

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Tuesday 9th November 2010
in Easton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr T Smith, Chairman
Cllr J Owen
Cllr J Duggan
Cllr B Eklid
County Cllr P Bellfield
Cllr M Coney
Cllr J McEvoy
Cllr J Kerr
District Cllr R Snell
Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk

1 members of the public

Meeting opened at 7.05 pm

1 **APOLOGIES** None

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Duggan	Affordable Housing	Personal & Prejudicial
Cllr Duggan	Cemetery	Personal & Prejudicial
Cllr J Kerr	Easton Farm Park	Personal & Prejudicial

3 **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting dated 14th September were unanimously accepted and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Duggan, seconded Cllr Owen.

4 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- 4.1 **Comprehensive Spending Review** – Cllr Snell reported that SCDC may well have to make cuts higher than expected and it will be December before they know the grant for next year. Up to 23% will need to be saved by 2013. As SCDC has already made cuts to improve its efficiency, further reductions will be difficult. Government has set aside £200m for councils willing to merge services and as SCDC is already working with Waveney, it is hoped some of this money will be available.
- 4.2 **LDF** - Little happening at present but current exercise is re-examining the number of houses in the district. Next consultation is hoped to be out for eight weeks starting in December to try and get agreement before next years elections.
- 4.3 **Planning Scrutiny** - The review is now complete. There were a huge number of comments and some serious issues especially with regard to communication with town and parish councils. Cabinet is considering the findings. It was agreed that planning services needs to be more precise and better at communication, providing town and parish councils with the reasoning behind its decisions.
- 4.4 **Sizewell** - Government has confirmed that Sizewell is suitable for a further nuclear site. Decisions still have to be made regarding infrastructure SCDC is looking to protect the environment, especially the Area of National Beauty. Discussions will take place to ensure that new homes will be available for affordable housing after the new plant is complete.

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- 5.1 Cllr Bellfield reported that SCC will have to reduce expenditure by £110m over three years. Only decision so far is to close the Bury Road Park & Ride.

There are no decisions yet on the closure of homes for the elderly but it is hoped to divest these to private operators and to provide better care for people in their own homes.

It is hoped that many services will go out to private companies or voluntary groups. It is possible that Wickham Market Resource Centre/Library could be a casualty of the cuts and it is hoped that a voluntary group could be formed to run this.

6 POLICE REPORT None

7 FINANCE

- 7.1 Clerk submitted a financial statement of income and expenditure since the last meeting together with cheques presented for payment. This was unanimously agreed, proposed Cllr Eklid, seconded Cllr Kerr.

- 7.2 Clerk submitted an updated schedule of actual spending versus budget. Clerk agreed to provide a comprehensive breakdown of monies currently in the bank together with any reserves allocated and suggested budget figures before the budget meeting in December.

Clerk

- 7.3.1 Clerk reported that the external audit had been returned with no problems.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

- 8.1 **Easton Hunt Kennels** - Clerk reported she had attended a meeting with Hunt personnel, concerned residents and Clive Pink, Environmental Health Officer. The meeting had been very amicable and constructive. Residents agreed that the noise has diminished recently and it is hoped this will continue. The Hunt chairman has provided a report of various works which could be carried out to further enhance the situation and these will be considered but cost may be an issue. Clerk agreed that Parish Council will take a 'back seat' at this stage but will continue to be informed of progress.

- 8.2 **Easton Farm Park** - Clerk had received responses from Fiona Siddall and Clive Pink regarding the noise issues at recent open air events. Easton Farm Park have agreed to give good advance information on forthcoming events and to monitor the noise levels from PA systems before and during events to try and alleviate problems in the future. Council agreed that this was most helpful and that no further action is required at the moment.

- 8.3 **Cemetery** - Clerk reported that she had spoken with TW Gaze and that it may be possible to negotiate the price of the land. Clerk had further contacted the District Valuers Office and was advised it will cost £400 for a valuation to be carried out. Councillors to consider this matter and advise Clerk of her next actions. Clerk is also still looking at funding opportunities.

