

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Tuesday 15th November 2011
at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr B Boon Cllr J McEvoy
Cllr M Coney Cllr J Owen, Chairman
Cllr B Gibbon Cllr T Smith
Cllr J Kerr Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk
County Cllr P Bellfield

3 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.15 pm

1 **APOLOGIES** District Cllr R Snell CPSO Christian Hassler

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** None

3 **MINUTES**

3.1 The minutes dated 6th September 2011 were unanimously agreed, accepted and signed as a true record,. Proposed Cllr McEvoy seconded Cllr Gibbon.

3.2 It had been reported in the previous minutes that the village green bench was broken. Cllr Owen, on behalf of Council, thanked John Rook for the excellent repair.

The meeting was closed for members of the public to speak but no-one wished to do so. Meeting reopened.

4 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

4.1 In his written report Cllr Snell confirmed the timescales for the Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy is due for adoption by District Council at the end of 2012 with the Site Specific Allocations process taking place in 2013.

4.2 The Olympic torch will pass through 12 Suffolk towns and villages including Wickham Market.

4.3 Cllr Snell reported, with much sadness, the sudden death of District Councillor John Klaschka. He had made a dedicated and significant contribution to both District and County Councils as well as to Kesgrave East.

5 **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

5.1 Cllr Bellfield informed the meeting that a new Chief Executive has been appointed and is due to take up her position in December.

5.2 He confirmed that all libraries in the county will remain open and some of these will be taken over by local organisations or town councils.

5.3 Highways maintenance will be put out to the private sector. Some of this work is already in private hands but it does not mean that the same company will receive the contract. It is important that SCC has control over the work to make sure that the required works are done on time and to a suitable standard. This is due to happen in approximately 18 months time.

5.6 County Council is 5th out of 33 in the national tables for recycling and District is 8th out of 235.

6 **POLICE REPORT**

6.1 In his report PCSO Hassler advised that there were no reported crimes in Easton since the last meeting.. He also advised the meeting of a new Police contact number for reporting non emergencies which is 101. For emergencies 999 should still be used.

6.2 The remainder of the report will be covered in item 14.

7 FINANCE

- 7.1 The financial statement was presented to Council and a discussion took place regarding insurance when it was agreed to take the five year contact at £419.98 per annum providing the Clerk could clarify any excesses on the policy and also whether the premiums would increase should a claim be necessary. Clerk
The statement was then approved, unanimously agreed and signed. Proposed Cllr Boon and seconded by Cllr Kerr.
- 7.2 The Actual v Budget figures were circulated and considered. Clerk was asked to research short term investments for monies in the Business Premium Account Clerk
- 7.3 It was unanimously agreed that the £125 Village of the Year prize should be put towards the Queen's Jubilee celebration.
- 7.3 It was unanimously agreed that a Christmas tree should again be provided for the village green. Someone in the village has offered to try to source one as a donation. If this fails Cllr Kerr agreed to try to find one. Volunteers will be required to put the tree in place, hopefully at the beginning of December.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

- 8.1 Clerk reported that the Play Area annual inspection is due. Cllr Gibbon is to give dates when he will be available. BG
Clerk was asked to inform Playquest that there is a problem with the bolts on the swings and also one of the stepping stones is damaged. Clerk
- 8.2 Clerk apologized that, due to personal circumstances, she has not yet contacted Highways but will do so during the next week, copying the letter to Cllr Bellfield. Clerk was also asked to request reinstatement of the yellow lines outside the school. Clerk
- 8.3 Clerk advised that a new cover has been fitted to the electricity box on the village green and is awaiting the invoice. She also reported that the car park light is not working. Apparently it will cost approximately £70 for a new bulb but there is difficulty in reaching it. The meeting was asked if anyone knows of a 'cherry picker' which the electrician could borrow.

9 CEMETERY

- 9.1 The meeting was advised of the recent death of a resident who has lived in Easton all his life but unfortunately there were no funds for his funeral and a closed cremation was held. His wish was to have his ashes buried with his parents in Easton Cemetery. After a short discussion it was unanimously agreed to waive the costs on this occasion. Clerk to arrange. Clerk

10 NPPF UPDATE

- 10.1 Cllrs Owen & Kerr had recently attended a briefing on the National Planning Policy and the chairman advised that this is a controversial subject with fears that the words 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' would give favour to the developer. He also pointed out that at the last parish Council meeting it was agreed to write supporting Suffolk Preservation's concerns on this matter. At the meeting SCDC said that, in their opinion, the reforms would go through as it was in the manifesto and had been adopted by the coalition. The important thing was to ensure the new proposals were clear and understood. concerns being put forward are:

- 'Sustainable Development' – as there is no clear definition of this, developers and Councils could be in conflict and so it needs a clear interpretation
- Protection of the countryside appears limited to green belt, national parks, AOB and SSI sites.
- The policy appears to give more power to the developer. However, if a council has a plan designating development areas then only these would be open for development unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- A further concern is that if the NPPF goes through prior to local plans being in

place this could cause problems in the interim period. As the Local Development Framework is not due for adoption until the end of 2012 and site specific allocations in 2013, this is a very important concern.

