

Easton Parish Council

MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.45PM Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

65/24-25 PRESENT & APOLOGIES

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

66/24-25 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No members of the public attended.

67/24-25 RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Vince Landon-Morris attended and reported: on 29 November 2024 the Environment Agency will be holding a drop-in event at the Castle Community Rooms in Framlingham from 1330 to 1830 about the flooding. There should also be a council officer present to give advice on resilience grants; Framlingham Parish Council commissioned Leah Parrott of Amazi Consulting Ltd to prepare an independent report on the flooding. It was received in March 24, prior to the SCC's section 19 report, which arrived in June. Work is ongoing comparing the two reports. This will be shared with adjoining parishes. The Environment Agency has already permitted the Framlingham flood plane zones to be remodelled. In future this should be taken into account when ESC considers planning applications.

68/24-25 RECEIVE ANY CHANGES TO MEMBERS INTERESTS

No changes received.

69/24-25 RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Siddall declared an interest in relation to item 12.

70/24-25 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

71/24-25 FINANCE MATTERS:

71/24-25.1 Consider and approve Financial Statement (dated 11 November 2024)

The financial statement was considered and approved.

71/24-25.2 Authorise the purchase of replacement defibrillator pads for £138.00 (inclusive of VAT)

The purchase of the defibrillator pads was approved.

71/24-25.3 Authorise the purchase of Christmas tree for village green

Cllr Siddall was authorised to purchase the tree.

72/24-25 POLICY REVIEW:

72/24-25.1 To review and adopt Code of Conduct for 24/25

The document was approved and adopted, but with the references to “Cabinet Members” removed and / or amended to “Parish Councillors”.

73/24-25 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING:

73/24-25.1 Chair’s report

The Chair has researched how to access Sizewell community funding, and attended a meeting on 9th November. Their initial response indicates funding for the play area and play equipment is possible, but there would need to be evidence of community engagement from all age groups. Ownership of the land or a long-term lease is a pre-requisite. Funding for pavements in the village was also raised, given the risks posed by increased traffic accessing the Sizewell park and ride. They confirmed there is a fund that could be utilised. An application would need to be supported by evidence of increased vehicle movements, which might be obtained from the SID devices.

Kindlewood has provided a quote for the cutting of grass on Pound Corner. It would be £30 per cut, in addition to the current contract.

A wreath was purchased on behalf of the Parish Council and laid at the Remembrance Service last week.

74/24-25 CONSIDER DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2025/2026

A draft budget presented by the Clerk was considered and discussed. Final decisions on the budget will be taken at the meeting in January 2025 when the precept request is determined for 25/26.

75/24-25 AGREE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INSTALLING CHRISTMAS TREE

It was agreed that the tree should be installed on the weekend of 7th and 8th December 2024, Cllrs Gibbon and Ladbrook have volunteered.

76/24-25 PLAY AREA: CONSIDER VIABILITY OF GAINING FUNDING – PRIORITY QUESTIONNAIRE TO SURVEY RESIDENTS

Cllr Siddall declared an interest in relation to this item.

It was agreed the community should be consulted to ascertain whether there is a continued demand for play equipment in the village, and if so, what type. It was agreed this should be done by way of a survey to villagers.

Action: Cllrs Siddall and Ladbrook to consider what questions should be posed in the survey. Cllr Palfreyman volunteered to assist with setting up a Survey Monkey.

Cllr Siddall reported the overgrown areas around the playing field are being cleared, and a field entrance will be created for vehicular access to the playing field.

The obtaining of a further lease or purchase of the play area land and playing field was discussed. Cllr Siddall said the land is not for sale, but a long-term lease would be available, the current lease having expired.

77/24-25 STORM BABET: DISCUSS COMMISSIONING INDEPENDENT REPORT

Letters have been sent to Paul West, the Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for flooding, and Patrick Spencer MP, in terms as agreed at the last meeting. It was agreed to wait on replies before deciding whether an independent report into the flooding in Easton should be commissioned. Councillors considered the quotes provided by FPS Environmental Ltd and Amazi Consulting Ltd for the preparation of an independent flood report. FPS provided two levels of service, the least expensive option was £19,850 (excluding VAT). Amazi confirmed their terms of engagement and pricing structure but isn't yet able to provide a total cost. Once the total cost is known, funding will need to be sought from District and County locality budget grants before a report can be commissioned. A cost-effective option might be to request Amazi to base a report on report they prepared for Framlingham, with additional work added to deal with the factors unique to Easton.

78/24-25

SIDS: CONSIDER POSITIONING AND CONFIRM EFFECTIVENESS

Data downloaded from the recently installed SID devices was considered and discussed. The earlier installation plan was changed, to place one device at the school end of the village, and the other at the Framlingham end, both to monitor incoming traffic. Each device records the speed of vehicles travelling in both directions, but only displays the speed of vehicles approaching the device. So far, the devices seem effective in causing drivers to slow when coming into the village. Cllr Ladbroke expressed concern about the number of cars exceeding the speed limit when exiting the village, particularly at the school end, where speeds in excess of 50mph have been recorded prior to exiting the 30mph zone. It was agreed to keep the devices positioned as they are for the time being, and review at later meetings. If possible, the Framlingham SID should be adjusted so the speed is displayed only when drivers reach the 30mph zone.

79/24-25

DISCUSS AND AGREE RESPONSE TO INSTANCES OF FLY TIPPING

It was reported that some builder's rubble was tipped in the village car park, having seemingly fallen into the road from a lorry and then moved into the car park, where it was placed in the vicinity of the glass recycling bins. Cllr Siddall offered to have it taken away when contractors are removing the rubbish fly tipped in the next-door meadow. There was also a discussion about a horse trailer that had been parked in the car park for a considerable time was abandoned and should be removed. One of the councillors was aware that it isn't abandoned, and will be moved out of the car park by the owner.

80/24-25

NOTE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPAIR TO TRAFFIC CALMING NEAR HARRIERS WALK

It is understood that SCC Highways will repair the damage caused to the traffic calming measures near Harriers Walk by mid-December 2024. The Chair will make a request to SCC Highways to see if the posts could have more reflective material added to improve visibility. Cllr Siddall pointed out that there are no priority road signs, other than the dotted white line painted across the carriageway, which can be difficult to see in dark and wet conditions. It was agreed that SCC Highways should be contacted to enquire as to whether additional signage could be added showing priority.

- 81/24-25 CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
81/24-25.1 Speeding at school end of village (email dated 22/9/24)
Email received from a local resident regarding speeding vehicles and the behaviour of motorist in response to the traffic calming measures on The Street near the school. The email was considered and discussed.
81/24-25.2 Framlingham Road grass verge (email dated 6/11/24)
Email received from a local resident about the erection of fences on the verge by Framlingham Road was considered and discussed. The view of the councillors was that these issues do not fall within the remit of a parish council.
Action: Clerk to draft a response.
- 82/24-25 CONSIDER PLANS FOR VE DAY 80 (8 May 2025)**
<https://www.veday80.org.uk>
There was further discussion of the plans for VE Day 80. Item to be added to the agenda for a later meeting.
- 83/24-25 PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS:**
None received.
- 84/24-25 SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**
- Phosphate levels in the Deben.
 - To address Anglian Water about the apparent inadequate water recycling facility for the village.
 - The OneSuffolk village website.
- 85/24-25 DATES OF MEETINGS 2024**
20 January 2025; and 24 March 2025.

Meeting closed at 2110.