

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Tuesday 12th January 2010
at Easton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr T Smith, Chairman Cllr M Coney
Cllr J Duggan Cllr B Eklid
Cllr I Melton Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk
County Cllr P Bellfield
1 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.00 pm

1 **APOLOGIES** Cllr P McEwan Cllr J Kerr
PCSO Hassler

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Duggan Affordable Housing, Cemetery – Personal & Prejudicial
School Lane – personal
Cllr Eklid Stud Farm Barn – Personal

3 **MINUTES**

3.1 The minutes of meeting held on 25th November 2009 were signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Melton, seconded Cllr Coney and unanimously approved

4 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

4.1 Unfortunately Sunila Osborne of Suffolk ACRE had to cancel her visit. The presentation has been rearranged for the next meeting in March.

5 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT** None

6 **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

6.1 Cllr Bellfield discussed the situation with road gritting throughout the County and agreed to take the concerns regarding the A12 and A14 back to County Council.

6.2 Cllr Bellfield agreed to make a grant of £1,500 towards the Easton Play Area for which he was thanked. Clerk to send updated figures a.s.a.p. Clerk

6.3 Local Government Reorganisation – District Councils have lost their appeal and are now discussing whether to take the case to the Supreme Court.

6.4 Audit Report – Suffolk County Council is doing well and achieved a 3* rating (with new criteria, this is the same level as the 4* achieved last year). It is the only council in the country to be given three green flags and is being short listed for an award for creating the greenest county as well as other awards.

7 POLICE REPORT

- 7.1 PSCO Hassler was unable to attend but sent a report stating that since 23rd September 2009 only one crime had been reported in the village which was interference with a motor vehicle but no entry was gained.
- 7.2 PSCO Hassler is still monitoring the speed of vehicles through the village and will continue to do so.
- 7.3 Crime Prevention Advice – The meeting was reminded to check and verify the identification of anyone coming to the door who wishes to gain access. There has been an incident in a neighbouring village with a male posing as a Police Officer wanting to check for counterfeit banknotes and making off with a large sum of money. Any legitimate person presenting an ID card should be happy for you to verify who they are. If they are not: close the door and call the police on 999 (do not tell the visitor you are calling the police).

8 BUDGET

- 8.1 Councillors considered the draft budget and made various changes. There will be a restricted number of grass cuts throughout the year and generally there has been a small increase overall. Including allowances for future capital project the precept to be applied for is £5948.00 proposed Cllr Coney, seconded Cllr Melton and unanimously agreed. Clerk to apply for this sum. The increase amounts to £312 for the year which is equivalent to £2.44 per household per annum. Clerk
- 8.2 As part of the budget process Council reviewed and increased its cemetery charges. These were proposed by Cllr Eklid, seconded Cllr Duggan and unanimously agreed. Clerk to issue to funeral directors. Clerk

9 FINANCE

- 9.1 The Financial Statement for the period November to January was approved and signed. Proposed Cllr Melton, seconded Cllr Duggan and unanimously agreed.
- 9.2 The allocation of charitable donations was discussed. There were eight applicants and it was agreed to donate £25 to Marie Curie Cancer Care and £25 to Vitalise, a group who organise essential breaks for disabled people and carers. Clerk to arrange payment. Clerk
- 9.3 At the previous meeting Council resolved that responsibility for Emergencies should be delegated to the Clerk and Emergency Officer. Council now agreed that Clerk should have the total sum of the emergency budget (£200) for any necessary matters. Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Duggan and unanimously agreed.

10 CLERK'S REPORT

10.1 **Play Area** Equipment and fencing are now installed and Play Quest did an excellent job in very unpleasant conditions. Issues to be addressed:

- Wire netting and hedging plants to fill in gaps in hedge.
- Polythene membrane and bark for centre of adventure trail
- Legal signage
- Seating

Cllr Smith
Cllr Smith
Clerk
Clerk

SCDC have advised that £2,073 is available and with Cllr Snell's approval half will be paid immediately with the remainder payable on completion. as previously stated Cllr Bellfield has pledged £1,500.

It was agreed to arrange an official opening on Saturday 20th March. It was further agreed to have a competition for the children to draw a picture of the play area and the winner would 'cut the ribbon' at the official opening. It was suggested that the opening be combined with an afternoon tea. Clerk to arrange.

Clerk

10.2 **Cemetery** Clerk has contacted Ipswich Borough Council, Environment Agency and Suffolk Coastal Planning for advice. It will be necessary to gain full planning permission – Change of Use. The Environmental Protection Officer could not foresee any major problems unless there are private wells within 200 metres. The Environment Agency are coming back with any areas they feel may need to be addressed before planning is applied for.

Clerk was asked to write and liaise with Mrs Hammond regarding the size of plot required and an idea of cost in order that Council may take the matter to the next stage.

Clerk

10.3 **River Deben** Clerk has written to the Environment Agency and is still awaiting a reply. Clerk to chase.

Clerk

10.4 **Shop Local** Clerk has registered Easton's interest but no further correspondence received.

10.5 **Neighbourhood Watch Sign** Now installed

10.6 **School Lane Traffic Signs** Cllr Smith has a quote of £44 each for the signs and Council approved an order for 2 of these. Cllr Smith also to speak again with Steve Aldous regarding secondhand posts. If these are not available, Cllr Melton will supply them.

Cllr Smith

11 PLANNING

11.1 **Decisions -** Pear Trees, School Lane Refused
Low Meadows Agreed with conditions

11.2 **Stud Farm Barn** After discussion it was agreed to support. Comments included that the current building is ugly and the blue roof not in keeping. Also that the plans appear to show that the new footprint would be smaller than the existing.

12 **VILLAGE OF THE YEAR**

12.1 The following suggestions were put forward by villagers:

- Plants for village green garden
- Compost for village green garden
- Resite notice board at Village Hall so it can be read from road
- Start a fund for a memorial to Beryl Webster as she was so involved in the Village of the Year competition

- Build an arched entrance to play area with plaque dedicating Play Area to Beryl Webster due to her long standing support of children's' activities in the village

After much discussion it was agreed that an arched entrance to the Play Area was a good idea but that it should be called the Easton Play Park. It was also agreed that a bench be put in the Play Park with a plaque inscribed in memory of Beryl Webster. Clerk to ask if there is anyone in the village who would be willing to build the arched structure.

Clerk

13 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Emergency procedures
Affordable Housing

14	MEETING DATES	Tuesday 16 th March	7.00 pm	
		Tuesday 11 th May	7.00 pm	
		Tuesday 25 th May	7.00 pm	Annual Parish Meeting
		Tuesday 13 th July	7.00pm	