympathetic. PC resolved to make representations. Clerk to draft a letter for the Chair to approve requesting an exemption from the PSPO for working and sporting dogs **hounds.** **Clerk**
- 5 MINUTES OF MEETING:** Minutes for July 17th 2017 were agreed and signed.
Meeting was closed

Cllr ~~Porter~~ Poulter gave her report:

- The SCDC and Waveney merger was progressing but timetable was dependent on the Secretary of State. DC was hoping for approval ahead of the next DC elections in 2019.
- DC was pleased with the outcome of the cycling Tour of Britain’s passage through Suffolk.
- Residents were being asked for their views on future building development. Developers are currently taking advantage of inadequate plans in place. PC and residents were urged to reply to the consultation.
- There was also a consultation on Air Quality. There is not a major problem in East Suffolk but there hot spots for traffic pollution.

Meeting re-opened

6 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING

The Chair had:

- received thanks from various people in the village for what the Parish Council is doing for the village.
- met with Kiwi Fencing at the Car Park and discussed the requirements of posts at the grass line in front of the wall. Kiwi fencing has returned a quote. Whilst at the Car Park the Chair noticed a collection of water in both the newly installed lights at the bottom of the lamps underneath the bulbs. The Chair urgently contacted Aaron Nobbs to bring to his attention and to resolve the problem. Aaron Nobbs is now dealing with the manufacturer and will be back in contact.
- been made aware of problems surrounding the glass recycling bins; huge volumes of glass bottles were left around the bins and on the car park, also a fly tipped grey bin with rotting odour coming from it. The Chair contacted SCDC; they agreed to take away the grey bin and its contents. The Chair described the recycle bins to SCDC when they became aware that one bin had a notice for white glass and other green, explained that the notices should read for any colour glass. They visited the Car Park and changed the signage. The bins are emptied 2 weekly - this cannot be increased but they offered a third bin to alleviate the problem – this will be covered under item 8.
- not been provided with the proposed speedwatch signage for the village for the Parish Council to consider whether to put signs up. Instead the co-ordinator gave instructions to the PCSO to put up the 6 signs throughout the village. The Chair has contacted the PCSO and informed him of the position and that the Parish Council has not given permission for signage to be placed throughout the village.
- made assessments of the road signs throughout the village and would report under item 9.
- contacted S.Hambling to book a Hog Roast for the Beacon event next November but he was unavailable for that date and gave a contact of someone who used to be on his team and now runs his own Hog Roast business. The Chair has managed to book SuffolkHogRoasts and a deposit is now needed to secure the booking.
- received the completed signs for both the Play Area and Cemetery from Cllr Gibbon. The Chair then contacted Cllr Siddall who arranged for the sign and bin for the Play Area to be collected and installed. The Chair accompanied and discussed the siting and repair of the fencing around the play equipment.
- contacted SCDC to enquire as to whether they provided a service of maintenance and repair for play areas and they confirmed they do not, only grass cutting etc. The Chair has sourced an Ipswich company that does maintenance and repair in line with safety inspection findings. – this will be reported under item 13.

The Clerk had:

- Completed much work on the PC website, and made adjustments following feedback from the Chair to ensure site only carries material within PC scope. (This will be reported under item 12.)
- Advised County Cllr Vickery of future meeting dates
- Dealt with a query from the Village Hall Committee, which has a new Treasurer, and provided Grant documents to her
- Contacted LCPAS about Neighbourhood Planning, sent out information and provided a summary of the process. (This will be reported under item 10.)
- Dealt with queries from the external auditors regarding the asset register, which was updated in line with their recommendation last year.

7 FINANCE

7.1 To Approve Financial Statement

The landscape contractor Kindlewood had asked if their contract would be extended. PC agreed that it was very happy for them to continue next year. The Financial Statement was agreed subject to correction of subtractions in capital reserves.

7.2 Consider how to best use Transparency Funding

Funds of £636 were to hand. The PC resolved that the Clerk should purchase a heavy duty printer and scanner but not a laptop, and required more information at the next meeting about the potential for a Microsoft Outlook subscription.

8 CAR PARK - consider: progress on lighting protective measures and landscaping to tidy up overgrown vegetation; and siting and use of recycling bins

Kindlewood had proposed to clear overgrowth so that the Rowan trees could grow and be seen correctly. Councillors agreed this was necessary. In the grass area it was not practical to have a rail but Councillors agreed that posts would help. The PC resolved to install a series of 4 or 5 posts subject to a budgetary cap of £435.

