

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Wednesday December 10th 2008
Easton Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Cllr T Smith, Chair
Cllr J Kerr, Vice-Chair
Cllr M Coney
Cllr I Melton
Cllr P Spencer
County Cllr P Bellfield
Mrs S Piggott, Clerk

1 APOLOGIES

Cllr B Eklid
Cllr P McEwen

Cllr T Smith, Chair, reported that he had agreed to give Cllr Eklid a sabbatical. Council voiced their support to this decision.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None

3 MINUTES

The Minutes for October 29th '08 meeting were approved and signed.

4 REPORT ON ANY 'ACTIONS' FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk and Cllr Melton had been attended a site meeting for the Play Area with an equipment provider, report to follow under Play Area.

5 POLICE REPORT

Due to the new PCSO for Easton being unable to attend the Clerk read out his report which had been sent to her:

Good Evening to All

I am sorry that I am unable to attend this evening. My name is Christian Hassler and I am your local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer). I am based at Framlingham Police Station and will also be covering the Easton area.

Crime Report

I am happy to report that from 1st Nov/9th Dec 2008 there were no reported crimes in the village of Easton.

Speeding and Parking concerns

Members of the community have expressed their concerns to me of motorists speeding through the village of Easton. I have been trained to use the Police speed gun and will endeavour to visit at different places and times of the day so that motorists will see me and keep their speed to 30mph those that don't will receive a warning letter to keep their speed down, or if there is a Police Officer with me they could be issued with a £60 fine and points on their licence.

I arranged for an abandoned vehicle to be removed from the public car park also the matter of parking on the zigzag lines outside the school has been addressed with warnings given.

Crime Prevention Advice

Keep vehicles locked and any items of value not left in the vehicles over night (i.e.) mobiles, Sat navs, money etc. Remember if you can see it, they can see it!

Have a Very Merry Christmas and I will see you in 2009
Christian Hassler
PCSO 3034 Framlingham SNT
01473 613500
christian.hassler@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

6 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Bellfield apologised for his non-attendance at the last meeting which was due to a diary error. Cllr Bellfield gave his report which covered the following

- It is understood that the Minister is continuing with the Boundary Committee's process despite the current economic climate
- Schools re-organisation: second phase consultation with parents, governors and staff will soon commence.
- Business mileage: About two years ago the Resources, Finance and Performance Scrutiny committee produced a report on the subject due to significant increase in previous years SCC recommended that Cabinet should implement 3% per annum reduction in the mileage of the council, SCC checked to see if this was being achieved and discovered that no progress had been made to reduce business mileage. SCC have strongly advised Cabinet that action should now be taken to reduce business mileage particularly in view of current economic conditions.
- Two subjects where Council has received adverse press comment:
- Advertisement for post of Diary secretary for the Chief Executive:.
As soon as the Leader of the Council was alerted to this advertisement by the press he ensured that the advertisement and position was withdrawn, as deemed it inappropriate in the present economic climate.
Training programme: The programme for training 400 managers of the Council, which lasts 7 days in three sessions, designed to improve the management and leadership qualities for senior and some middle management staff. This programme is within the training budget for this year. It is not taking place at a hotel or conference centre but in a village hall with a light lunch provided by SCC catering. To my mind this should be money well spent.
- The Policy Development Panel on Heavy Goods Vehicles, upon which I sat, reported to Cabinet last month, and I am pleased to say they accepted our recommendations. Among the more significant were that they would recommend to planning authorities that permission should not be granted for an application which will generate HGV's in rural area away from primary roads unless there is an over riding need for it to be in the country, such as agricultural needs. HGV operator's licences should be issued by the local licensing authority, the district council, and not the Traffic Commissioners, to ensure that they are not granted on sites which are adjacent to unsuitable roads. Government will be lobbied for this change. A review is to be undertaken of HGV road use in an area bounded by the A140, the A12 and the A1120 to see whether a policy adopted by Leicestershire CC for HGV management can be applied. This might include legally enforced designated routes and from particular sites and the down grading of road classification, A to B in the case of the A1120 and B to C with such roads as the B1078 etc to discourage their use by HGV's. Work being undertaken with the Ministry and Somerset CC for a suitable sat-nav system for HGV's. The County has been leading the way in the country in this work. To look at the merits of banning HGV's overtaking each other on parts of the A12 and A14. A report on the progress made on the recommendations will be made to Cabinet in six months time.
- As always please contact me if there are any matters where I can help.
- It just remain for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Peter Bellfield

17 November 2008

19.50pm Late arrival: Cllr J Kerr apologised for his delayed train travel.

