

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009**  
**at Easton Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr T Smith, Chairman                      Cllr J Kerr  
                  Cllr M Coney                                      Cllr P McEwan  
                  Cllr B Eklid    Cllr I Melton  
                  Cllr P Bellfield, County councillor  
                  Cllr R Snell, District Councillor  
                  Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk  
                  PCSO C Hasler

The meeting opened at 7.20 pm following the opportunity for members of the public to air their views on items on the agenda. The majority of this discussion referred to the LDF consultation response and the views put forward were taken into consideration during that item on the agenda.

- 1        **APOLOGIES:**                      Cllr P Spencer
  
- 2        **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**    Item, LDF Consultation Response: Cllr Kerr whole agenda item. Cllr Smith plot 672, Cllr Coney plot 530, Cllr Melton plot 672a, Cllr McEwan plots 497 and 580.
  
- 3        **PARISH CLERK**  
          The Chairman welcomed the new Clerk, Mrs Carol Davis.
  
- 4        **MINUTES**  
          Following the correction of a meeting date to read 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the minutes were signed as a true record of the last meeting. Proposed Cllr Eklid, seconded Cllr Melton.
  
- 5        **POLICE REPORT**
  - 5.1      PCSO Christian Hasler introduced himself and assured the meeting that he is 'here to stay'.
  
  - 5.2      It was reported that during the period 9 December 2008 to 3 February 2009, no crimes had been reported in Easton.
  
  - 5.3      it was reported that there had been an accident on 30<sup>th</sup> December near the school. Fortunately no serious injuries were incurred.
  
  - 5.4      On 11<sup>th</sup> December between 11 am and 1pm the speed indication device was used in the village. 71 cars were check with an average speed of 29 mph. PCSO Hasler assured the meeting that he will be carrying out speed checks in the village from time to time.
  
  - 5.5      On the subject of crime prevention, householders are reminded to be diligent regarding bogus callers. Always verify their identification before allowing them into the property. If in doubt call 999. Further care should be taken with domestic heating oil – ensure tanks are locked.
  
  - 5.6      Leaflets were distributed with information on the Safer Neighbourhood Team and on Police Direct. The Clerk will put leaflets on the notice board.

## 6 LDF CONSULTATION RESPONSE

- 6.1 Council held a lengthy discussion on this subject taking into account the views of members of the public who attended the meeting, those who had written and those who attended the SCDC presentation, which all Councillors had also attended. These views ranged from those opposed to all changes, to those who felt consideration should be given to changing the village status from a Local Service Centre to those who wished to see some small low cost housing development in order that they, as young people, could remain in the village. Following these discussions the council formulated the following response:

**Core Strategy:** It was unanimously agreed that Easton should remain a Local Service Centre and did, in fact, meet the criteria.

Council further agreed that there is a need to look at a small development for low cost housing and this would need to be done via a housing questionnaire. This area was felt to be important to sustain our village, the community and the economy.

There were no further comments on the remainder of the Core Strategy.

### **Individual sites:**

Plot 497a Cllr Kerr left the meeting. This is a class 3 flood area and totally unsuitable for inclusion. Building on this site would also have a visual impact on this conservation village.

Plot 497 Cllr Kerr remained out of the meeting. This is designated a class 3 flood area and therefore unsuitable for development. There would be a visual impact as the site is adjacent to the conservation area and also alongside a listed round house. The infrastructure in this area is not suitable for large scale development.

Plot 580 Cllr Kerr remained out of the meeting. This is designated a class 3 flood area and therefore unsuitable for development. There would be a visual impact as the site is adjacent to the conservation area and also alongside a listed round house. The infrastructure in this area is not suitable for large scale development.

Although Cllr Kerr had declared an interest in the whole of this agenda item, he was advised that he was allowed to return for the following areas as he has not particular personal or prejudicial interests in these sites.#

Plot 366 On a vote of 5:4 it was agreed that it would be acceptable to allow this plot to become part of the village envelope. This is on the understanding that it is purely to correct an anomaly whereby the boundary currently runs through the garden of the owner. Council felt that the plot should not be considered for ribbon development.

Plot 530 Cllr Coney did not take part in this discussion.

The meeting closed in order that the owner of this site could give an overview of the situation.

In the past this plot had been part of the village envelope. Council unanimously agreed that it should be returned to the village envelope and may, in the future, look favourably on the building of one single storey dwelling on the site.

Plot 672 Cllr Smith did not take part in this discussion. This site was thought to be a possibility for some small future development. However, the following important reservations were made: single carriage road, access difficult, close to the school, traffic problems, drainage, proximity to the school (safety issues) and a visual impact on surrounding properties causing loss of privacy.

