

- 4.3 **Key Appointments** At the SCDC AGM on 26th May Joan Sennington was appointed Chairman of the Council; Richard Kerry, Vice Chairman; Ray Herring, Leader and Andy Smith, Deputy Leader. Cllr Snell was appointed Chairman of the Development Control Committee and Chairman of its two sub-committees.
- 4.4 **Bus Service for Young People** The special bus service for young people on Friday and Saturday evenings aimed at Framlingham, Saxmundham, Leiston, Aldeburgh and all the surrounding villages, does not extend to the south of Framlingham so Easton is excluded.

5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- 5.1 Cllr Bellfield was unable to attend but had advised that it is hoped to appoint an interim Chief Executive by the end of August. The new Council Leader appears to be listening to the needs of the people which should be good for the future.

6 POLICE REPORT

- 6.1 CPSO Hassler was unable to attend but in a written report advised that there were no reported crimes in Easton since 24th May. Crime Prevention advice was based around the digital switch over. The Digital Help Scheme is set up for those most in need such as those over 75, registered blind or partially sighted or in receipt of certain benefits. A telephone number and website address were provided. Installers registered with the government help scheme will not call without an appointment and will carry ID. If a caller claims to be from the scheme but has not made an appointment, refuse entry and dial 999 for police assistance..

7 EASTON HARRIERS HUNT KENNELS

- 7.1 Cllr Owen gave an overview of events up to the last Council meeting. Clerk read various correspondence from Ric Ackland-Snow, Mrs Kendall and Ms Croucher outlining their concerns on this matter. The residents explained their situation with regard to increasing noise and its effect on their day to day lives including disturbed nights and the inability to enjoy their gardens. They asked that Parish Council should give adequate consideration to their plight as well as that of the Hunt.

Mr Ackland-Snow updated the meeting on the situation advising that various sites had been considered and one in particular had appeared suitable and Mr Pink, Environmental Health agreed. However, following informal discussions with the planning department it appeared that the site may not be suitable as certain protected trees would have to be removed. Mr Ackland-Snow met with residents recently to advise them of the situation and, as good citizenship, the Hunt is looking to carry out various works to alleviate the noise pollution while they continue to search for new premises. One suggestion is to change the building furthest from Black & White cottages so that the hounds can be put there at night. The wall is now complete giving an area for the hounds on days when the huntsman is off site. The Hunt had considered erecting a sound proof building to house the hounds at night and asking Parish Council to support an application for a grant towards the works. However there is no guarantee that this would resolve the problem and there are question marks as to whether they would get the funding.

Cllr McEvoy asked how the huntsman feels about the situation; Mr Mould commented that the noise is not constant but at night certain things can disturb the dogs such as foxes, village dogs and the recent excessive heat affected them. If the hounds bark at night, a light automatically comes on in the house which calms the dogs but if this continues he goes down to find the source of the problem.

Cllr Owen questioned whether the Hunt would still move if it spent money to carry out alterations. Mr Ackland-Snow responded that even with the works carried out the problem may still not be solved and therefore a move would still be necessary.

Cllr Kerr had registered an interest but commented that the Black & White cottages have been there longer than the hunt and have been in his family's ownership for 55 years. They have been occupied for most of that time and any difficulties with the hunt have always been amicably resolved. One of the current occupiers has only been in residence for approximately two years which is the time of the most complaints. He also advised that possible tenants are always advised of the kennels proximity.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm for the public to speak.

Mrs Pollock said that many residents feel the noise has increased in time and pitch, is this true and does the huntsman know which animals are causing the problem? Mr Mould advised that he does not feel that any particular hound is to blame but if it were found to be so then that situation would be duly handled.

Mrs Pollock also mentioned the problem of faeces on the footpath and requested that the hounds be walked on the verge opposite rather than on the pavement. Mr Mould agreed to address this.

District Cllr Snell agreed to investigate the problem with the woodland sites and, if possible, help to find a solution.

Mrs Burgoyne stated that she has lived opposite the kennels, behind the crinkle crinkle wall since 1984 and agreed that, although it does not bother her, the noise is worse.

The meeting reopened at 8.17pm for Council's deliberations.

Cllr Owen advised that he has visited the Kennels with Mr Ackland-Snow and has also spent time at Easton House. Mr & Mrs Kendall have lived there for some 17 years but recent noise issues have made their home life very difficult.

Cllr Boon asked if there has been any change to the way the hounds are managed. Neither Mr Ackland-Snow nor Mr Mould could comment as they had not witnessed the management by previous huntsmen. However Mr Mould does have 25 years experience of caring for hounds. Cllr Kerr commented that in the days when hounds were fed flesh, they would sleep for longer periods but flesh feeding has been banned since the BSE incident.

Cllr Owen put forward the following motion: 'Does Council wish to make representation to District Council since the noise pollution is becoming untenable for some residents.'

After discussion it was agreed to redraft the motion to: 'Council wishes to ask SCDC, through the Environmental Health and Planning departments, to please co-operate with Parish Council and Easton Hunt Kennels, to facilitate a solution to these problems be that on the present site or on an alternative site.' The motion was unanimously agreed and Clerk was asked to write to Clive Pink and Philip Ridley, copy to Cllr Snell.

Clerk

8 BOTTLE BANKS

- 8.1 Cllr Owen gave the background to the situation with the bottle banks on their present site. Nearby residents had been approached and do not, currently, have a problem. Mr Ransome has offered to build a timber screen around the bottle banks and his e-mail was read to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm for residents to speak.

District Cllr Snell pointed out that the new recycling system is part of cost saving by SCDC

Mr Pollock pointed out that so far there has only been one collection which was at 6.30 in the morning which is unacceptable. Furthermore, the lorry had damaged the new repairs to the car park.