6.1 Cllr Bellfield reminded members of the present LDF consultation in process and the February 16th deadline for their response. Cllr Bellfield also reminded members that the Parish Plan for Easton was a document that gave the views of all those who live in Easton and were well documented which would provide a good reference for consideration.

6.2 Cllr Kerr voiced thanks to SCC in respect to solving the flooding situation onto the Street from the Cemetery, Cllr Bellfield assured members that he would pass this on to Mr Steve Aldous at Highways.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – None

8 FINANCE

8.1 The Clerk brought to the Council's attention that the External Auditors have been efficient in submitting their invoice. The Government appointed Auditors have changed to BDO from Lubbock Fine and the charge for external audit from £58.00 is now £141.00. Council requested that the Clerk question the charge and on receiving explanation that the Clerk with the Chair make the decision to settle the bill. Proposed Cllr J Kerr, Seconded Cllr T Smith. The Statement was signed with the above provision made.

8.2 The Clerk reported that she had received a request from the Village Hall that needed to be put to the Council. The Village Hall is undertaking another project of improvements. The Village Hall committee is unable to reclaim VAT and requested that the large bills for works be paid by the Parish Council which as a body can reclaim the VAT. This would be an administrative transaction for the Parish Council since the Village Hall committee would ensure prompt payment of the net amount of large bills so that the expenditure for the Parish Council would be the VAT which would routinely be re-imbursed when VAT is reclaimed. The first large bill that needed settlement was presented to Council as £2,300, (net amount £2,000). The Council agreed to assisting the Village Hall in this way.

9 PLANNING

The Old Cattle Shed, Stud Farm – permission granted.
The Cockpit, The Street, Easton – application withdrawn

10 PLAY AREA

A meeting took place 3rd November with Norfolk Games and Frames /PlayQuest, the Clerk and Cllr Melton attended. The area was measured out. Recommendations were that the hedge if cut back and exposed ground levelled this would increase space substantially. In cutting back the hedge it would create gaps exposing access to the road, chain link fencing to run inside the hedge was advised, which should also take in the large gap in the hedge and where this occurs to support with hedge planting of black thicket or similar.

The quote with plan for the play area has now been submitted. The Norfolk Games and Frames agent has been careful to keep to the suggested budget, but should more funding be obtained the spec and choice of equipment can be adjusted accordingly. The total including fencing around the equipment with two gates, wooden in line with the equipment. The equipment details are a Double swing with cradle seat extension £1,400, Matting for swings £2,016, Barrier for swings £240, Adventure Trail including 6 items £2,867, Basic platform tower for slide with ladder £2,000, Matting at bottom of slide and ladder £180, Heavy duty fencing with 2 self closing gates £3,034, Delivery and installation £1,700.- Total £13,437 less £1,000 discount makes the Total Quote for the project £12,437.00.

The Clerk contacted a local school in Ipswich who have had a play area supplied by this company and they highly recommended them, a visit can be made to the site. They were especially pleased with the helpfulness and efficiency of the the agent in meeting their exact needs.

The Clerk has researched grant providers, Suffolk Acre provided a list which the clerk researched to find ones applicable. Applications for lottery funding are for 10,000 plus. The Awards For All appears to be the most appropriate and is relatively quick in its turn around £10,000 can be obtained as a maximum. Should Awards For All fail the Clerk has another Lottery Fund application pack which is only for £10,000 plus. Grants from SCDC are available. Playspace will allow all 1,900 to be applied for and released. The SCDC Capital Grant can be applied for this funding will not be available until July next year. Locality Funding can be applied for. The bid to Easton Festival funds has proved successful with £1,000 pledged.

