

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 25th November 2009
at Easton Village Hall

PRESENT:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cllr T Smith, Chairman | Cllr M Coney |
| Cllr J Duggan | Cllr P McEwan |
| Cllr B Eklid | Cllr I Melton |
| Cllr J Kerr | Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk |
| County Cllr P Bellfield | |
| 3 members of the public | |

The meeting opened at 7.35 pm

1 **APOLOGIES:** District Councillor Snell

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr Duggan | Cemetery | personal & prejudicial |
| Cllr Kerr | Affordable Housing & damage to verges | personal & prejudicial |
| Cllr Duggan | Affordable Housing | personal & prejudicial |

3 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September were signed and approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Eklid, seconded Cllr McEwan and unanimously agreed.

3.2 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 16th November were signed and approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Duggan, seconded Cllr Melton and unanimously agreed.

4 **COMMUNITY AWARD PRESENTATION**

4.1 Cllr Smith presented a Certificate of Merit, on behalf of Suffolk ACRE, to Cheryl Singleton, Headteacher of Easton Community Primary School. This was in recognition of her hard work in bringing the school up to a very high standard and for the co-operation with all parts of the community.

5 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

5.1 Cllr Snell sent a written report giving an update on the Local Government Review of Suffolk and explained that the Court's decision is still awaited.

5.2 On the matter of the Local Development Framework, the situation on site specific allocations will not be examined until Spring 2010 at the earliest.

5.3 Cllr Snell went on to explain how Suffolk Coastal plans to make savings in their budget for next year and to and the need to become even more efficient.

5.4 The report explained that car park charges have been under review and 16 of the 28 car parks in Suffolk Coastal District will see no increase in charges. This includes Wickham Market Most tourist car parks will see the cost of a stay rising by 50p with, for example, all day parking at some of Felixstowe's parks becoming £3.50 from April 2010.

Car parks currently charging Monday to Saturday will now also charge on Sundays and five parks in Felixstowe which are currently free from November to February will now charge throughout the year.

The car parks on The Hill at Wickham Market will now start to charge from 9.00 am (instead of 8.00 am) in response to a request to allow parents to drop children off for school without incurring a charge.

- 5.5 All local parish councils are urged to support the Wickham Market pressure to have a better out-of-hours facility to serve the area, including a dedicated and staffed facility at Wickham Market.

6 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- 6.1 Cllr Bellfield reported that County Council have also been looking at budgets for the forthcoming year and are looking at new ways to save money. This entails looking at more co-operation between all the bodies and trying to amalgamate services where there are overlaps and therefore becoming more efficient.

Within County Council, a new approach to budgeting has been taken this year with departments being given an allocated sum of money for the year.

- 6.2 Suffolk County Council are currently 7th in the country on efficiency in recycling.

7 POLICE REPORT None

The meeting closed at 7.50pm for members of the public to speak.

Mrs Pollock raised the subject of bonfires and the fact that some of them appear to be burning plastic. After discussion Council agreed to put an item in the Parish Magazine asking people to be aware that burning plastic contravenes a bye-law and also asking for consideration for neighbours on times of day, frequency and wind direction when lighting fires. It was appreciated that with the recent storms there is a great deal of burning required.

Clerk

There being no further matters the meeting reopened at 8.00 pm.

8 FINANCE

- 8.1 The Financial Statement for the period September - November was circulated and formally agreed. Proposed Cllr Melton, seconded Cllr Duggan.

9 CLERK'S REPORT

- 9.1 **Play Area** - Planning permission has now been granted with some conditions. One of the conditions is that no trees or hedges, can be topped, lopped or pruned without prior permission. Clerk to contact SCDC as the hedge alongside the road will need to be trimmed. Clerk also to send details of the perimeter fencing to SCDC for approval before work can start.

Clerk

Clerk has already been in touch with the contractor for fencing details and to advise that the work can now be put in hand.

