

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Easton and Letheringham Village Hall at 7:15pm
on Tuesday 11th September 2012.

Present: Cllr J Owen (Chair) Cllr T Smith (Vice-Chair) Cllr B Gibbon Cllr B Boon Cllr J McEvoy	In Attendance: Mrs E Brown (Clerk) County Cllr Bellfield Ms Jenni Carberry (Go with the Flow Bus Project Manager)	Apologies Cllr J Kerr Cllr M Coney District Cllr Snell PCSO Hassler
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EPC001/12 Code of Conduct The Clerk explained that Hillary Slater (Monitoring Officer at SCDC) had recommended that a resolution be passed to delegate authority to the Clerk for the granting of dispensations in consultation with the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman if the Chairman is applying for the dispensation) so that a decision can be made before the Council meeting. Decision – It was unanimously agreed to make this resolution. Proposer Cllr Owen, Seconder Cllr Smith. Cllr Owen proposed that Easton Parish Council accept the Suffolk Code of Conduct with effect from 1st July 2012, Seconder Cllr McEvoy. Decision – Acceptance of Suffolk Code of Conduct unanimously agreed.	
EPC002/12 To Receive Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Kerr, Cllr Coney, District Cllr Snell and PCSO Hassler.	
EPC003/12 Declarations of Interest There were no declarations on interest.	
EPC004/12 Consideration of Dispensations There were no dispensations to consider.	
<i>Meeting adjourned for the Public Forum, County Cllr's Report and Youth Bus Presentation.</i>	
EPC005/12 Public Forum There were no questions from the public.	
EPC006/12 County Cllr Peter Bellfield Cllr Bellfield reported that <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) had asked him to look at the footpath/ pavement outside the Village Hall due to safety concerns over the difference in height between the path and the road. A representative from SCC Highways department will now come and assess the area. Cllr Bellfield reminded the meeting that if money was required then he may be able to provide some from his locality budget. <i>(Later Cllr McEvoy informed the Council that she would ensure that the VHMC would pass on any information they received from Highways.)</i> 2. Key Stage 2 SATS results in Lowestoft and Haverhill (areas that had changed from a 3 tier to a 2 tier schooling system) had dramatically improved. 3. The County, School, Prison and Mobile library services were now under the control of Suffolk's Libraries ISP (Industrial and Provident Society). 4. SCC is encouraging business opportunities in Suffolk and has recently had delegations from China and S. Korea interested in energy sector opportunities. 5. EDF Energy still wishes to build 'Sizewell C' and is in discussion with SCDC regarding planning issues. 6. SCC is currently on track to make its projected budget savings of £26million this financial year. Cllr Boon asked if Cllr Bellfield was aware that although volunteers at Wickham Market library mean that it is open for longer as they are unable to use the library's computer system. This means that there is only a limited service available to library users. Cllr Bellfield hoped that this was to do with a lack of training that would be addressed in the future.	
<i>Cllr Bellfield left the meeting following his report to attend another Parish Council Meeting.</i>	
EPC007/12 Youth Bus Ms Jenni Carberry gave a short presentation on the Go with the Flow Youth Bus. She provided some literature, spoke about it's history, some of the aims it has as a service to young people to help them with networking and employment skills. She explained how Education Business Partnership which owns the bus is a 'not for profit' charity with no regular funding. She described the facilities they have on the bus and the structured evenings they are able to run including cooking,	