Grant applications need to show what other funds have been acquired together with any work in kind or donations. Cllr Melton has offered a metal bench for the play area, this can be included as a donation and work in kind by a local company. With the successful bid to Easton Festival for £1,000 and for the capital reserve of £1,500 available from the Parish Council funds, this criteria is now covered. The next step is to submit the funding application pack from Awards for All and await the result.

The Clerk has met with another play equipment provider 'Monster Play Systems, and will arrange a meeting with a third provider so that competitive tendering can be met. The Clerk asked for a ball park figure for the equivalent amount requested from Norfolk Games and Frames/PlayQuest, Monster Play Systems quoted £20,000 to £30,000, but will post their plans and quote in January '09.

- 10.1** During her site visits the Clerk felt that the access down to the Kick about field and future Play Area could be improved. The very uneven soiled surface along on which cars park, makes accessing the field difficult. The Clerk suggested to council that a request for paving and kerbing to extend from the Hunt Kennel gates might be something that could be pursued. Council agreed for the Clerk to contact Mr S Aldous at Highways to request the suggested pavement. **SP**

11 BUDGET

The budget figures were submitted with projections to the year end by the Clerk. Councillors discussed the figures. An overspend on budget was significant in grass cutting for the village. Council agreed that the level of service was very well received by those in the village and was of great importance for those who lived in the village. Council agreed to accommodate the increase of expenditure, this increase together with the increase of grant to the Village Hall, the increase of external audit fees, together with nominal increases to insurances, and Clerk statutory salary, resulted in the general increase to the Precept request by £300 to total a Precept request of £5,600. The council all agreed to increasing the Precept to £5,600. The Clerk advised that the deadline for her to notify SCDC on Precept was February 1st, and would ensure this was done. **SP**

12 VILLAGE HALL

12.1 The recent fundraising event, a Karaoke evening raised £280.

12.2 Improvements to the Village Hall are being undertaken. Grants have been accessed. The work commences during the Christmas holidays. The Project has two phases and will include, damp abatement-provision of French drains, lobby and toilet refurbishment, new flooring to lobby toilets and store room, wall repairs external and internal, install extractor fans to toilets, fire and smoke detector alarms, new lighting to entrance and toilet areas.

12.3. Council agreed that a letter should be sent to thank the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work and commitment to the Village Hall. **SP**

13 FOOTPATHS – Nothing to report

14 HIGHWAYS

As agreed that the Clerk contact Mr S Aldous regarding the request for paving from Hunt Kennel gates to the access down to the Kick about area and future Play Area.

15 VILLAGE WEBSITE

Council agreed that a Village Website would be beneficial for the village. Official notices, minutes etc generated from the council could be accessible, together with other items, newsletters etc that concerned the community. Cllr Smith will contact SALC for advice on how to action a website and will set a Village Website up accordingly. **TS**

16 CORRESPONDENCE

16.1 A letter had been received from Mr J Owen enquiring about how the Parish Council expects to represent the views of people in village with respect to the response that they formulate for the LDF consultation. Council agreed and requested that the Clerk write in answer to express that they intend to respond to the LDF consultation and will make reference to the views of all villagers which is documented in the

Village Plan, and that as usual at the next meeting which is prior to the consultation deadline there will be a public forum where views can be expressed.

- 16.2** The Clerk had received a reply to the letter that had been sent requesting an explanation from SCDC solicitor Mr Burridge re. Nursery Gardens revoking of section 52. The letter from Mr Burridge explained that although initially he understood that a section 52 could not be revoked unless all parties that held the covenant agreed to do so, that the legal process had exposed a loop hole whereby a section 52 only applies to the original parties to which it was applied. Cllr Coney voiced that the Parish Council should follow up this stance by SCDC since it appeared maladministration was involved. Council agreed to give support where possible.

17 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2009:

All meetings 7.30-9.30pm apart for Annual meetings in May start time 7pm.:

Wed 4th Feb

Wed 15th April

Wed 20th May

Wed 22nd July

Wed 23rd September

Wed 25th Nov

17 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday February 4th – 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.45pm