Easton Parish Council PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 18th September 2023 – 7.45PM Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

APPROVED MINUTES

1 PRESENT & APOLOGIES

PRESENT

APOLOGIES

Cllr Piggott (Chair)

Cllr Balcombe (approved)
Cllr Gibbon (approved)

Cllr Edwards

Cllr Ladbrook
Cllr Palfreyman

Cllr Siddall

IN ATTENDANCE

A Staples (Clerk)

G Pugh (RFO)

Cllr Langdon-Morris (ESC)

Clir Bryce (SCC

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Siddall declared a pecuniary interest in relation to item 15.2.

- 3 CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS
 No dispensation requests received.
- MINUTES OF MEETING: To approve minutes of meetings on 17
 July 2023, 31 July 2023 and 25 August 2023
 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of these meetings and signed by the Chair.
- MATTERS TO REPORT FROM ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING

 The Chair reported contacting the mole catcher to request a quote in relation to molehills in the cemetery. Rather than providing a quote, he visited the cemetery, caught four moles, and invoiced the council for £100, (listed for approval on agenda item 6.1. schedule 1).
- 6 FINANCE
- 6.1 To approve the financial statement, schedule (2) (payments made or to be made pursuant to 5.2 of the Financial Regulations to 18 September 2023 requiring councillor approval); and schedule (R) (payments made between 1 April 2023 and 17 July 2023 requiring councillor approval)

The council considered the financial statement prepared by the RFO. A request was made for the RFO to amend the layout of the financial statement and present again at the next meeting.

Action: Chair to contact RFO to explain the requested changes to the financial statement.

The council considered the schedules of payments (1), (2) and (R) presented by the RFO (see separate documents). The council approved the payments listed in these schedules

6.2 To agree purchase of an up to date "Arnold Baker Local Council Administration" 13th edition (2022)

The council approved this purchase. The current price of the textbook in the NALC on-line shop is £131.99. As this is not in the 2023/2024 budget the council authorised payment from the general reserve.

6.3 To appoint a member to administrate the internal controls to submit at year end for Internal Audit

Cllr Ladbrook volunteered and was approved.

Action: Clerk will liaise with Cllr Ladbrook and the RFO to discuss and arrangement for the internal audit.

The council moved to agenda item 13 "Highways" out of turn, so it could be considered before Cllr Bryce left the meeting.

7 TRAINING –To agree training for RFO, Clerk and Councillors and confirm expenditure

Cllrs Edwards and Ladbrook requested to attend the SALC Councillor Basics training. The council approved their attendance and agreed to fund fees.

Action: Clerk to book Cllr Edwards and Ladbrook onto the course.

8 PLAY AREA – To update on repairs

Item deferred to November meeting. It is expected that ROSPA will attend to inspect and present their report in the meantime

9 SITES FOR PLANTING SPRINT BULBS IN VILLAGE

The Chair reported that the parish has been allocated 500 daffodil bulbs. The council discussed where they should be planted. Suggestions included the entrance gateways and areas surrounding the village's commemorative signposts and the village sign

Action: Clerk to advise councillors when collection request is received

10 RIVER QUALITY MONITORING

No report available

11 ACTION PLAN REVIEW

The council agreed to review the Action Plan, last approved in 2020 **Action**: Chair to distribute the existing Action Plan before November meeting, for the Plan to be considered alongside the 2024/2025 budget.

12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- To update

The Chair reported that further government funding became available in July, for which the NP steering group successfully applied. The NP consultant has been re-engaged and along with the steering group is working through comments from the consultation concluded in March, amending the NP where necessary. ESC has made comments on AECOMs documents which now need amendments. An application to be granted the AECOM team has been submitted. It is hoped that the submission of the NP to ESC will be in w/c 9 October 2023, to take it to examination and referendum in Spring 2024.

