

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Easton and Letheringham Village Hall at 7:15pm
on Tuesday 8th January 2013.

Present: Cllr J Owen (Chair) Cllr T Smith (vice Chair) Cllr M Coney Cllr B Gibbon Cllr J McEvoy	In Attendance: Mr Michael Fordham (Easton Resident) Mrs. E Brown (Clerk) District Cllr B Snell (<i>for part of the meeting</i>) PCSO Christian Hassler (<i>for part of the meeting</i>)	Apologies Cllr B Boon Cllr J Kerr County Cllr Bellfield
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EPC001/13 To Receive Apologies Apologies received from Cllr Boon and Cllr Kerr. <i>Later apologies were received from County Cllr Bellfield.</i>	
EPC002/13 Declarations of Interest Cllr Gibbon declared a pecuniary interest for agenda item 10 as he is the applicant.	
EPC003/13 Dispensation Applications The Clerk had not received any Dispensation Applications before the meeting commenced.	
EPC004/13 To Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2012 The minutes were approved and signed as a true record. Proposer Cllr Smith, Seconder Cllr Coney.	
EPC005/13 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising The Clerk reported on actions taken and matters arising. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actions following Village Assets Inspection. - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The cover to the electricity socket at the bottom of the village sign is again damaged. Aaron Nobbs (electrician) has been contacted and could fit a sturdier box than last time and suggested that the area at the bottom of the sign be cleared of grass in an attempt to prevent it being broken again. This will cost approx £100 – formal quote still to be sent to the clerk. Cllr Smith suggested inserting wooden posts around the bottom of the sign to keep the grass away and hopefully prevent damage to the socket cover by grass cutting vehicles, Council agreed to this. Cllrs Smith and Gibbon to source and insert wood. Council agreed to spend up to £100 on repairing the electricity socket Clerk to liaise with Aaron Nobbs. b) The bollards around the village green have been checked and secured by John Rook, Easton resident. Council were grateful for his help with this. Cllr Coney reported that he had been informed by another resident that another bollard was damaged/loose. Cllrs Smith and Gibbon agreed to check the bollards again. c) Clerk has obtained quotes for clearing the overgrown areas of the car park and removing moss from the top of the wall. John Rook, Easton resident has offered to cut back the rose bush and Cllr Coney agreed to help with other work required in the car park. 2. Bottle Banks – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The SCS Ltd. vehicle that came to empty the bottle banks last week entered the car park and damaged the car park surface. Clerks to the Council have informed them at least twice that they should not enter the car park. Clerk is liaising with SCS Ltd. about what action they will take to remedy the situation. b) Signs have been made to encourage residents to consider others when using the bottle banks in the car park. These will be erected if the bottle banks are to remain and once the rose bush has been cut back. 3. Youth Bus Funding - Jenni Carberry (Project Manager) has been successful in obtaining £2,500 form SCC 'Small Grants' programme to bring the bus to Easton fortnightly from April 2013. This funding will pay for the bus for approx 8 months. Clerk has sent an email to Ms Carberry to ascertain what else Council needs to do before April. Cllr. Coney informed the meeting that he is trying to find further sources of funding and will report at the next meeting. 4. SCC Highways - Following a phone conversation and email from the clerk representatives from the Highway department will come to the village to discuss highways issues with representatives from the Council. Date to be arranged. 5. Footpath from Pound Corner to Harrier's Walk.- Cllr Owen has been looking into who owns the land, some Easton residents believe it to be SCC, SCC believe they do not. The cost of a footpath would be £14-16k and with design and legal fees this may increase to 	<p>Cllr Smith + Cllr Gibbon Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Smith + Cllr Gibbon</p> <p>Cllr Coney</p> <p>Cllr Owen</p> <p>Cllr Coney</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>£20k. Suffolk Acre have a 'footpath fund' which would provide all the money required if the application was successful, or none. Cllr Owen will continue to read the documentation and report back to the council in due course.