**EASTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Monday 23rd September 2019 at 7.30pm**

 **at Easton Village Hall**

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

The Chair had received a District Councillor report for September, this will be uploaded onto the website.

Meeting opened 7.30pm

**1 PRESENT & APOLOGIES**

 **Present Apologies**

 Cllr S Piggott – Chair None

 Cllr B Gibbon

 Cllr F Siddall

 Cllr J Armfield

 Cllr M Birt

 1 member of public in attendance

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** - None

**3 CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS** - None

**4 MINUTES OF MEETING** – To Approve Minutes July 29th 2019

 Council members approved the Minutes for July 29th 2019.

**5 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING**

The Chair met with Mr Howard re the wall flower border along the edge of the village green – further details under Village Green item. The Chair spoke to LCPAS who confirmed that Members of Public are unable to re-write and request alterations of Minutes, these cannot be accepted. The Chair has contacted Suffolk Welding to request the fabrication of a village green bin price estimate. The Chair has written to the SCC Highways Cabinet member to escalate the non-communication experienced by the contact EPC have attempted for many months with no communication returned from the SCC Highways dept. The Chair submitted the agreed responses to the planning applications considered at the last meeting.The Chair has requested Kindlewood to trim back the overhanging tree branches at the car park. Payments for both the Defribrillator and the cabinet were made and both items have been delivered.The Chair was invited by the owners of Martley Hall to meet and talk about their move to the village and business plans for the hall. Plans for the business are equestrian, with top class international competition events being held there, also to offer rest and recovery for Olympic team level equestrian teams, for horses to be rested and brought back to fitness for the competition season, this involves teams staying with the horses and completing the rest and fitness programmes to be offered at Martley Hall. The owners would like to become involved with the village, the Chair encouraged this as felt the village would appreciate the involvement and integration within the village something that has not existed with previous owners of the hall. Whilst meeting the owners they talked about taking on board the comments that were made re their application to site the horse walker and explained they had taken comments on board and adjusted the plans so that the footpath would not be compromised and visually would remain the same, the horse walker would be set unobtrusively and the structure is sympathetic in style and would blend in to the surroundings for which there would be tree planting in close proximity so would be screened from any views from the road.

**6 FINANCE –** To Approve Financial Statement

 Council members agreed the Financial Statement. The Chair raised the need to invite two other quotes for the village grass cutting contract to agree the next 3- year term contract. The expenditure could be reduced by having a reduction in times throughout the season for grass cutting; members considered this as an option and agreed that it should remain as it stands to keep the standard of grass cutting the same.

**7** **RATIFY: STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGS, RISK ASSESSMENT,**

 **INTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT**

Council members agreed to ratify the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment, and appointment of the professional Internal Auditor.

**8** **SPEEDWATCH**

 The notice making the village aware that the Parish Council will disburse the speed-watch equipment and make it available for other villages wishing to buy speed-watch equipment had been published in the Parish News. There has been no formation of a replacement team of volunteers for Easton; Council members decided to go ahead and make the equipment available for sale.

**9 CEMETERY**

Exclusive burial rights administration. There is an outstanding exclusive burial purchase, the parties that requested to reserve a plot have been contacted but not responded. Members agreed to contact once more and to give a deadline for which the purchase needs to be made since the plot cannot be reserved without payment.

**10 DEFIBRILLATOR FOR CENTRE OF VILLAGE**

 Cllr Gibbon successfully secured British Heart Foundation funding to purchase a Defibrillator, this 50 percent was matched with Parish Council funds, and a cabinet was also purchased to house the Defibrillator. Cllr Gibbon, as agreed, contacted the Village Hall Chair and committee to explain the Defibrillator and request that it be sited on the external wall of the Village Hall as a central and easy to access position within the village. Cllr Gibbon had explained that the Parish Council would pay for and arrange its installation and connection to the electricity supply since it requires low level heating to ensure remaining in an operable condition, the Parish Council would pay for the amount of electricity required on an annual basis.

 Cllr Gibbon received the response that the Village Hall committee could not agree to the siting of the Defibrillator at the Village Hall due to logistics and was hoping to receive more details to explain.

**11 VILLAGE HALL**

The Parish Council has not received a response to the letter sent to the Village Hall committee and invitation to meet to discuss any misunderstandings.

**12 VE DAY CELEBRATIONS -MAY 8TH 2020**

 Council members agreed to consider ideas and to discuss at the next Parish Council meeting.

**13 VILLAGE GREEN**

Council members discussed the Village Green and wall flower border. Since the Parish Council does not own the structure of the wall it was agreed that it was difficult to give financial support but would work to try to find ways to support the filling of the wall trough and its planting, it was agreed that promoting plant donations would be a good solution.

**14 HIGHWAYS-**Update on any issues

 The Chair is now escalating the refusal of SCC Highways to communicate to the SCC Cabinet minister for Highways and has sent a letter/e.mail explaining the situation.

**14.1** Hopkins Estate, connecting footpath – Council to consider pursuing this outstanding part of the development.

The Chair explained that she had contacted both East Suffolk and Hopkins Homes to gain some background. Hopkins informed that they had the footpath work scheduled in, it will follow block paving work for the school, followed by clearance of the site immediately abutting the rear boundary, they expect to start the footpath installation at the end of November this year.

 Council members agreed to closely monitor the footpath provision to connect the new estate safely with the village.

**15 PLANNING** – Any updates and form response to the following application:

 **DC/19/3359/FUL**- Proposal: Two and single storey extension, revised proposal.

 Address: Park Place, 1 Harriers Walk, Easton, Woodbridge, Suffolk

 Council members considered the application and agreed on a response of Support.

 **DC/19/3633/FUL-** Proposal: Conversion of stables to visiting accommodation to support equestrian business. Address: Martley Hall, Easton, Woodbridge, Suffolk

 Council members considered the application and agreed on a response of Support.

 **DC/19/3632/FUL –** Proposal: Change of use from equestrian store to office space to support equestrian business. Address: Martley Hall, Easton, Woodbridge, Suffolk

 Council members considered the application and agreed on a response of Support.

 **DC/19/3634/FUL** – Proposal: Conversion from stabling to ancillary residential outbuilding as entertainment barn. Address: Martley Hall, Easton

 Council members considered the application but felt that they needed more understanding, it was agreed to ask the applicant questions that would help give greater understanding and clarity ie:

What would the frequency of gatherings/events be? What would the timings in particular evening/nights be? What would the average number of attendees be.  When live/recorded music involved what would noise mitigation be. Would a Marquee be permanently sited on the earmarked area? This application was included with the business, why is it no longer classed as business.

 Council members agreed to defer forming a response and to convene an extra ordinary meeting in approximately two weeks’ time, so that further understanding could be gained.

**16 VILLAGE CAR PARK** – Any issues

 Kindlewood has attended to the overhanging tree obscuring the notice board and vegetation impeding the pavement from the flint wall.

**17 PLAY AREA** – Any updates/issues

 Council members discussed the mole hills. The Chair proposed appointing a professional mole catcher, after consideration members agreed to regularly level out the mole hills. The vandalism problem continues, the play equipment wooden boundary fencing is regularly pulled apart. Council members expressed gratitude to Peter Bennett-King who regularly works to repair damage and problems at the play area.

**18 FOOTPATHS -** Any issues

 None

**19 CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**20 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

 Parish Cllr Training

**21 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

 November 18th 2019, January 20th, March 16th 2020

Meeting closed 8.55pm

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Chair Date