The Chair agreed to procure posts for Car Park from Kiwi. **AP 43/2017 SP**

Councillors also agreed that David Chapman should be approached to prepare and turf or seed the area when the post works were complete. There had been a problem at the recycling bins but clear-up actions had been taken promptly. Councillors ~~discussed procuring a third bin~~ but agreed **a third bin** it was not necessary at the moment. They resolved to await the longer term results of the 'clear-up' and effect of the new posts. They also agreed to await a report from Aaron Nobbs regarding water in the light fittings.

9 HIGHWAYS – consider Audit of Road Signage throughout the village

Audit had revealed that signage was cluttered at the Wickham Market end of the village. There was potential to remove one post there. Other posts, e.g. at the Kettleburgh Road junction, were untidy and rusty. Highways do not have funds for replacements but had said the PC could replace them, provided that it worked with Highways. Councillors considered that the more 'old fashioned' signs with circle above would be best for Easton. It was noted that only one company now has the ability to cast such signs. Councillors resolved to remove the redundant post and commemorate World War 1 with new signs next year. Subject to remain on agenda.

10 PLANNING

10.1 Consider next step to Neighbourhood Plan process

It was clarified that Neighbourhood Plans are distinct from a Local Plan (District level) and supersede Parish Plans. Councillors confirmed that a Neighbourhood Plan should be constructed in principle. The Chair had been contacted by 'Planning Direct' – a consultancy firm. Using consultancy would make a potentially long process quicker and more effective. A grant from 'My

Community' is available up to £9000 but the deadline to apply is 31.1.18 and the money would need to be spent by 31.3.18. Easton would also have funding from CIL available. Another firm, 'Parker Planning' operated in the similar specialist area and a third quote would be needed to correctly procure consultancy. The PC resolved to:

- consult LCPAS and identify a third firm to quote for Planning consultancy. **AP 44/2017 Clerk**
- invite Planning Direct to a meeting to talk generally about what was involved in a Neighbourhood Plan project **AP 45/2017 SP**

Cllr Siddall left the meeting

10.2 Consider response to SCDC Local Plan Review and representation at SCDC meetings

Council members considered all the plots for development set out in SCDC's 'Options' document and concluded that only one ~~plot~~ **site** was actually suitable, for limited **mixed** development **at Easton Farm Park.**

Cllr Siddall returned after consideration of ~~Plot 738~~. **Plots 740,796,97,739 & 738**

Councillors wished to know whether the 'AP28 protection from development' applicable to plot 730 could be changed. **AP 46/2017 Clerk**

The PC observed that up to 2017 it already had a number of approved developments in train and agreed that only 'organic' developments of individual homes, as opposed to 'housing estate' developments, were acceptable. In terms of response regarding the future 'core development area' for Suffolk Coastal, the PC resolved to support 'the A14 corridor', which looked best to facilitate travel to work. PC agreed not to have a further Parish Meeting at this stage.

It resolved not to send representation to the drop in meetings but that the Chair should draft a reply to the consultation and the Clerk should complete it and send it to SCDC. **AP 47/2017 SP and Clerk**

10.3 Update on Planning referrals to Sub-committee

Regarding Home Farm Barn conversion, PC was resolved to 'support' and agreed that the Chair should attend the sub-committee meeting.

Referral for Variations of Conditions – Hopkins Homes.

Regarding Hopkins, over which the PC continued to have concerns, Councillors were unable to attend the Committee meeting and resolved to make a written representation. **AP 48/2017 SP**

10.4 Consider Application DC/17/3712/FUL Bentries Farm

Council members considered the application and resolved that whilst they supported in principle, there should be a landscape condition – that there should be a tangible curtilage for the ~~new house~~ **barn conversion, with a boundary brick wall** - and there was a need for more clarity on the access provision.

Clerk to draft reply for approval by the Chair. **AP 49/2017 Clerk**

- 11 **WWI BEACON EVENT** – update on progress
Suffolk Hog Roast had been booked and a deposit paid. Details would be agreed nearer the time.
- 12 **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE** – consider development and feedback
Council members agreed to postpone detailed consideration but advised the Clerk that there should be items that celebrated the success of Council work such as the WW1 event, goal nets and car park improvements.
- 13 **PLAY AREA** - any updates
The annual RoSPA inspection was imminent. Council members agreed to await the report to look further into possible repairs and follow up contacts and quotes received. Three quotes will be needed but variable travelling distances for firms meant they may not be 'like for like'.
- 14 **FOOTPATHS** – there were no updates.
- 15 **CORRESPONDENCE** – there had been no correspondence.
- 16 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA** – Neighbourhood Plan and Website.
- 17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Councillors agreed on 20th November 2017 for the next meeting.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

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Chair

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Date