</p> <p>Cllr Coney reported that the cemetery trees and had been professionally assessed and did not require any work. That the tree on the corner of The Street and the footpath to the play area needs felling, this is on SCC land. Further along the same footpath, (the far side of the footbridge,) a tree has come down. Cllr Coney to contact SCC about these trees. Cllr Coney also reported that he had spoken to the owner of the crinkle crinkle wall where the capstones are loose.</p>	<p>Cllr Owen</p> <p>Cllr Coney</p>
<p>EPC006/13 Finance (See attached reports)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 8th January 2013 was £13,568.06. Authorisation of payments – Decision - Payments totalling £994.21 were authorised. The financial regulations were reviewed. Decision – To continue using the current regulations - Proposer Cllr Owen, Seconder Cllr Smith. Cemetery charges were reviewed. Decision - No changes to be made – Proposer Cllr Gibbon, Seconder Cllr Coney. Budget for 2013-2014 prepared by the Clerk were reviewed and accepted by the Council. Proposer Cllr Owen, Seconder Cllr McEvoy. The total precept required to be collected by SCDC on behalf of the parish council is £6,973.09. This equates to an increase of 2.02% or 1.8p per band D house per week on 2012-2013. Clerk to complete paperwork and send precept request to SCDC. 	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><i>District Cllr Snell and PCSO arrived.</i></p>	
<p><i>Meeting adjourned for the District Cllr's Report PCSO's report and the Public Forum.</i></p>	
<p>EPC007/13 District Cllr Bob Snell</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Local Development Framework – The public examination of the Core Strategy (CS) has ended. SCDC can now have a formal consultation on the main modifications which the inspector felt would make the CS sound. However, as the need for housing in the district up to 2027 is 11,000 homes and the CS lists 9,000 homes, SCDC should consult on 11,000 homes. The CS will then be inspected for a final time. The current Local Plans will run out at the end of March and Spatial Strategies are no longer being used. The CS should be in place by the Autumn (the government are now calling this the Local Plan) Site Specifics are not in the CS and should be reassessed in 2014. Planning Applications – it is expected that 3 solar park applications will be decided at a full meeting of the Development Control Committee on Jan 23rd, Hacheston (25MW), Great Glemham (Parham Airfield, 15MW) and Nacton (Stratton Hall, 12MW). Sizewell C Consultation - SCDC Cabinet meet on 5th February to decide on their response. Task meetings have raised concerns with EDF Energy over their lack of data in the documents. The B1116 and A1120 are not mentioned at all. <p>Cllr Smith commented that there is no detail in the documents about the visual 'appeal' of Sizewell C, Cllr Snell confirmed the EDF Energy have been asked to consider this. Cllr Coney asked for reassurance that Cllr Snell would be able to express the views of his Parish Councils at the meeting. Cllr Snell reassured the Council that the new Code of Conduct made it easier for him to express Councils views and his own at meetings. Cllr Snell was asked for the outcome of planning application C12/1997 at Downton Cottage, Cllr Snell informed the Council that although there was discussion about the way in which the application had come about they were advised that as the application would not be rejected on appeal due to the amount of work already done on the building that it should be granted now.</p>	
<p>EPC008/13 PCSO Christian Hassler (see attached report)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There have been no reported crimes in the parish of Easton from 13/11/12 – 08/01/13. Thieves have been removing the catalytic converters from vehicles (especially 4x4s) in the area including Wickham Market. Car owners are encouraged to keep their vehicles in garages or well lit public areas. PCSO Hassler encouraged the reporting of anything that looked suspicious to the police, in his view a report of suspicious activity that turned out to be innocent was better than no report being made. 	