The NPPF appears to be a huge simplification of the original document and it is important that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the future. Also the NPPF does not need legislation to be adopted.

11 **QUEEN'S JUBILEE**

- 11.1 The Clerk has received positive responses from 22 households and it was felt that more would be interested nearer the time. It was agreed that a sub committee be formed to organise the event and this would consist of 2 councillors and 3 residents. Cllrs Gibbon and McEvoy volunteered. The committee is asked to put forward a proposal for the Council meeting in January. It was unanimously agreed that a budget of £500 be put forward for the event. Clerk to arrange a meeting and to take minutes.

Clerk

12 **PARISH PLAN**

- 12.1 The report from the open meeting has now been received and circulated. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Plan group be asked to meet to discuss the report and the best way forward. Clerk to arrange.

Clerk

13 **CLERK'S APPRAISAL'S ETC.**

- 13.1 Clerk was asked to leave the meeting whilst the Chairman explained that Council's Risk Assessment rates the loss of the Parish Clerk to be 'high risk' and that replacements are difficult to find. He explained that the Clerk had advised him in August that she was considering resigning but would continue until the end of the financial year. Clerk and Chairman had met to discuss the situation and Clerk agreed to continue but the situation would be monitored.

To help this it was proposed that a more formal appraisal system be put in place and this would be discussed when the Clerk returned to the meeting. At the same time it seemed appropriate to re-issue Councillors roles and responsibilities and the relationship with the Clerk as well as the Clerk's responsibilities and Duties of the Chairman.

Clerk returned to the meeting and after discussion it was agreed to adopt the appraisal form and for appraisals to take place on a six monthly basis. These will be taken by the Chairman and Vice Chairman with comments sought from all other councillors.

The meeting closed for members of the public to speak on the next item. Concerns were raised over the lack of warning of sharp corners on the Framlingham Road near Stud Farm. Meeting reopened.

14 **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH/SPEEDING ISSUES**

- 14.1 Chairman had researched costs for speed activated signs. These are battery powered and need recharging at approximately 14 day intervals. The units are mobile but do need to be secured with a high security padlock. Cost to purchase is £2,650 or £350 per week to hire plus a set up/take down charge of £200. The police can be requested to put a unit in on a temporary basis but it would only be effective if used during rush hour/school run. It may be possible to approach other villages to share the unit and the cost.

Clerk to approach Highways to see if warning signs could be put near the bends on the Framlingham Road.

- 14.2 The issue of Community Speedwatch was discussed. The equipment costs approximately £2,500 plus annual calibration charges. County Councillor Bellfield has offered £1,000 towards the project and Brandeston and Charsfield are interested in taking part. Clerk to contact Brandeston Council to find out the reaction from residents and also to put an item in the Parish Magazine to gain opinion from Easton residents.

Clerk

15 **ALDEBURGH HOSPITAL**

15.1 The meeting was reminded of the letter and information received on 1st September regarding the privatisation of services. Concerns were raised and it was agreed that the Chairman would clarify the extent of the service changes.
A member of the public commented that privatisation is not necessarily a bad thing and no government decision has been made as yet.

JO

16 **CORRESPONDENCE**

16.1 Clerk had received two requests for a Tetrapak bin in the village car park. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that, whilst this is a worthy service, it is not suitable for Easton as it would take up more space in our small car park and could lead to requests for more and more recycling banks. It was agreed that the car park should not become a recycling centre. Clerk to respond to residents and advise that a Tetrapak bin is available in Wickham Market.

16.2 Copy e-mails had been received from a resident regarding the 30mph speed limit on The Street towards Wickham Market. It was pointed out that traffic crosses the limit and is accelerating on the approach to a junction and a blind bend. Highways had responded to the resident advising them they should approach Parish Council. Clerk to write to Highways and ask them to consider moving the limit or to put up warning signs. Copy to Cllr Bellfield.

Clerk

17 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

17.1 Clerk to ask Ric Ackland-Snow for an update on the Kennels situation and ask if he would consider updating the village via the Parish Magazine.

18 **MEETING DATES**

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|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tuesday 6 th December 2011 | Budget Meeting |
| Tuesday 10 th January 2012 | PC Meeting |
| Tuesday 9 th march 2012 | PC Meeting. |

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date