

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Tuesday 16th March 2010
at Easton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr T Smith, Chairman Cllr M Coney
 Cllr J Duggan Cllr B Eklid
 Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk
 1 member of the public

The meeting opened at 7.00 pm

The meeting welcomed Sunila Osborne from Suffolk ACRE and Nicola Clarke from Suffolk Coastal District Council who gave a presentation on Affordable Housing.

Sunila explained that she works as a co-ordinator between the different bodies involved in an Affordable Housing project. Such housing is for the elderly who may need to downsize or move into single storey accommodation, young families, single parents, young people looking to have a home of their own and young people who have had to move out of the parish due to a lack of properties at an affordable price.

A survey of the whole parish needs to be carried out to prove a need. After this SCDC would look for a possible site within the parish and this can be an exception site. In the case of an exception site (land adjacent to the building envelope), this would only be given permission for Affordable Housing and not properties to be sold on the open market. This is to comply with section 106 of the Planning Act and homes have to be kept in perpetuity for people of the parish. The price paid for land would be above agricultural rate but below market building value. If at some time in the future an affordable home becomes vacant and no-one can be found within the parish then it would be offered to people from surrounding villages. These homes can be offered on a rental only basis or as shared ownership to help people on to the property ladder.

Suffolk ACRE would prepare the questionnaires required to identify a need and these would be hand delivered by Councillors giving them the opportunity to explain why it is important for everyone to complete it. These are then returned in prepaid envelopes directly to Suffolk ACRE to ensure people's privacy as some of the questions are of a financial nature. Although the overall results of the survey are revealed to Parish Council, the details of individuals are not.

Parish Council is kept informed and consulted at every stage of the process and before any final decisions are made a public consultation would be held. The total time from survey to building would be a minimum of two years. The cost for preparing the questionnaires, collating the returns and producing the report is approximately 67p per survey.

Ms Osborne and Ms Clarke left the meeting at approximately 7.45 pm and the meeting resumed normal business.

1 **APOLOGIES** Cllr P McEwan Cllr J Kerr
 Cllr I Melton County Cllr P Bellfield
 Cllr R Snell PCSO Hassler

Councillor Smith informed the meeting that unfortunately Cllr McEwen would be tendering his resignation shortly as he has been appointed head teacher of Hartismere School and would be unable to commit sufficient time to carry out his Council duties. The meeting wished Cllr McEwen success in his future. It was agreed to put the matter of co-option on the agenda for the next meeting. Clerk

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Duggan	Affordable Housing Cemetery School Lane	Personal & Prejudicial Personal & Prejudicial Personal
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3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 Minutes of the meeting dated 12th January were accepted as a true record, proposed Cllr Duggan, seconded Cllr Coney and unanimously agreed.

4 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 4.1 Following the earlier presentation, Council discussed the merits of carrying out a Housing Needs Survey and it was unanimously agreed that this should happen. Clerk to circulate a copy of a questionnaire which was prepared for Otley in order that each Councillor can read the questions and make notes on any additions or deletions they think necessary. These can then be discussed at the next meeting and forwarded to Suffolk ACRE. All
- 4.2 Clerk to write article for Parish Magazine explaining what is happening. Clerk

5 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- 5.1 Cllr Snell was unable to attend but sent a written report on the subjects of 2010/11 budget, Local Government Reorganisation, Local Development Framework, Sizewell, Breaches of Public Health Regulations and Suffolk Coastal Holiday Guide. A copy of this report will be published along with the minutes. Clerk

6 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- 6.1 Cllr Bellfield was unable to attend but asked that the Local Government Reorganisation be mentioned. It is now suggested by the Minister that there should be a county wide convention on the matter but details of what this entails are not available. It would appear that this matter is now on hold until after the election.
- 6.2 Cllr Bellfield informed the Clerk that he had enquired on the condition of roads since the bad winter weather. Highways are doing their utmost to carry out repairs although most of these are temporary to ensure the maximum work is carried out in the short term.

- 7 **POLICE REPORT** None

8 FINANCE

- 8.1 Clerk presented the financial statement to today's date which was proposed by Cllr Eklid, seconded Cllr Smith and unanimously agreed.

9 CLERK'S REPORT

- 9.1 **Play Area** Posts and wire netting fencing have been put around two sides and hedging will be planted shortly. Half of the SCDC grant has been received and the £1500 from Locality Budget is awaited. A donation of £100 has been received from a resident.

The official opening will take place on Saturday and Charlotte McEwen & Barnaby Gibbon will be asked to cut the ribbon. Invites will be delivered and the Village Hall has been booked in case of rain.

- 9.2 **Cemetery** Clerk has met with Mrs Hammond who is happy with the amount of land Council would like and also appreciates that the actual purchase may be some time ahead as funds have to be raised. She has a site meeting with her land agent in May and will contact Council again after that with a suggested price.

10 **SCHOOL LANE TRAFFIC SIGNS**

Cllr Smith has the signs and Cllr Melton has made the posts. These will be erected shortly and clerk will invoice the Cricket Club for the cost of one.

Clerk

- 11 **RIVER DEBEN** No report as Cllr Melton was not at the meeting

12 **EASTON HUNT KENNELS**

Clerk reported that she has had calls from several residents concerned about the future of the kennels. Clerk has spoken with the Kennel Master and the Chairman of the hunt and has been assured there are no plans to close the kennels. However, there have been a number of complaints from near neighbours regarding the noise and these have been reported to the Environmental Officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council. The Hunt are doing their best to control noise levels. After discussion the Clerk was asked to write a letter of support for the kennels to SCDC as this has been an integral part of the village for well over 100 years.

Clerk

13 **PLANNING**

- 13.1 Council was advised of the following decisions from SCDC:

6 Framlingham Road	Two storey extension	Granted
Easton Hall	Stable block/workshop	Granted
Easton Farm Park	Pre-school building	Granted

Councillors may see the conditions imposed on these applications by Contacting the Clerk or online at the SCDC website.

- 13.2 Council considered an application for renewal of planning permission for the erection of a single storey dwelling and garage in part of the garden at Kings Acre, Harriers Walk. Council had no objection to this application as it was merely a renewal.

14 **RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

Council reviewed the Risk Assessment document and agreed that no changes were necessary at this time. Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Coney and unanimously agreed.

15 **INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW**

Council discussed the merits of Heelis & Lodge who have carried out the internal audit in past years. It was felt that they could have been a little more diligent during the last audit but there were various problems during the change of Clerk. It was agreed to use them again this year and to find out if there is someone in the village who may be willing to take on this task in forthcoming years. Proposed Cllr Eklid, seconded Cllr Coney and unanimously agreed.

16 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

River Deben, Co-option of new Councillor, Affordable Housing, Car Park

17 **MEETING DATES**

Tuesday 11th May

Tuesday 25th May Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 6th July

Tuesday 14th September

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date