<p>EPC009/13 Public Forum</p> <p>Mr Michael Fordham, Easton resident spoke to the Council about extending the 30mph speed limit at the southern end of the village. Mr Fordham informed the Council how he had asked for an extension in Sept. 2011 due to the dangerous nature of the road (bends, side roads, poor visibility) and Easton Parish Council had also written in Jan 2012. Highways refused to consider</p>	

<p>changing the speed limit. Since then there has been at least one further accident and Mr. Fordham has gained support from other residents along that stretch of road in. PCSO Hassler said that the police would need to assess the road and obtain data about vehicle numbers and speeds before deciding whether they could support the view of extending the 30mph zone. Following open discussion the following decisions were made : PCSO Hassler will assess the road and gather data (if safe to do so) soon. Dates of known accidents on this stretch of road to be sent to PCSO Hassler so that he can check any police records about them. Following receipt of evidence from PCSO Hassler the Parish Council may write to Highways and also ascertain the cost.</p>	Cllr Owen
<p>EPC010/13 County Cllr Peter Bellfield There was no report from County Cllr Bellfield <i>Later the Clerk received apologies from Cllr Bellfield via Cllr Snell and the Cllr himself. Cllr Bellfield asked to be contacted if there were any issues that the Council felt that he could help with.</i></p>	
<p><i>Cllr Snell, PCSO Hassler and Mr. Fordham left the meeting following the public forum.</i></p>	
<p><i>Cllr Gibbon left the meeting for the next agenda item only due to a pecuniary interest.</i></p>	
<p>EPC011/13 Planning Matters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council discussed planning application C12/2346: Erection of first floor rear extension to form 4th bedroom at 2, School Lane, Easton. None of the Councillors present could see a reason to object to the application as it is at the back of the residence, 'fills in' a gap in the roof line and was a good use of space that does not impact on the neighbours. Clerk to send response to SCDC planning department. 2. Council had already been told by Cllr Snell the outcome of planning application C12/1997. 3. There were no new planning applications. 	Clerk
<p>EPC012/13 Training Clerk asked to attend the 'End of Year Accounts' course at SALC. Decision – Council agreed.</p>	Clerk
<p>EPC013/13 Play Area</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Litter bin - Cllr Owen circulated a picture of the litter bin he proposed council purchase for the play area. He suggested it to be positioned on a wooden post to the left of the entrance to the field. The exact height of the bin to be considered carefully as the post may be used for other purposes by play area users. Cllr Gibbon to empty the bin, as necessary, when he carries out the weekly play equipment risk assessment. Cllr McEvoy said that the rubbish could be put in the VH wheelie bin. Bags would be required. Decision - Council agreed to spend up to £200 on purchasing and installing the bin in the play area. Proposer Cllr Gibbon, Seconder Cllr McEvoy. Cllr Owen to arrange. 2. Safety information – Cllr Owen informed the Council that some information must legally be displayed near the play area and had also found information recommendations on the ROSPA website. These he had summarised on a sheet he circulated. Sign to be placed on fence surrounding play equipment. Decision – To keep legal requirements and have pictograms to show other information. Possible signmakers to approach for quotes: SCDC 'in house' provider, Labelcraft (contact:Terry Dicks). Cllr Owen to obtain quotes. 	Cllr Owen Cllr Owen
<p>EPC014/13 Village Notice Board The village notice board is well used and this can cause difficulties in ensuring that all information is clearly displayed. The board is provided and maintained by the council. Decision – An area on the front of the notice board will be clearly marked as for use by the Parish Council only; the Parish Council are to be the sole users of the rear of the notice board. Notices (other than EPC 's) will be reviewed (and may be removed) by the clerk at any time, no notice will remain in place for longer than 8 weeks.</p>	Clerk
<p>EPC015/13 Dog Fouling around the village A notice has already been put in the parish magazine following a resident contacting the clerk about the increase of dog fouling in School Lane. Decision - Clerk to produce and deliver to School Lane residences a flyer referring to the dangers of toxocara, the number of children in and near School Lane and for dog walkers to ensure that they clear up after their dog.</p>	Clerk
<p>EPC016/13 Hopkins Homes Following discussion of the letter received from Hopkins Homes the Clerk will respond that as the Council believes that Site Specific Allocations are to be reviewed/decided by SCDC in 2014 and that it is at that time that the Parish Council will discuss the possible use of land in Easton for housing.</p>	Clerk
<p>EPC017/13 Extending the 30mph speed limit at the Southern end of the village <i>This was discussed during the public forum (EPC009/13) to allow PCSO Hassler to participate.</i></p>	

<p>EPC018/13 Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – Stakeholder Consultation Clerk informed the Council of Cllr Boon's views that she had received by email. Cllr Boon felt that savings could be made at administrative levels in mergers but that operational mergers can cause a service to be less efficient partly due to a lack of local knowledge in the control room. Discussion followed concerning whether any one other than a resident of a rural community in the control room would be of benefit in a county like Suffolk and whether the Council should even respond to the consultation. Decision – Council not to formally respond to the consultation, Cllrs are able to respond personally if they so wish. Clerk to inform Cllr Boon of Councils decision so that he can personally respond if he should wish to.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>EPC019/13 Sizewell 'C' Public Consultation Stage 1 Cllr Smith attempted to declare a Declaration of Interest on this matter. His personal view was that the aesthetics of the building had not been considered (this was agreed with by some other Cllrs present) and that the Park and Ride site at Wickham Market would probably not affect Easton. Clerk informed Council of Cllr Boon's views on this agenda item that she had received by email. Cllr Boon felt that as access to the Park and Ride site would be via the A12 slip road there would be an increased quantity of traffic at the Wickham Market roundabout. This could cause a build up of traffic on the B1116 which would affect Easton residents as they try to access the B1116 from 'Tank' Road. Council agreed that this could cause difficulties for Easton residents. Decision – Clerk to respond to consultation informing them of probable traffic build up on the B1116 and to request road improvements at the junction of the B1116 with 'Tank' Road and at the Wickham market Roundabout. Clerk to also request that the aesthetics of Sizewell 'C' are considered.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>EPC020/13 Role of Easton Parish Council Cllr Owen suggested that as Cllr Kerr who had views on this agenda item was unable to attend it should be discussed at the next meeting. Decision – Council to discuss at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>EPC021/13 Clerk's Report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting. Clerk had arranged payment of the annual maintenance inspection and contract to Play Quest of the Play area equipment to ensure the continuation of the guarantee.</p>	
<p>EPC022/13 Officer's and Representative's Reports Cllr Owen had attended part of the SALC Area Meeting. SCC gave a budget presentation. The Meeting was informed that in 2years time 90% of Suffolk should have 20 Mb internet connection and the other 10% would have 2 Mb as a minimum. There is to be restructuring of the Planning Department at SCDC. The Scrutiny Committee made 13 recommendations in 2010 and some of these have been implemented. At some point in the future planning applications will all be done on line.</p>	
<p>EPC023/13 Correspondence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foot way outside Village Hall. Council had been sent email correspondence between the VH Management Committee and SCC Highways regarding the foot way. Issues appear to be Highways appearing to acknowledge that there is a 'trip issue' but that they have no money to rectify it. The VHMC do not feel it is their responsibility to pay for the remedial work required. Decision - Clerk to write to Cllr Bellfield to see if he can find some money to carry out the work required now that SCC Highways Department have identified a trip issue and the solution to it. 2. A resident of Easton has purchased a plot in the Garden of Remembrance. 3. Hacheston Solar Park Site Visit - Clerk informed the council of a site visit on 14th January at 10:15am for the Solar Park. Cllr Owen to attend. 	<p>Clerk Cllr Owen</p>
<p>PC024/13 Matters for the next meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Role of Easton Parish Council 2. Update regarding Freedom of Information Act and the Parish Council Website. 3. Sourcing further funding for the Youth Bus. 	
<p>EPC019/12 Date of next Meeting The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 12th March at 7:15pm</p>	
<p><i>Meeting closed at approx 9:30pm.</i></p>	
<p>Chairman: Date:</p>	