13 HIGHWAYS – To discuss:

13.1 External water pump situated Framlingham Road

An external pump has been installed by Essex and Suffolk Water on Framlingham Road, reportedly needed to pump drinking water from the Deben area to homes in Framlingham. Concern was expressed about why the infrastructure needs to rely on an external pump and how long it would remain. Cllr Bryce agreed to make enquiries and report back.

13.2 Rain water flooding on The Street in vicinity of traffic calming by school

The meeting discussed the repeated rainwater flooding on The Street in the vicinity of the traffic calming pull-outs by the old post office. Previous reports made to SCC Highways have not resolved the problem. Cllr Bryce will raise this with the relevant cabinet member at SCC and report back.

13.3 Speeding in vicinity of school; use of SID

The meeting discussed motorists speeding at the school end of the village. SCC Highways previously rejected traffic calming measures in this area. The parish currently shares a SCC TVAS SID with other councils, but it is too infrequently deployed in Easton. Cllr Bryce said she would endeavour to assist with the purchase of a SID with money from her locality budget and support the parish in making a request to join the ANPR scheme. Cllr Bryce will provide details of the scheme. The council agreed to research the cost of purchasing two SIDs, one for exiting the village and one for approaching the village. Having requested that Highways assess where posts for SIDs could be installed with no response, Cllr Bryce agreed to follow this up.

13.4 Impact of Sizewell expansion on traffic volumes in village, and SALC petition letter to Energy Minister

The meeting discussed a proposal by SALC that councils sign a petition / letter to the Energy Minister. It was agreed this should take place.

Action: Clerk to arrange for petition to be signed / letter sent.

14 LAND REGISTRY PROGRESS – to update on Car Park, Cemetery, and Village Green

Registration has been completed on the cemetery land with "title possessory". The solicitor has asked the council to check whether the registration is correct and whether it should include a right of way. Registration is also complete on the car park land with title absolute. The Land Registry are still considering the application relating to the village green.

Action: Clerk to copy the emails containing Land Registry documentation to councillors to clarify whether any further instructions are required for the solicitor.

- 15 PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS To consider:
- 15.1 DC/23/2900/FUL; Atlantis, Stud Farm, Framlingham Road, Easton; open timber framed porch

https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-

<u>applications/caseDetails.do?action=dispatch&keyVal=RYATBDQXM350</u> 0&caseType=Applicatio

The application was considered. The council agreed there were no objections and the application was supported.

15.2 DC/22/4218/FUL; Easton Farm Park, Easton, IP13 0EQ; retrospective application for retention of 7no Cow Glamping Pods https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-

applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=relatedCases&keyVal=RKOHQJQXGR000

Cllr Siddall declared an interest. She withdrew from the meeting whilst the application was discussed, having first answered questions in her capacity as applicant.

The application was considered. The council agreed there were no objections and the application was supported.

16 MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE IN VILLAGE - To discuss

The council discussed poor mobile phone coverage in the village. The problem is exacerbated by the discontinuance of land-lines by BT in favour of broadband phones. Cllr Langdon-Morris agreed to raise the issue with the SCC Emergency Response Team to highlight the impact on vulnerable / elderly residents and clarify their plans. Cllr Langdon-Morris will report back to the Chair.

17 EXTRA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Contingency plans for council meetings in the event of a renewed COVID-19 outbreak will be discussed at the November meeting

Action: Clerk to contact SALC for legal advice on using Zoom for meetings to prepare for meetings subsequently held in person, to limit the duration of council meetings whilst COVID cases are a problem

18 POLICIES – To review

18.1 Internal Controls Statement and Report 2023

The draft policy circulated by the Clerk was approved. It was agreed that the checks should be carried out annually

18.2 Freedom of Information Publication Scheme 2023

This was deferred until the November meeting for consideration.

Action: Clerk to recirculate the draft FOI scheme before the next meeting with formatting changes.

19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on 20 November 2023 at 7:45pm in the village hall. The meeting closed at 21:00.

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Cllr Piggott (Chair) 20 November 2023