Clerk to now apply for funds from SCDC and County Cllr Bellfield.

Clerk

Clerk to produce a note to parents asking them to join a work party.

Clerk

- 9.2 **Cemetery** - Cllr Melton has measured the current cemetery and this measures 450ft x 60ft. Clerk apologised that other cemetery matters from the last minutes have not yet been completed but will be by the next meeting. Clerk
- On checking the files Clerk had found a map showing changes to the layout of the Garden of Remembrance drawn up in January 2009. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the layout should be changed and Clerk will draw up a new plan as discussed. Clerk
- 9.3 **School Lane Traffic Signs** Mrs Hammond has agreed to these being put on her land. It was also suggested they be made of plastic rather than metal to discourage theft. Cllr Smith will arrange for the posts and signs. Cllr Smith
- 9.4 **River Deben** Clerk apologised that as yet she has not dealt with this matter but will do so within the next couple of weeks. Clerk
- 10 **PLANNING**
- 10.1 Clerk advised that SCDC have granted permission for the following tree works:
 - Park Place, Harriers Walk – reduce Yews/fell chestnut
 - The Stables, The Street – reduce crown of weeping willows
 - Village Green – fell fir
 - White Horse Inn – remove red cedar conifer
- 11 **VILLAGE OF THE YEAR**
- 11.1 Discussion was held on how to spend the £200 prize money to benefit the whole village. Some villagers had suggested some new lights for the annual Christmas tree. This was agreed and £100 to be put to this use – unanimously agreed. Clerk to put another request in the Parish Magazine for ideas for the other £100. It was suggested that perhaps some new plants/bulbs for the village green garden. Clerk
- 12 **SHOP LOCAL**
- 12.1 After discussion on the proposal to provide webspace for local businesses to advertise, Council unanimously agreed to sign up to this new initiative. Clerk
- 13 **PROCEDURES**
- 13.1 Clerk advised that handouts from the recent training have now been circulated and a hard copy was handed to Cllr Eklid.
- 13.2 Cllr Smith proposed that responsibility along with a budget be devolved to the Clerk. This will enable emergencies to be dealt with immediately negating the need for a formal Council meeting. This was unanimously agreed.
- The budget for this to be set at the next meeting – Clerk to put on agenda Clerk
- Also on the agenda for the next meeting is to be the production of a formal set of Emergency Procedures. Clerk to find out if there is a draft document. Clerk
- 14 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
- 14.1 Cllr Coney reported on the Affordable Housing Conference that he attended recently. Following this it was agreed to invite Suffolk ACRE to come to the next Council meeting to explain how the system works and then to organise a questionnaire to see if there are sufficient people in the village who would qualify for such a home. Clerk to arrange. Clerk

The next phase would then be to identify a suitable site in the village.

The meeting agreed that as this was first highlighted as a priority in the Village Plan in 2002, it is time that Council is seen to be taking the matter seriously.

15 CORRESPONDENCE

15.1 A request has been made for replacement of a Neighbourhood Watch sign at the eastern end of the village, near the Hacheston Lane turning. Cllr Melton has a spare sign and will arrange for this to be erected. Cllr Melton

15.2 A complaint was received regarding the damage caused to verges and grass banks by farm vehicles. Cllr Kerr reported that he had also been informed of this but it did not appear to be Kerr Farm vehicles. However, an article had been put in the monthly newsletter advising staff to take extra care. Cllr Kerr also agreed to speak with any contractors working for the farm business. Cllr Duggan agreed to speak with farmer John Wall also Cllrs Kerr/Duggan

16 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING Budget + items above

17 MEETING DATES

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|----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tuesday 5 th January | 7.30 pm | Pre-budget meeting | Home of Cllr Eklid |
| Tuesday 12 th January | 7.00 pm | Village Hall | |
| Tuesday 16 th March | 7.30 pm | Village Hall | |
| Tuesday 11 th May | 7.30 pm | Village Hall | |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm