

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011**  
**at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Owen, Chairman  
Cllr J McEvoy  
Cllr B Boon  
County Cllr P Bellfield  
Cllr M Coney  
Cllr B Gibbon  
Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk  
CPSO Christian Hassler

3 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.15 pm

1     **APOLOGIES**             Cllr T Smith             Cllr J Kerr             District Cllr R Snell

2     **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**         None

3     **MINUTES**

3.1    In the minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> July, item 13 was changed from SCDC to SCC and unanimously agreed. The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record, proposed Cllr Boon, seconded Cllr Owen.

3.2    The minutes of the cemetery meeting dated 27<sup>th</sup> July were accepted and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Boon, seconded Cllr McEvoy.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm for members of the public to speak but there were no issues for Council to consider. The meeting reopened at 7.30 pm.

4     **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Snell sent a written report with the following items:

4.1    **Local Development Framework** The Reviewed Core Strategy has now been considered and is being progressed subject to its sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment documents being updated. The documents are now available on line and are under consultation with Town and Parish councils with a deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> October for responses.

4.2    **Coast Protection** Second phase of works at Thorpeness start this month. Work has also started at Felixstowe and it will stretch from the War Memorial, around Cobbold's Point to Jacob's Ladder.

4.3    **Review of Polling Stations** 117 stations are being reviewed for accessibility, however this does not affect Easton.

4.4    **Car Park Changes** Town Centre charges may increase to help reduce the gap in the budget caused by the cut in government grants. It is also proposed to charge Blue Badge holders, be stricter on excess charge notices, remove beach hut owners' discount and enlarge one of the Woodbridge car parks. The proposals were to be considered on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

4.5    **Planning Appeal** An independent planning inspector has backed Suffolk Coastal's decision to take enforcement action to stop Melton's 9 bedroom mansion, St Audry's House, being used for self catering holiday accommodation. Permission was granted for it to be used as a family home.

5     **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

5.1    Cllr Bellfield reported that County Council are currently slightly ahead on their plans to achieve £42.5m savings. Highways department has seen the biggest change.

- 5.2 SCC are currently in consultation on mobile libraries. These cost just under £600K per year to run which equates to £7.70 per book per visit as opposed to £2.50 at a permanent library. It is proposed to make visits monthly instead of fortnightly and to stop some visits in areas of Ipswich. Changes will start from April 2012.
- 5.3 Cllr Bellfield was questioned on the situation with a Chief Executive and advised that Lucy Robinson is holding the post on a temporary basis whilst a permanent person is sought. The leader of the Council is proposing that the salary be capped at £160K per year, which would be one of the lowest in the country.
- 5.4 A question was asked regarding the travelers who are being moved from Essex. Cllr Bellfield advised that SCDC has no plans to open any sites in the district. Police intelligence has not heard of any plans by travelers to move to Suffolk.
- 5.5 Cllr Bellfield encouraged Parish Council to get involved in Community Speedwatch. The cost would be approximately £2,000 for all the equipment and this could be shared with other villages. Cllr Bellfield's locality budget may also be able to help. a further cost would be incurred for annual recalibration. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for next meeting. Clerk
- 6 POLICE REPORT**
- 6.1 CPSO Hassler had received no reported crimes in Easton between 19<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> September.
- 6.2 He also asked that Council consider involvement in Community Speedwatch.
- 7 FINANCE**
- 7.1 The financial statement was agreed with outgoings of £1129.89 being approved. Balances in the bank prior to this expenditure total £11,970.68. The statement was proposed by Cllr McEvoy and seconded by Cllr Boon, unanimously agreed and signed.
- 7.2 During discussions on the Actual v Budget figures, Clerk was asked to contact SCL Management and ask them to cut the verges between Octagon House and Pound Corner. Clerk
- 8 SALC REPRESENTATIVE**
- 8.1 After discussion Cllr Coney agreed to act as representative at SALC meetings. These generally take place four times a year.
- 9 QUEEN'S JUBILEE 2012**
- 9.1 It was proposed that Parish Council consider hosting a Street Party to mark this occasion. Clerk was asked to put an item in the parish magazine and if enough interest is shown a sub-committee of councillors and residents will be formed to organise it. Cllrs were asked to bring their ideas to the next meeting. Clerk/All
- 10 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR**
- 10.1 Cllr Owen attended the awards ceremony and received a certificate and cheque for £100 on behalf of the village. The certificate states that Easton was joint second which differs from the letter received and the website. Clerk was asked to clarify this with SCDC as it should also increase the amount of prize money. Clerk put certificate on the notice board with a copy on the website. Clerk
- 10.2 Cllr Owen had spoken with the Chairman of judges and the unusual initiatives regarding the environment were the deciding factor in choosing a winner. It was agreed that our next entry should consider some more lateral thinking ideas.
- 11 CAR PARK REPAIR**

- 11.1 Cllr Smith had carried out the further repairs following damage by the recycling lorry.
- 12 **COALITION GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DRAFT OF NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**
- 12.1 The matter was discussed fully and it was felt this would weaken the planning laws. Clerk was asked to write to the government supporting Suffolk Preservations views. Clerk
- 13 **SPORT ENGLAND FUNDING**
- 13.1 After discussion it was agreed that this project would not be taken up as additional funding would have to be found by Council and it was felt that the priority for fundraising at the moment should be for the cemetery.
- 14 **CLERK'S REPORT**
- 14.1 **Highways Issues** Clerk to follow up the ongoing problems with the repair to the collapsed drain at Pound Corner as it has collapsed under the repair. Clerk
- Clerk to also to speak with SCC and Cllr Bellfield regarding the condition of pavements in the village. They are covered with weeds and therefore the surface is breaking up. Also SCC to be asked to write to residents where plants overgrow the footpaths making them unusable for walking. Clerk
- 14.2 **Parish Plan** An open meeting is to be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October and this will be advertised in the parish magazine, notice board, website and leaflet drop. Residents will be encouraged to come along and put their viewpoint and there will also be a youth worker to listen to the needs of children/teenagers.
- 14.3 **Bottle Banks** Cllr Owen/Clerk still to discuss fencing with Graham Ransome. JO/Clerk
- 14.4 **Play Area** Loose bolts on swings have now been securely fixed. Mr Chapman to be asked to cut grass, especially nettles around play equipment. Clerk still to organise additional bench and litter bin. Clerk
- 14.5 Clerk has spoken with Nigel Wright who would like some help with the final grass out of the season at the cemetery. He will contact the clerk.
- Metal boxes are not available for the fitting on the village green. The electrician has been asked to supply a new box and John Rook will try to construct a wooden box around it.
- It has been reported that the bench on the village green is broken. John Rook has offered to inspect and, if possible, repair it.
- 15 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**
- Matters arising from these minutes  
 Community Speedwatch/speed issues  
 Use of £100 Village of the Year prize money  
 Queen's Jubilee Celebration  
 Clerk's Job Description/Rules & Responsibilities for Councillors  
 Clerk's Appraisals – frequency and system
- 16 **SUGGESTED DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**
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| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2011 | PC meeting     |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2011  | Budget meeting |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2012  | PC meeting     |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2012    | PC meeting     |

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....