

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 15th April 2009
at Easton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr T Smith, Chairman Cllr M Coney
Cllr I Melton Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk
9 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr J Kerr Cllr P McEwan
Cllr B Eklid Cllr P Bellfield, County Councillor
Cllr R Snell, District Councillor
PCSO C Hasler

1.2 The chairman informed the meeting that Mr Paul Spencer had tendered his resignation as a Councillor.

1.3 Clerk was asked to prepare the necessary documentation to publicise a vacancy for a Councillor.

Clerk

1.4 The Chairman informed the meeting that SALC had been consulted to ensure that three members constitutes a quorum and was informed That on this occasion it does.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm for members of the public to ask questions and Put forward their views on items on the agenda. The only item discussed was The planning application for The Cockpit.

The meeting reopened at 7.45 pm.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

2.1 Cllr Coney declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9, the Planning application for The Cockpit.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 The minutes of the meeting dated 4th February 2009 were approved and signed: proposed Cllr Melton, seconded Cllr Coney.

4 CLERK'S REPORT

4.1 **Pre-School** The Clerk had received a call from Sandy Stearn of Pre-School advising that they are looking to relocate from the Village Hall. This decision has been taken for a variety of reasons and it is hoped to move to a building at Easton Farm Park pending a planning application. This would give them a permanent unshared home and afford better car parking and safety for the children. Mrs Stearn stated how sad Pre-School will be to leave the Village Hall after such a long association.

Council was advised that the Village Hall Management Committee are looking at the situation positively and when the time comes they will actively seek other users.

- 4.2 **Training** The evening of training for all Councillors and the Clerk will be postponed until a new Councillor is in place.
- 4.3 **Hedgerow Survey** The hedgerow survey carried out over the last two years was very successful and a map together with details of the survey can be found on the notice board of the village hall lobby. Mr Derek Martin and Cllr Bernadette Eklid were thanked for their work in co-ordinating the survey in Easton as were all the volunteers who checked the hedges.
- 4.4 **Support for the Clerk** Clerk asked for help from all Councillors to enable her to carry out her duties to the best of her ability and to correctly support Council. Councillors are asked to please respond to e-mails promptly where a question is asked (even if it's a negative response) and within any given timescale. They were also asked to ensure that documentation is circulated in good time, avoiding hold up. Finally Clerk asked that Councillors please inform her as soon as possible if they have booked holidays or if they are unable to make a Council meeting. This will help her make alternative arrangements early and avoid having to cancel meetings.

5 **POLICE REPORT** None

6 **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT** None

7 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT** None

8 **FINANCE**

8.1 Clerk presented the Financial Report to 15th April which was unanimously accepted: proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Coney.

9 **PLANNING**

The Cockpit Councillor Coney left the meeting for this item. The remaining Councillors held a lengthy discussion on this application and took into account all the comments made by members of the public. Clerk was asked to formulate a response to SCDC stating that Council appreciates that the designers have taken into account some of the comments made last time but still feels that a 1½ storey building on this site is unacceptable. Other applications in the vicinity had been refused for this reason and only single storey properties allowed. It was felt that if this application were to be passed it could set a precedent for the future and also would impair the character of the village.

Clerk

Clerk was also asked to contact Cllrs Kerr & Eklid (who had not seen the application) if they had returned by the due reply date.

Clerk

Note: Clerk contacted Cllr Eklid who, after consideration of the application, agreed with the other Councillors. Unfortunately Cllr Kerr had not returned in time.

10 **PLAY AREA**

- 10.1 Clerk informed the meeting that she had forwarded an application for funding to Awards for All for £8692 and a decision should be received by the first week in May. Should this be unsuccessful, Council agreed to consider carrying out the work on a gradual basis whilst more funding is sought.

11 **VILLAGE HALL**

- 11.1 Clerk informed the meeting of the new scale of charges and agreed to forward these for inclusion on the village website. Clerk/TS

12 **CEMETERY**

- 12.1 A request had been received from Mr & Mrs Courtney to purchase a double cremation plot in the Garden of Remembrance. In addition to this they had requested that the ashes of their recently deceased son be allowed to rest in their double plot also. As this would not take any additional space from the cemetery, Council unanimously agreed. Clerk was asked to produce the necessary documentation for Mr & Mrs Courtney.

- 12.2 F Masters, Stonemasons, had forwarded a request for an inscription on the memorial for Mr & Mrs Rook which was considered an unanimously agreed.

- 13 **FOOTPATHS** No report

14 **HIGHWAYS**

- 14.1 Clerk was asked to contact Steve Aldous and ask him to look at two areas of concern: the pavement opposite the kennels and the pavement from the kennels to the Four Bridges footpath. Clerk to inform the Chairman when a date has been arranged so he can meet with Steve Aldous. Clerk

- 14.2 Clerk was further asked to report an ongoing problem with a faulty culvert on the Framlingham Road between Dark Lane and the Round House. Recent repairs had worked for a short while but the problem has returned. Clerk

15 **VILLAGE WEBSITE**

- 15.1 The Chairman requested that anyone with an item of interest or news of a forthcoming event in the village should contact him so it can be included on the website.

16 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 16.1 **Litter Pick** Clerk had received a note from a resident advising that there is a lot of litter in the village currently and suggesting a litter pick. This has coincided with information from District council that they will support villages carrying out litter picks by providing sacks and gloves together with collection and disposal of litter after the event. After discussion it was agreed to hold a village litter pick on Saturday 16th May from 10.30 am. Clerk to produce an article asking for villagers to help. Clerk

16.2 **Village of the Year Competition** Application forms have been received and after discussion it was agreed to enter. Clerk to complete the forms. Clerk

16.3 **Tree Preservation – Four Pheasants** Council had received copy of a letter sent to SCDC regarding the recent removal of some oak trees. Clerk had spoken with the owner of Four Pheasants and the matter is being dealt with through District Council. This matter is for information only.

16.4 **The Shape of Suffolk’s Future** Clerk advised of more dates for meetings

16.5 Leiston CAB and Macmillan Fund had both sent letter of thanks for the recent donation made by Council.

17 **Agenda Items for the next meeting**

- Cemetery – consideration for acquiring more land
- Play Area
- Highways
- Village Hall VAT repayment
- Beryl Webster memorial
- Co-option of new councillor
- Dates of future meetings.

18 **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 20th May at 7.00 pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by AGM and short Parish Council meeting.

Councillors were reminded of the importance of attendance at this meeting as it gives the public a better opportunity to liaise with Councillors.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

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Chair

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Date