

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 23rd September 2009
at Easton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr J Kerr Cllr M Coney
Cllr J Duggan Cllr P McEwan
Cllr B Eklid Cllr I Melton
Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk County Cllr P Bellfield
4 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

1 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr T Smith PCSO C Hassler

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Coney item 6, Cllr Duggan items 7 & 10, Cllr Kerr item 6

3 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July were signed and approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Eklid, seconded Cllr Duggan and unanimously agreed.

4 **FINANCE**

4.1 The Financial Statement for the period July – September was circulated and formally agreed. Proposed Cllr Melton, seconded Cllr Eklid.

4.2 Clerk circulated Actual v Budget for the first six months which was discussed.

4.3 Clerk presented the new insurance schedule and after discussion it was agreed to increase the Fidelity cover to £10,000 for an increased sum of £15.33. This follows advice from the external auditor in the light of the increase in funds held and handled by the Parish Council in the course of its parish business. Clerk to advise Suffolk ACRE and obtain a new invoice. Clerk

4.4 Audit – Clerk explained that the audit forms had been returned as the final figures for 2007/8 did not agree with the start figure for 2008/9. After much research the problems were found to be with cheques raised on the last day of the financial year and incorrectly entered within the 2007/8 accounts. Council unanimously agreed the changes to be made. Proposed Cllr McEwan, seconded Cllr Melton.

5 **CLERK'S REPORT**

5.1 **Play Area** - Clerk reported that she has resubmitted the planning application after rewriting the Design & Access Statement and preparing a Flood Risk Assessment. She delivered this by hand and was advised that the new paperwork should be sufficient.

Clerk had received a copy of the new lease between Parish Council and Mrs Gill Kerr which she has duly signed. A final copy is now awaited.

SCDC has £2,073.31 available as a grant and this will be applied for when planning permission is received. County Cllr Bellfield reminded the meeting that he has some funds available in his locality budget and a village resident has kindly offered up to £100 for the purchase of litter bins or similar.

- 5.2 **Village of the Year** - it was agreed that the presentation evening was a great success and the Clerk was thanked for all of her efforts in the application and in organising the evening on behalf of Parish Council and the village.

Clerk to speak with Tim Woods to ask if the trophy & certificate may be displayed in the White Horse pub. Clerk to speak with SCDC to ask if the trophy is insured.

Clerk

Next meeting to consider how the prize money is to be spent.

6 **PLANNING**

- 6.1 Notification has been received that the application for a pre-school building at Easton Farm Park has been withdrawn for the moment while other village sites are considered.
- 6.2 Application for tree work to Willow Trees at The Stables, The Street has been received. Council discussed and unanimously agreed they have no objection.

7 **CEMETERY**

- 7.1 Clerk advised that she had written to Mrs Hammond and spoken with her on the matter of possible land for a cemetery extension. Mrs Hammond has written that she is willing to consider selling Council a piece of her land subject to further discussion and agreeing terms & conditions.

After much discussion it was agreed to take the following actions:

- Survey existing site
- Take advice from Ipswich Borough Council, cemeteries department
- Decide on amount of land required
- Negotiate with Mrs Hammond
- Speak with Planning Department regarding any permissions required
- Agree terms with Mrs Hammond
- Draw up a budget for payment

Clerk together with Cllrs Melton, Kerr, Eklid and Coney to work on the project as soon as possible.

Clerk to write to Mrs Hammond advising her of the above.

Clerk

8 **VILLAGE HALL VAT REPAYMENT**

- 8.1 Village Hall Management Committee have confirmed in writing agreeing to the proposed repayment plan and, in fact, hope to repay the outstanding sum before the end of 2009.

9 **BERYL WEBSTER MEMORIAL**

After much discussion it was unanimously agreed on a bench in the new play area with a brass plaque. Considering Mrs Webster's sterling work for the play group and other children's activities in the village, this was felt to be the most appropriate memorial.

Clerk to investigate prices of a metal bench. Clerk

10 **SCHOOL LANE – TRAFFIC SPEED**

- 10.1 Cllr Smith has spoken with Steve Aldous of Highways who is able to provide two second-hand posts. Custom made 'Children Playing, please drive slowly' signs on an aluminium background will cost £85 each. Council unanimously agreed that these signs should be ordered. TS
Clerk to write to Cricket Club to ask if they would purchase one of the signs Clerk

11 **RIVER DEBEN**

- 11.1 Cllr Melton expressed his concern over the condition of the river through the village. After discussion Clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency to ask about their maintenance policy for the river and invite someone to attend a future Council meeting to explain the situation and answer questions. Clerk

13 **COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

- 13.1 After discussion Councillors unanimously agreed that this matter should not be pursued. It was felt that it could be divisive within the village.

14 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 14.1 The **East Anglian Daily Times** have requested copies of Council Minutes to enable them to put more community news within their publications. It was agreed that the Clerk would e-mail a copy of the 'Highlights' to them after each meeting and also refer them to the village website. Clerk

- 14.2 **Gambling Act** - After consideration Council felt they had no contribution to make to this consultation.

- 14.3 **Anglian Water** - Cllr Smith had received complaints from lorry drivers that the access road to the sewage works was often blocked by parked cars. Council agreed that this was not really a matter for them and that in future lorry drivers should be asked to take the matter up directly with Anglian Water.

- 14.4 Information was given regarding a Suffolk Coastal District Public Meeting to be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 29th September at Orwell High School Felixstowe when there will be an opportunity to meet Chief Police Officers and members of Suffolk Police Authority to discuss policing within our area.

15 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT** None

16 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- 16.1 Cllr Bellfield reported that at a meeting on 24th September, County Council would be discussing the future financial situation. It is understood that there could be substantial reduction in the amount of money passed to local government from central funds. If this were to happen, then in order to maintain services at the current level over the next 3½ years there could be a deficit of some £48m. county council is leading the way to see if some services can be combined.
- 16.2 Local Government Reorganisation – Boundary Committee’s appeal will be heard on 6/7th October. If the committee’s appeal is upheld then they could go ahead with final recommendations early in 2010. In this case local councils could go to the House of Lords for another appeal if they so wish. If the appeal is not upheld then the Boundary Committee would have to go out to consultation again.
- 16.3 Cllr Bellfield was asked about the possibility of experts being brought into some Suffolk schools. He explained that some schools in the county are not performing well and this is why the two tier system is being considered. Inspectors will go in to three schools in the county and every effort will be made to ensure the standards improve. None of the schools are within the catchment area for Easton.

17 POLICE REPORT

- 17.1 PCSO Hassler sent a written report stating that in the period since the last meeting there had been two reported crimes in the village. The theft of a quad bike and a mni moto pit bike and a domestic argument.
- 17.2 PCSO Hassler has been out and about in the village with a speed gun following concerns by some residents. He will monitor the situation over the coming months and update at future meetings.
- 17.3 The meeting was reminded to keep vehicles secured and all items of value out of site or not in the vehicle at all. Remember if you can see it.....they can see it!

18 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Matters arising from this meeting
Allocation of Village of Year prize money
Shop Local

19 DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 25th November at 7.30 pm
Wednesday 16th December at 7.00 pm to include budget