Plot 672a Cllr Melton declared an interest. This site was agreed to be suitable for consideration for small scale development of low cost housing according to the local need as well as providing a car park for the school thus solving traffic problems on The Street. However, the following reservations were made: Access from the road needs to be made safe and also drainage from the surrounding farm land must be considered.

Cllr Kerr & Cllr McEwan left the meeting for the following discussion.;

Consideration was given to proposing a small area of plot 497 or 580 for a very limited number of low cost houses. However, after discussion it was decided that this was not acceptable as, over time, more space could be offered as exception sites and therefore the number of buildings could grow.

Clerk was asked to draft the response for Councillors to check before passing to SCDC. When this response has been sent a copy will be published on the village notice board and on the village website.

## **7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- 7.1 Cllr Belfield reported on the Local Government reorganisation. The Boundary Committee will report next Friday and it is expected that the Minister will maintain the status quo.
- 7.2 County Council elections are due on 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- 7.3 Suffolk County Council has received recent accolades as top performer on efficiency in the country, top performer for services in East Anglia and Suffolk Records Office now has a 4 star rating.
- 7.4 SCC budget shows a 2.45% increase in Council Tax.

## **8 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- 8.1 Cllr Snell reported that there will be an 'all parish councils' meeting in February to discuss unitary councils.
- 8.2 BT has made an application for a new Innovation Park plus 2,000 homes on its site.
- 8.3 The Bibby site in Framlingham has received outline planning permission for 140 houses
- 8.4 £1.5m of grant money is coming to SCDC and is to be used for major development in Felixstowe.
- 8.5 Cllr Belfield was unable to give the figure for Council Tax increase for the district at present. SCDC are trying to keep the increase as low as possible.

## 9 **REPORT ON 'ACTIONS' FROM THE LAST MEETING**

- 9.1 Cllr Melton confirmed he has spoken with Nigel Wright regarding the upkeep of the cemetery. Nigel would like some help with one or two cuts being done during the summer. Clerk was asked to contact Mr Wright to confirm exactly what is required and then obtain a quote from Simon Cox. Clerk also to ask Mr Wright if he would accept calls from any potential village helpers if a plea is published in the Parish Magazine and on the website.

## 10 **FINANCE**

- 10.1 Cllrs agreed on the payment of S137 budgeted funds of £50 for charitable donations. £25 is to be paid to the local CAB and £25 to Macmillan Cancer Care. On presentation of the Financial Statement this was unanimously accepted and signed. Proposed Cllr Smith seconded Cllr Kerr.
- 10.2 Council resolved and agreed to adopt the Financial Regulations as per Model 2 as produced by NALC. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr McEwan and unanimously agreed.
- 10.3 Council discussed the situation with regard to the reclaiming of VAT on items purchased for the Village Hall. There is some difficulty as Council is a Custodian Trustee rather than a Sole Management Trustee. Clerk was asked to take advice from SALC on this matter and also to investigate how the matter might be resolved. Clerk also to invite the VHMC to meet with Parish Council to discuss the matter and to find a future solution. This item also to be added to the agenda for the next Council meeting.
- 10.4 Plan requirements of External Auditor – deferred to next meeting.

## 11 **PLANNING**

- 11.1 **Martley Hall** – Erection of entrance gates and screen walls, formation of access to highway – SCDC Refused
- 11.2 **1 Home Farm Cottages** – Certificate of Lawful Use of existing mobile home as artists studio and addition sleeping accommodation. Parish council unanimously support.

## 12 **PLAY AREA** – Deferred to Next Meeting

## 13 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

- 13.1 Council resolved and agreed to adopt the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Kerr seconded by Cllr Eklid and unanimously agreed.

## 14 **VILLAGE HALL** - Deferred to next meeting.

## 15 **FOOTPATHS** Nothing to report

## 16 **HIGHWAYS**

- 16.1 Broken signpost at Letheringham/Farm Park junction has been reported. Report No 1326887
- 16.2 Broken signpost at Dark Lane corner has been reported. Report No 1326888

17 **VILLAGE WEBSITE**

- 17.1 Cllr Smith reported that the website is now available to all, although not complete as yet. It may be accessed at [www.easton.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.easton.suffolk.gov.uk) There is also an e-mail address for the Clerk at [pc@easton.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:pc@easton.suffolk.gov.uk) clerk to ensure both these items are published in the Parish Magazine and on the notice board.

18 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 18.1 Members of the public were advised there is a further 'drop in' session regarding the LDF at Aldeburgh Library on 6<sup>th</sup> February between 3 pm and 6.pm. Councillors were advised of a similar meeting for Parish and Town Council representatives at the Council Chamber in Woodbridge on 11<sup>th</sup> February between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.
- 18.2 Council were advised of a campaign aimed at encouraging people to send postcards to the Secretary of State urging her to consider a three unitary model option for the Local Government Review.

19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.20 pm.