

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.30pm
at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

Reports from District, County Councillors and Question time for members of the public –Duration time maximum 10 minutes - 2 minutes per person.

5 members of public

Meeting opened at 7.40 pm

Councillors agreed to move Item 11 to follow Item 5.

1 PRESENT

Cllr S Piggott – Chair
Cllr A Hollins – Vice-Chair
Cllr B Gibbon
Cllr F Siddall (7.45pm)

APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - None

3 CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS - None

4 MINUTES OF MEETING: Approve minutes – November 20th 2017
Council members agreed and signed the Minutes.

5 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING

The Chair put a notice on a notice board which reflected the agreement regarding the Re-cycling Bins.

Responses to the Car Park were received, generally when the situation was explained, some people could understand the disturbance that nearby residents suffer and would not like it themselves, but others felt that their needs to take their bottles to re-cycling bins within the village was of great importance.

The decision of the Parish council to look to remove the bins from the Car Park was a result of consideration to residents that suffered the disturbance of the bins. Whilst reference is made to the vegetation clearance being the reason that the residents were disturbed, their experiences that were explained, existed before the vegetation clearance, the vegetation clearance is not the reason for the noise disturbance. The Parish Council owns the Car Park and is responsible for it and must make decisions in this respect. The Parish Council needs more members and are working extremely hard to do their best to meet their responsibilities.

It became apparent that SCDC who had been unwilling to consider increasing collection times were willing to do so when they learnt that there was a risk that the re-cycling bins could not remain in Easton. The result is that now collection times are beyond 8 am and the collections weekly instead of two weekly, this has drastically changed the nuisance of the bins to the nearby residents, we will discuss this under Item 11.

With regard to people contacting the Parish Council this must always be by e.mail, phone, or letter, or by attending meetings. The Village Newsgroup Social App. is not

a forum that the Parish Council can be involved with and therefore cannot and will not respond to.

Emails were received from Joy Lightfoot, John Newson, Ann Parkinson, Steve Parkinson, Nancy Pearson, Susan Stone and Julie Croucher.

Phone Calls were received by John Newson, Jenny Armfield, Jackie Gray and Margie Ransome.

The total of those that made contact to express their wish for the bins to remain and at the Car Park, was 10 people. An explanation responses was given immediately to that made contact.

The Chair submitted the Planning responses as agreed for Bentries Farm – Barn conversion and The Cobblers, The Street.

The Chair processed Derek Martin's burial and headstone, confirming with the Stone Mason the acceptance of the design details.

The Chair met with the Ipswich Company that repairs and reports on Play Equipment and who have the contract with the Primary School. The advice given will be discussed under Item 14

- **Closed meeting**– members of public to speak and understand resolve being considered.
- **Re-opened meeting**

11 CAR PARK .

Council members considered a solution for the Re-Cycling Bins and Landscaping programme for the Car Park. It was agreed to organise a concreted area set back from the car parking area, to provide a bay for the Re-cycling bins and to fence three sides with 6' panels and to then plant honeysuckle to soften the hard landscaping. Cllr Hollins reported that he had asked a local builder to quote and had been given the figure of £450 to concrete the area required. Council members considered this and agreed on the expenditure.

- **Closed meeting**– members of public commented and agreed they were happy with the resolved decision, but requested that they could still raise issues should they need to in the future with the PC, the PC assured them they could.
- **Re-opened meeting**

6. FINANCE

6.1 To Approve Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was approved

6.2 Transparency Fund

Council members agreed that the Transparency Fund be used to equip the Clerks post with a Laptop this will make handovers much easier with less risk of losing documentation.

7 BUDGET YEAR END 31.3.19

Consider Precept setting and Budgeting for year-end 2019.

Council members considered the annual expenditure and the increased financial commitment of properly maintaining all the areas of responsibility in the village for grass cutting. It was agreed that the Cemetery and Play Area were now as they should be, with the same emphasis as the Village Green.

