

Easton Parish Council

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 – 7.45PM Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

43/24-25 PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present: Cllr Piggott, (Chair), Cllr Balcombe, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Gibbon, Cllr Ladbrook and Cllr Palfreyman. In attendance: A Staples (Clerk). Apologies received from Cllr Siddall. It was agreed this absence be approved.

44/24-25 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Two members of the public were welcomed to the meeting. One member of the public spoke on two issues. Firstly, the flooding caused by Storm Babet in October 2023 in the vicinity of Harriers Walk. They submitted the flooding resulted from a lack of maintenance of a ditch on private land, and unauthorised changes made to the waterway by the property owner. Secondly, there was concern expressed about work carried out to the verge of Framlingham Road. Notwithstanding the verge being under the ownership and management of SCC Highways, they submitted that a local resident has been cutting the grass at the road edge down to soil level and whilst doing so caused damage to trees and shrubs owned by adjoining householders.

45/24-25 RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Apologies were received from District Cllr Grey and District Cllr Langdon-Morris.

46/24-25 RECEIVE ANY CHANGES TO MEMBERS INTERESTS

No changes received.

47/24-25 RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

No declarations received.

48/24-25 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING held on 29 July 2024

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record and signed.

49/24-25 FINANCE MATTERS:

49/24-25.1 Consider and approve Financial Statement

The Financial Statement dated 30 September 2024 was considered and approved.

49/24-25.2 Approve expenditure to install SIDs

It was resolved the services of a contractor would not be required to install the newly purchased SID devices.

50/24-25 CONSIDER AND APPROVE INSURANCE RENEWAL

Three insurance companies provided quotes: the least expensive was Community Action Suffolk (CAS) (Ansva) at £455.68; the council's current insurers, Clear Councils Insurance, quoted for £501.49, which could be discounted to £487.96 if the council entered a long-term undertaking for three years; and Zurich quoted £507.00. It was resolved that the CAS (Ansva) insurance policy should be purchased.

Action: Clerk to contact CAS to arrange cover commencing 1 October 2024.

51/24-25 AGREE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INSTALLING AND MONITORING SIDs

The two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) were purchased and delivered. They are to be installed at the school end of the village. The Chair requested SCC to remove their temporary sign from the village's TVAS post. They replied, giving permission to the parish council to remove and dispose of their sign. Cllr Gibbon volunteered to dispose of the sign. Cllrs resolved to install the devices themselves in the next few weeks. In addition to the SIDs, a Police ANPR unit will be installed for a week every three months, with the first installation taking place between 7 to 14 October 2024. During this period the SID device will need to be removed to make room.

52/24-25 TO NOTE THE NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT

The council has received confirmation from PKF Littlejohn that the external audit has been completed. No issues of concern were raised. The closure notice and other required documents were published on the website and noticeboard on 20 September 2024.

53/24-25 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING:

53/24-25.1 The Chair reported that the anticipated SID donations had been received, and two devices purchased with the funds.

53/24-25.2 Cllr Gibbon was congratulated on the success of the recent defibrillator training.

54/24-25 REVIEW THE RESPONSE TO FLOODING IN OCTOBER 2023

There was a discussion about SCC's lack of response to the flooding caused by Storm Babet. There was concern that many flooded householders have not been interviewed by SCC for the purposes of the Section 19 investigation. Further, there was concern that the response of those interviewed may not be representative of the experiences of all the households flooded. Three actions were agreed: to explore the feasibility of commissioning and obtaining funding for an independent report on the causes of the flooding to present to SCC; to seek a meeting involving the SCC Flood Team, District Councillors and Parish Council; and, to write a letter escalating these concerns to SCC at cabinet level and the local MP.

Action: Chair / Clerk to send letters to SCC cabinet and MP; to seek quotes for the cost of commissioning and independent report and make enquiries about locality funding; and contact SCC Flood Team to arrange a meeting.

55/24-25 DISCUSS CONCERNS FROM RESIDENT ABOUT TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES CAUSING WATER INGRESS TO DRIVEWAY

A villager has raised concerns relating to the traffic calming measures installed at the school end of the village, which they state is resulting in surface water ingress to their property. It was noted there is an unresolved comment on the SCC reporting tool from November 2021 regarding blocked drains in this area that followed repeated prior reports over the previous years with regard to the flooding on this stretch of road. The speed calming installation was in August 2022. It was resolved that this issue should also be escalated to SCC at the cabinet level and MP.

Action: Clerk to raise issue in letters, as per item **54/24-25** above.

56/24-25 DISCUSS REPORTS OF DOGS NOT ON LEAD ON PLAYING FIELD

No issues of concern were identified.

57/24-25 DISCUSS CONDITION OF PLAY AREA AND EQUIPMENT

The annual ROSPA report on the play area and equipment was considered. It was suggested that the play area would soon need replacement. It was agreed Cllr Ladbrook and Cllr Siddall should conduct a site visit to review the report's findings. It was resolved to investigate the possibility of either purchasing or renewing a long-term lease on the playing field / play area land, as it would not be possible to obtain funding for replacement play equipment without first securing the long-term use of the land.

Action: Chair / Clerk to liaise with Cllr Siddall about options for renewing the lease or purchasing the land.

58/24-25 REVIEW GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE AND PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACT

The current contractors, Kindlewood, have been cutting two-weekly through this year's growing season, less frequently than anticipated. This hasn't resulted in any adverse comment from parishioners and it was resolved that two-weekly cutting should continue next year. The volunteer that has cut the grass on Pound Corner over the years is now no longer able to. Cllrs agreed to look to add Pound Corner to the grass cutting contract and to obtain quotes to either cut regularly or to leave and have scythed during the Autumn. It was resolved to obtain quotes and decide this at the next meeting.

Action: Chair / Clerk to obtain quotes from Kindlewood for the following options in relation to Pound Corner: fortnightly grass cutting or alternatively cutting back in the Autumn.

59/24-25 DISCUSS EASTON.ONESUFFOLK.NET WEBSITE – PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES RE: INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

The parish council currently pay for the onesuffolk.net website, but don't have a role in managing the website. There was concern expressed that by funding the website the Parish Council might be at risk of sanction from the ICO if there is out of date personal data held on the site. It was resolved it should be ascertained from the ICO how long personal information can be retained, and then request the webmaster to conduct a data cleanse accordingly.

Action: Clerk to research position with ICO and make contact the webmaster.

60/24-25 CONSIDER PLANS FOR VE DAY 80 (8 May 2025)

<https://www.veday80.org.uk>

There was a discussion about type of catering that could be offered by the parish council at this event. It was resolved that the costs of catering could be funded by the council, if it could be achieved without contracting outside caterers. Cllr Ladbrook has offered to cook burgers and hot dogs, and it was agreed up to £500 could be spent to purchase food. It was agreed a pay bar would be desirable to defray the expense of the food.

61/24-25 DISCUSS ACTION PLAN AND PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED BUT NOT YET ACTIONED

Deferred to next meeting.

62/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS

DC/24/2679/TCA Upwey, The Street, Easton, IP13 0ED; Ash tree to fell and Beech tree crown to raise

No representations to be made to this consultation.

63/24-25 SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

64/24-25 DATES OF MEETINGS 2024

18 November 2024; 20 January 2025; and 24 March 2025

Meeting Closed 21:30