<p>discos and health and safety advice, (e.g. firework safety, drug and smoking awareness, if appropriate). Should the bus regularly come to the village then a representative from the Parish Council would be invited to be on the steering group. The monthly cost of running the bus is £1,000 and this is met by charging £150 per session, currently there is no weekly charge for the children to attend so that it does not exclude any young person from using its facilities. Approximately 12 local children (most aged 11-12), attended the 2 free sessions in Easton Village. At the first session the children used the on board equipment (Wii, X-box, TV) and for the second session the pool table was set up and a film shown. There had been some difficulty with finding an appropriate location for the bus.</p> <p><i>Meeting reconvened.</i></p> <p>The clerk summarised the generally positive comments she had received from the parents of users at the free sessions.</p> <p>After discussion the Council decided that they would like the bus to come regularly to Easton and needed to explore how it could be funded. Decision – To contact Rachel Rowe from SCC Activities For All to see if they could help with the costs.</p>	Cllr Owen
<p>EPC008/12 To Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2012</p> <p>Cllr Boon felt that the minutes relating to agenda item 13 should be amended to include "Cllr Owen reported that Land Registry have no record of covenants restricting the sale of the 'WRVS' properties in the village", Decision – Unanimous agreement from those at the meeting. Proposer Cllr Boon, Seconder Cllr Gibbon.</p> <p>Following this the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2012 were approved and signed as a true record. Proposer Cllr Boon, Seconder Cllr Gibbon.</p>	
<p>EPC008/12 District Cllr Bob Snell (<i>see attached report</i>)</p> <p>Cllr Snell was unable to attend but had sent his written report. The report included</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council Tax Support Scheme will be run by local Councils from April 2013. SCDC are consulting on a scheme to reduce discounts received by 4 different groups due to the reduction in money they will receive from government. See http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/benefits/counciltaxsupport/ 2. The Local Development Framework. SCDC have informed the Inspector of modifications it is recommending to the LDF. See SCDC website for further information on Examination Hearings. 3. Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd will continue to provide key local services to residents (e.g. refuse collection, grass cutting) for the next 10 years under a new contract. 	
<p>EPC009/12 PCSO Christian Hassler (<i>see attached report</i>)</p> <p>PCSO Hassler was unable to attend but had sent his written report. The report included</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that there had been 2 recorded crimes in Easton from 10/07/12 to 11/09/12 a burglary (other building) and a theft (of a pedal cycle). 2. That counterfeit £20 and £50 bank notes are being passed around the area. 	
<p>EPC010/12 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising (<i>See attached reports</i>)</p> <p>The clerk reported on actions taken and matters arising.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'WRVS Homes' - Greensleeves Homes Trust have been informed of the acceptance of their donation and are waiting for the Council to confirm that the purchase of land to extend the cemetery will definitely occur. 2. New Clerk's Training Day - This was informative and there are various areas where there is now updated recommended practice. These will be brought to the Council as time allows. The Clerk also attended the Code of Conduct Briefing and the SCDC Clerk Liaison Meeting reports from these meetings have been previously circulated to the Council. 3. Residents email distribution list - The Clerk asked the Council if an email distribution list could be set up to aid the circulation of information the clerk receives electronically that may be of interest to residents. Decision – To put a notice in the parish magazine asking residents who wish to be contacted this way to send their email addresses to the Clerk who will set up a distribution list that will have 'undisclosed recipients', no 'reply all' function and may be opted out of at any time. 4. Village inspection by Cllrs. Decision – The Parish council will walk round the village inspecting Parish Council assets and the village in general before the next meeting. 	Clerk ALL
<p>EPC011/12 Finance (<i>See attached reports</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clerk's Finance Report - The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance of accounts on 11th September 2012 was £12356.67 2. Authorisation of payments – Decision - Payments totalling £1197.67 were authorised. 	
<p>EPC012/12 Planning Matters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The following planning decisions have been received:- 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Stump, Easton - Planning permission and listed building consent have been granted with conditions. • Land South of The Old Kennels, Easton – Planning permission has been granted with conditions. • Tree Works Notifications for land to the rear of Easton House, The kennels and in the Churchyard at All Saints Church has had no objections raised. <p>2. There were no new planning applications.</p> <p>3. Progress Report on planning application at 4, Pound Cottages, Easton – The Council had supported the application.</p>	
<p>EPC013/12 Cemetery</p> <p>1. Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Tree - Paul Bush (Tree Surgeon) has removed the damaged branch and sent his invoice. He inspected other trees in the cemetery and could see no others that required work although this was hindered by the amount of ivy on the trees. There is an oak planted the far side of the northern ditch which appears 'sick'. Cllr Owen will see if the oak has any branches overhanging the cemetery. • Northern Ditch Drainage – Cllr Owen informed the meeting that the land owner of the ditch is looking into the most suitable way to solve the drainage issue. <p>2. Land Purchase – Cllr Owen has checked the minutes of meetings where the purchase of new land to extend the cemetery has been discussed. There is no record of a formal decision to purchase more land. A discussion followed covering whether there might be a better use of this money in the village (e.g. to alleviate parking issues at the school) and the sensitive nature of this issue. Decision – 1. Council will try to find out how long it will take to fill the remaining plots. 2. Opinions of residents will be sort regarding the purchase of more land.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Owen</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Owen/ Clerk</p>
<p>EPC014/12 Highways</p> <p>1. SID Report - Clerk informed the meeting that there will be further assessment of vehicle speed in the village in the future. Decision – Clerk to ask SID operator how Easton compares with similar villages regarding speeding vehicles.</p> <p>2. Pound Corner – Safety measures at Pound Corner were discussed. Decision – 1. Contact SCC Highways to find out what safety measures (e.g. 'SLOW' on road, flashing signs, chevron signs) could be done if the Council found funding from elsewhere. 2. Contact local Landowners to ask them to ensure that there hedges/vegetation is not obscuring road signs.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p>
<p>EPC015/12 Training</p> <p>Clerk informed the Council of various requests from Councillors and herself and that as last years training budget was not spent there would be sufficient funds to cover this. Decision – Cllr Boon and Gibbon to attend Councillor Training, Cllr Owen to attend the advanced website design course, Clerk to attend the Budgeting Workshop. Clerk will liaise with Councillors and make bookings.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p>
<p>EPC016/12 Business Questionnaire <i>(See attached spreadsheet)</i></p> <p>Council discussed the 'additional comments' made by the respondents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postal Service. Decision - No action. • Adverts in the Parish Magazine. Cllr Owen informed the meeting that he is able to put adverts on the Parish Website. Decision - letter to editor to consider including adverts. • Broadband/mobile 'phone signal. This is an item on the parish plan, BT Openreach upgraded the line in August. • Pavement outside the Village Hall. County Cllr Bellfield is now involved with this. (See Cllr Bellfield's report above.) 	<p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p>
<p>EPC017/12 Correspondence</p> <p>1. The Audit Commission have appointed BDO LLP as external auditor for the next 5 years.</p> <p>2. The External Audit for 2011/2012 has been completed with no further comment. Decision - Annual Return approved and accepted by the Council. The invoice has been received.</p>	
<p>EPC018/12 Matters for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council Policies and Website Content 	
<p>EPC019/12 Date of next Meeting</p> <p>The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 13th November 2012 at 7:15pm</p>	
<p><i>Meeting closed at 9:20pm</i></p>	
<p>Chairman: Date:</p>	