It was agreed that Kindlewood be given the budgeted amount for each area and to inform the PC if the maintenance budget needed to be adjusted should the grass growing season be abnormal again. With increasing costs and charges it was agreed that the Precept would have to be raised to meet the increases. Council members agreed that the Precept be raised to £8,500. The Precept has remained frozen for quite a few years, instead of gradually increasing which makes increasing the precept to £8,500 more difficult. The amount that other similar sized Parishes is between £8,000 and £10,000, it has to be remembered that Easton has a Cemetery to maintain and Playing Field with Play Area as well as the Green and Verges.

8 HIGHWAYS

The Chair had discovered that the partition of land in front of dwelling no.1 which has the drainage system including attenuated drains is to be within the ownership of dwelling no. 1. The attenuated drains must be clear of any form of tree and shrub planting, root ingress can jeopardise the effectiveness of the drainage system and full efficiency is vital, due to the topography for this development. Council members agreed that the Chair should make contact with SCC to express concern and expectation that they have full ownership of responsibility of the drainage system. **SP**

9 WWI CENTENERY

The Chair reported that she had been trying to speak to an Officer and arrange a site meeting since the end of November. Council members agreed that if SCC do not enter in to correspondence of any kind, that arranging site visits and project such as the signposts becomes impossible, it was agreed to write to Suffolk County Councillor R Vickery to bring these problems to his attention. **SP**

10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – Cllr S Piggott

Update Report from Steering Group

The Steering Group Chair registered with Parish Online and we now have availability of maps and mapping- cost - £60.00. The Launch Event Mail Shot was arranged with Bettaprint in Woodbridge to print the colour Flyers. The Flyers were taken to Fram Tech centre along with an address list for the Parish. The envelopes will be labelled and franked and sent out 8th Jan. The Flyer was also forwarded to the Parish Magazine and included for the January 2018 edition. A Flyer was also pinned onto the PC Noticeboard. A caterer has been sourced who will provide cakes (Serendipity-Bury St Ed), a variety of tray bakes and cakes, numbers to be confirmed, to be collected Friday 19th Jan.

Fram Tech Centre confirmed that analysis of Questionnaires is something they cannot offer. The SG Chair will contact Mkt Research companies.

Government Grant funding application for expenditure expected and budgeted for up to end March 2018 met the deadline of 15th December 2107.

The SG Chair and Ian met with SCDC Planning Policy on December 8th. The Duty to Support was officially registered.

The Area is now officially approved and Easton is uploaded onto the SCDC Website under Neighbourhood Plans.

The Gov. grant process requires a telephone conference meeting, this has been arranged for 18th January, Ian will take part. This is to assess whether Gov. technical support can be given.

12 PLANNING

Application: DC/17/5306/FUL – Kings Lodge, The Street.- Proposed – Front Porch and detached Car Park. –

Council members considered the application and agreed to Object. The setting of Downton Cottage is now of cramped form, and this cannot be increased by ancillary buildings, it is within the street scene of the Conservation Area. LP Policy SP15 clearly sets this out. The response that will be submitted is on of Objection with appropriate reasons. **SP**

13 CEMETERY – Defer to next Meeting

Consider re-design of Internment Burial Headstones and positions.
Plot purchase certificate record book required

14 PLAY AREA

14.1 The Chair met with REJB of Ipswich, the advice was that to re-surface to bark would be a huge amount of money, which a Play Area that is in need of equipment replacement, sitting on very damp ground with extensive mole runs would not be sensible. Council members considered this advice and felt it best to leave, there may be opportunities for another site that comes from the Neighbourhood Plan.

14.2 Consider repair works for the equipment.
Council members considered the quote from REJB and agreed not to replace the rotten stepping logs but to ask for their removal and to go ahead with the swing top bar replacement. The Chair will contact REJB to request specific pricing for this work, and to carry out the work. **SP**

15 FOOTPATHS

Council members discussed the complaints received by residents of Easton regarding the 5 bridges footpath walk and a CCTV camera placed recording users of the Footpath along the drive to 4 bridges property. Council members agreed to report the matter to Suffolk County Council. **AH**

16 CORRESPONDENCE

17 EXTRA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 19th 2018

Meeting closed 9.30pm

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Chair

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Date