

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012**  
**at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr B Boon	Cllr J McEvoy
Cllr J Owen, Chairman	Cllr B Gibbon
Cllr M Coney	Cllr J Kerr
Mrs C Davis, Parish Clerk	County Cllr P Bellfield
CPSO Christian Hassler	Insp Nick Aitken

10 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.18 pm

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

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Owen	Personal & prejudicial	Middle Stump
Cllr Kerr	Personal & Prejudicial	Spica Cottage
Cllr Gibbon	Personal	Middle Stump
Cllr Boon	Personal	Wickenberg
Cllr McEvoy	Personal & Prejudicial	Wickenberg
Cllr Coney	Personal	Wickenberg & Middle Stump

3 **MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> January were approved and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Boon, seconded Cllr Gibbon.

The meeting was closed at 7.21 pm for District, County and Police reports and for members of the public to speak.

4 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

4.1 SCDC has approved a new business plan setting out its' vision for the next decade.

4.2 District Council tax is frozen for 2012/13 but charges from the police and most parishes will rise.

4.3 Local Development Framework Core Strategy was formally agreed for Pre Submission consultation in December and this, together with its policies, have now become a 'material consideration' to be given much more weight in planning applications.

The soundness consultation ended last week and will be examined by an independent planning inspector appointed by the government. It is hoped that formal adoption will be by the end of 2012, with the site specific allocations exercise beginning in 2013

4.4 Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have agreed to merge and modernize the planning service of both councils, which should mean better performance and shared savings of over £800,000. there will be an organization restructure and a complete cultural change in the way planning services work to improve the delivery of the service for customers and take advantage of new technologies.

5 **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

5.1 County Council are on track to save the £42m required by year end. 1400 staff across all levels have left Council employ. A further 2,660 will be transferred into new organisations as departments are privatised.

5.2 County Council tax is frozen for the year 2012/13.

5.3 Libraries have been taken over by a charitable organization and there have been no closures. A decision is still awaited on mobile libraries but it seems likely the service will be on a monthly basis rather than fortnightly.

5.4 Cllr Bellfield urged everyone who uses broadband to register their interest for a better service at the council website. It is hoped to have an improved service to a large part of the county by March 2015.

5.5 A number of Council departments and Ipswich Police Station will be moving to shared premises at Landmark House.

## 6 **POLICE REPORT**

6.1 One incident has been reported in Easton since 10<sup>th</sup> January, this being harassment.

6.2 PCSO Hassler advised there has been an increase in ATM crime recently and reinforced the measures to be taken to ensure against this.

6.3 Insp Nick Aitken introduced himself and explained that he is now in charge of an area from Beccles to Southwold and South to include Easton. The two central points are now in Halesworth and Woodbridge. There will be no change to the level of cover.

Members of the public were then invited to comment on the Wickenberg planning application and all comments were noted and will be retained on file.

The same invitation was then made for the Middle Stump application and these comments were also noted and will be retained on file.

Councillors sought to clarify certain matters with members of the public.

The meeting reopened at 8.15 pm

## 7 **PLANNING**

7.1 **Wickenberg** Cllr McEvoy stated her views on the application, all of which are noted on file, and left the meeting due to a prejudicial interest. The remainder of Councillors discussed the application in full and unanimously voted to object to the application on the following grounds:

- Access
- Conservation area
- Drainage and sewerage
- Highway safety
- Privacy
- Substantial change to character
- Environmental issues
- Gardens were declassified as brownfield sites on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Clerk to write to the Planning Department accordingly

Clerk

District Councillor Snell has agreed that, if necessary, he will (as Ward Member) call The application in to be determined by the Development Control Sub-Committee.

## 7.2 **Middle Stump**

Two letters of objection were received and had been circulated in advance. Cllr Owen stated his views on the application, all of which are noted on file, and left the meeting due to a prejudicial interest. The remainder of Councillors discussed the application in full and unanimously voted to support the application in principle but with the following reservations:

- Size of extension
- Roof design
- Impact on neighbours
- Suggest an extension across building rather than down garden
- Consideration be given to internal party walls to avoid disturbance to Neighbours

Clerk to write to Planning Department accordingly.