Clerk

- 8.4 **Dog Bins** - The bin had been moved from outside the village hall to the start of the Four Bridges footpath. Also the bin outside the cemetery has been replaced but on The Street opposite the end of Cemetery Lane.
- 8.5 **Footbridge** - The dangerous sleeper bridge at the top of the footpath which goes past Easton Stud has been replaced with a proper wooden bridge with handrails.
- 8.6 **Physical Limits Boundaries** - Clerk has been advised that the recent suggestions will now form part of the Site Specific Allocations and Policies document. Further work on this is planned to continue later on in 2011 after the Core Strategy has been agreed. The documents should go out for full public consultation at a later date.
- 9 **CAR PARK**
- 9.1 Cllr Smith apologized that work had not progressed on the car park as yet. Unfortunately due to business and personal commitments he had been unable to get the work organised. However this will now be planned in for early spring. Cllr Smith has also received a quote of £25 per hour for the hire of a digger and driver which will still come within the budget. TS
- 10 **PARISH PLAN**
- 10.1 As part of the Affordable Housing project it will be necessary to update the Parish Plan carried out in 2002. Clerk was asked to approach the original committee members to ask if they would be willing to work on the project again and also to ask for new volunteers via an article in the Parish Magazine. Clerk
- 11 **PLANNING**
- 11.1 Clerk read a letter from SCDC giving their reasons for granting the application at Baytree Cottage. A discussion took place regarding Section 52 and it was clarified that Parish Council has followed all the avenues for objection and the only course now open is for the affected residents to write to the ombudsman explaining the reasons for the delay and asking for his help.
- 11.2 Cllrs Eklid and Owen had attended the recent Planning Forums and found them very useful. It was agreed that someone from EPC should attend each of the future forums and this would work on a rota basis. Clerk to advise as the forums arise. Clerk
- 12 **PYLONS UPDATE**
- 12.1 Although the suggested pylons will not directly affect Easton it was agreed that Council should write in support of those parishes who will be affected and asking for the cables to be routed underground. Clerk
- 13 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
- 13.1 Cllrs Owen, Coney and Duggan recently met with Sunila Osborne of Suffolk ACRE and agreed that the questionnaires will go out during week commencing 24th January with a closing date of Friday 11th February. Clerk was instructed to electronically send the covering letter signed by the Chairman to Sunila a.s.a.p. Clerk

Cost for the surveys will be 87p per copy plus postage for those returned. Councillors to deliver the forms. If a need for affordable housing is identified then EPC will be involved in choosing the housing provider and whether the development is just rent, shared ownership or a mixture of both.

14 VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

- 14.1 Cllr McEvoy updated the meeting on the current situation. The survey was completed and findings published to the village. After a great deal of discussion, agreement has been reached with Pre-School and tenders are now being sought for various works to the hall. This will cover insulation, heating, lighting and an overlaid floor. Tenders have to be with SCC by 1st December and they will make a decision by 13th December. It is hoped to start the work at the beginning of January and pre-school will be rehoused in the Hamilton Room at Easton Farm Park for the duration of the works courtesy of Fiona Siddall. All work must be completed by end of March in order to receive the grant money.

A new service level agreement has been agreed with pre-school which should alleviate some of the problems experienced by other users.

Thanks were given to Jenny McEvoy and the Village Hall Management Committee for their hard work in finding a satisfactory solution.

15 EMERGENCY PLAN

- 15.1 Due to other commitments the sub-committee has been unable to meet. They will endeavour to do so before the next Parish Council meeting.

TS/JM/CD

16 AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Those arising from the minutes

17 MEETING DATES

- 17.1 7th December - Budget meeting – closed to public and press
- 7.00 pm at Atlantis courtesy of Cllr Eklid

It was agreed that future meetings would take place on a Monday and commence at 7.15 pm.

10th January 2011
7th March 2011

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm

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Chairman

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Date