The meeting reopened at 8.47 pm.

Clerk advised that she had received a large number of communications from residents supporting the bottle banks.

After discussions Council agreed that the current site should be retained but Clerk to contact Suffolk Coastal Services to have the collection time changed and to have rubber mats fitted inside the bottle banks. Also to request that the lorry does not turn inside the car park but either remain on the road or back in to the entrance.

Clerk

Further discussions to take place with Mr Ransome to install timber screening with possible sound proofing.

Clerk

9 CAR PARK REPAIR

Cllr Smith reported that all had gone well with the repair on 1st July. Holmes Construction had supplied a digger, roller, driver and planings all for the sum of £660, which is well within budget. He and Mr Rook had also cleared out the land drain and put in a soak away to help alleviate the problems of excess water from the road gathering in the centre of the car park.

Mr Smith is to carry out some further minor repairs following the damage caused by the recycling lorry.

Cllr Smith

Cllr Smith was thanked for his efforts.

10 EFP LICENSE APPLICATION

10.1 Cllr Owen advised that all references to the Maverick Festival had been removed from the application, bringing it totally in line with the premises license. Concerned residents had duly withdrawn their objections and the license had been granted.

10.2 As requested Clerk had clarified the situation for Parish Councils in regard to License Applications and was advised as follows:

The law does not require a licensing authority or the applicant to notify parish and town councils of the applications. However, councils as interested parties representing their community, may make a representation regarding a license application and this would allow the council, in turn, to notify their community and invite comments before making representation to the licensing committee on behalf of the residents. This is done under the Licensing Act 2003.

11 FINANCE

11.1 Clerk presented the Financial Statement which was unanimously accepted and signed. Proposed Cllr McEvoy, seconded Cllr Boon.

11.2 Actual v Budget figures were discussed.

11.3 Clerk advised that new bank signatories are now in place.

11.4 Clerk has asked Ladywell to take care of the PAYE system and Council has been duly registered with HMRC.

12. CLERK'S REPORT

12.1 **Highways Matters** A response from SCC Highways department advised that 50% redundancies and budget constraints are seriously impacting on highways maintenance.

12.1.1 The directional road sign on Sanctuary Bridge Road will be replaced as soon as possible.

12.1.2 Pound Corner road markings will be reinstated

12.1.3 Pound Corner collapsed drain will be repaired. Cllrs pointed out that the repair has been completed but is inadequate. Clerk to speak with Highways to have the job done properly.

Clerk

12.1.4 Pavement between Kennels and Play Area – there is no current revenue for structural works on roads and pavements other than pothole repairs.

12.1.5 Pavement on Framlingham Road to Harriers Walk – there are no plans for this to feature in any works programme.

12.1.6 General condition of village pavements – funding resources for resurfacing of pavements is not sufficient to commit to comprehensive renewals in Easton. Highways is bound to make safe any defect that exceeds 20mm in depth. The highways inspector will consider what action has to be taken in his round of annual safety inspections.

- 12.2 **Village of the Year** Clerk advised that Easton had come 2nd in the competition to Boyton with Westleton 3rd. Easton will receive a cheque for £125 which will be presented to a village representative at a small ceremony to be held in the winning village in September. Clerk has asked for feedback to see where Easton could improve in the future.
- 12.3 **Meet Your MP** A fairly successful morning although not as many people as hoped. Dr Poulter spoke with individuals and answered questions from the floor on a wide variety of subjects. In response to questions on energy he had sent a document explaining the levels of Feed in Tariffs across energy sectors and further information is available at www.fitariffs.co.uk.
- 12.4 **Parish Plan** The first meeting is on Tuesday 26th July when Gillian Benjamin from Suffolk ACRE will advise on the best way forward to update the plan. Cllr Owen and Clerk will attend the first meeting and then it will be left to the project group unless they request further help from Council.
- 12.5 **Emergency Plan** This is now complete and will be forwarded to County and District Councils, police, fire and ambulance services. It will also be published on the website. It was agreed that the Clerk and Emergency Officer would hold a list of vulnerable people and Clerk, via an article in the Parish Magazine, to suggest people contact her for they or their neighbours to be added to the list. This list will not be passed to any third parties.

Clerk

13. **FRAMLINGHAM LIBRARY UPDATE**

Cllr McEvoy had attended a public meeting called by Framlingham Town Council regarding the future of the library service. The Council proposed that it take over the running of the library in Framlingham. SCDC would still provide everything except the building and staffing. It is proposed that Framlingham Town Council would relocate its offices to the library and that it could also be used as a tourist office as well as provide other community services. It is possible that surrounding parishes would be asked to contribute via the precept. More information will be available soon.

14. **ITEMS FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

- 14.1 **Village Composting** Cllr Owen had investigated the facility which is carried out in a village in Devon. It is an excellent scheme totally supported by their District Council. However, after discussing the needs for such a process with land, equipment and volunteers as well as speaking with Suffolk Coastal District Council it was agreed that this is not a suitable project for Easton.

15 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 15.1 A letter has been received from Dr Poulter MP regarding the launch of an online communications panel to enable him to keep in touch on a regular basis with people in his constituency. It will not be used for party political or campaigning purposes. Any councillors interested in joining should log on to www.intouchwithdan.com and follow the secure signing up process.

16 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Those arising from these minutes
Pavement issues and possible DIY solutions

17 **MEETING DATES**

Tuesday 6 th September	PC Meeting
Tuesday 15 th November	PC Meeting
Tuesday 6 th December	Budget Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.36 pm

Signed

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Chairman

Date

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