Clerk

### 7.3 **Planning Decisions:**

Old Osier	Erection of single storey extension	Granted
Lime Tree Cottage	Alterations to listed building	Granted
Spica Cottage	Alterations to listed building	Granted

## 8 **CLERK'S REPORT**

- 8.1 **Play Area** Work party to be organised to treat all timbers with preservative. Area will have to be closed for at least 24 hours to ensure preservative is dry and fumes have dispersed.

A new bench has been ordered in memory of Beryl Webster. A concrete base to be put in and the bench secured to it to avoid theft. This to be done during the working party. Further work on that day to be disposal of tree debris following fallen branches during high winds.

Clerk to organise dates and seek help.

Clerk

- 8.2 **Highways Matters** Pound Corner work still outstanding as is resurfacing of pavement between Kennels and Play Area. Repairs and clearance of pavements have been carried out. Double bend signs have been installed near Stud Farm and Dark Lane.

- 8.3 **Health Checks** These were carried out on 6<sup>th</sup> March with 13 people attending.

- 8.4 **Speeding Issues** The sites for the mobile SID machine will be inspected next week and Clerk will be advised if tests will be carried out.

## 9 **FINANCE**

- 9.1 The Financial Statement for the period was agreed and signed.

- 9.2 Actual v Budget figures were discussed and accounting shows that Council will finish the year within budget.

- 9.3 A discussion was held regarding investment of reserves. It was unanimously agreed to 'test the water' by investing £2,000 in a fixed term bond with Cambridge Building Society for 6 months. The situation will then be reviewed. Clerk to action.

Clerk

## 10 **STREET PARTY**

- 10.1 Cllr Gibbon advised that so far 89 adults and 27 children have accepted the Invitation with still time for more responses. Mugs, medals, flags and bunting have all been received and a sample will be available at the next meeting. The sub-committee meets again at the end of March to continue with the arrangements.

## 11 **PARISH PLAN**

- 11.1 Clerk reported that 144 questionnaires were delivered and 108 responses have been received. This is an excellent result. These are now being analysed and it is hoped to have a preliminary report available in two weeks.

- 11.2 It was agreed that a similar questionnaire on the subjects of better broadband and mobile phone provisions, mains gas and jobs should be sent to all businesses in the village together with the school, village hall and pre-school. Cllrs to advise Clerk of businesses they know to be in the village and she to organise the questionnaire.

All/Clerk

## 12 **WORKSHOP REPORTS**

- 12.1 Cllr Coney attended a seminar on Neighbourhood Planning. This should involve Town and Parish Councils more closely in local planning decisions most especially for new developments. This is excellent for larger parishes such as Rendlesham but is unlikely to affect smaller parishes such as Easton.

It appears that if a development is proposed council's will be unable to reject it outright but will be able to negotiate size and terms. Cllr Coney also believes that with other

applications there will be a pre-disposition towards the developer.

There are various incentives to support housing growth and a New Houses Bonus for Councils so it is important to be aware of the difficulties which could arise from this new legislation.

- 12.2 Cllr McEvoy had attended a seminar on Flood Risk Management. As she had to leave the meeting due to a health issue it was agreed she will circulate her report by e-mail.

**13 CORRESPONDENCE**

- 13.1 A letter was received from the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. The contents require a thorough discussion and it was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

- 13.2 SCDC are again supporting the Village Spring Clean initiative. Council agreed that a 'tidying' event be organised on a Saturday morning. Clerk to arrange a date and advertise.

Clerk

- 13.3 Cllr Smith has advised that the village website is currently out of commission but should be up and running again by the end of the month.

**14 AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 14.1 Matters arising from this meeting  
Village Hall Letter  
Possible Grant Policy

**15 NEXT MEETING**

- 15.1 15<sup>th</sup> May AGM and Parish Council meeting. Clerk to enquire who wishes to stand for various positions before the meeting.

22<sup>nd</sup> May Annual Parish Meeting. Invitations to be organized together with refreshments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.38 pm

Signed ..... Date .....  
Chairman