

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Easton and Letheringham Village Hall at 7:15pm
on Tuesday 12th November 2013.

Present: Cllr Owen (Chair) Cllr Gibbon Cllr Smith Cllr McEvoy Cllr Boon Cllr Coney Cllr Kerr	In Attendance: Mrs E Brown (<i>Clerk</i>) County Cllr Peter Bellfield (Agenda items 1-6 inclusive) Mr. P Fellows (Agenda items 1 & 2 inclusive) Mr. A Hollins (Agenda items 1 – 7 and 11 inclusive) Mrs. S van den Arend (Agenda items 1 – 7 and 11 inclusive) Mr and Mrs J Duggan (Agenda items 1 – 7 and 11-12 inclusive) Mr P Batley (for part of the meeting)	Apologies District Cllr Snell PCSO Hassler
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<p>EPC122/13 Chairman's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
<p>EPC123/13 Public Forum Mr Peter Fellows spoke in respect of item 12 (Highways). Points made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of safety measures in the village • A foot way should be provided from Pound Corner all the way to Harriers Walk • Hedges and trees should be cut back to at least 1m from the kerb from Pound Corner to Harriers Walk along Framlingham Road. <p>Mr Adrian Hollins spoke in respect of item 11 (Proposed development). Points made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He, a resident of Easton for 17 years had not been informed of the exhibition on October 1st by Hopkins & Moore • SCDC's Local Plan appears to not allow a development of this size in this area • The current proposal may be the beginning of a much larger development • Much of the site is not on previously identified SHLAA land • Questions whether more houses in Easton are necessary considering the length of time it is taking for houses in the village to sell • The development would not blend into the conservation area of Easton • Brownfield land is more suitable for housing developments • It is important to protect land/the landscape rather than building on it • Questioned whether SCC could buy some of the land for the school car park or whether the car park was only possible if the houses were built? <p>Mrs. van den Arend spoke in respect of item 11 on the agenda (Proposed development). Point made was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development is totally inappropriate for a village of this size. 	
<p>EPC124/13 To Receive Apologies Cllr Snell and PCSO Hassler sent their apologies.</p>	
<p>EPC125/13 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McEvoy declared 1 pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Tree works application DC/13/3212/TCA) and 1 non pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Tree works application DC/13/3148/TCA). • Cllr Coney declared a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Tree works application DC/13/3148/TCA). • Cllr Kerr declared 1 pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Planning decision received for C/13/1225) • Cllr Smith declared 1 non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 16 (Correspondence from Home Start) • Cllrs Boon, Smith and Gibbon have previously been given a dispensation for agenda item 11 (Proposed development) 	
<p>EPC126/13 To Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2013 The minutes were approved and signed as a true record. Proposer Cllr Boon, Seconder Cllr McEvoy.</p>	
<p><i>Meeting adjourned for the District and County Cllr's Reports and Police Report.</i></p>	

<p>EPC127/13 County Cllr Peter Bellfield Cllr Bellfield reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC estimate they need to save £156 million in the next 4 years. There will be a 37% reduction in the central government grant to SCC over the next 2 years and SCDC will have a 47% reduction. Therefore there are likely to be service changes, voluntary/charity groups may take on some of these services. • Ofsted have expressed significant concerns on the level achieved in Suffolk schools. GCSE results were 9% below national average last year, 5% below this year and the LEA was 149/151 last year and 135/151 this year. Suffolk A'level results are well above the national average. SCC's Raising the Bar initiative is currently their most important project. SCC wish to improve the governance of schools with better governor's and head teachers. <p>Cllr Bellfield added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedge trimming/tree cutting. If EPC inform SCC highways of the hedges/trees concerned they will arrange for them to be cut. • Foot way creation. SCC have no budget for foot way creation. Cllr Bellfield has a small minor Highways grant that may assist. • Cllr Bellfield would like to be copied in to all correspondence sent to SCC highways. 	
<p>EPC128/13 District Cllr Bob Snell (<i>see attached report</i>) The clerk gave Cllr Snell's report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sizewell C: no further news on the delayed process now strike price is agreed. • Neighbourhood plans: The NP area for Framlingham has been approved. • Review of Electoral Wards: Draft recommendations are due in January 2014, probably the Earl Soham ward will be part of an enlarged Framlingham ward. 	
<p>EPC129/13 PCSO Christian Hassler (<i>see attached report</i>) The Clerk read PCSO Hassler's Report. Cllr Owen reported that the Police consider many recent crimes to be committed by individuals from Ipswich who feel that rural communities are easy targets, the Police are trying to assess where and when crimes may occur and have had some success in detaining individuals. Council were concerned that Police resources are only spent after crime has occurred. Cllr Owen to source leaflets regarding safety measures individuals could take for delivery to residents.</p>	<p>Cllr Owen</p>
<p><i>Meeting re-opened.</i></p>	
<p>EPC130/13 Proposed development of land at School Field, Bentries Farm Clerk had circulated to Council letters and emails received from 8 residents regarding the development. Points noted and discussed were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness of forwarding residents letters to EPC to H&M. Decision – Council not to forward letters written to them to H&M. • There is commonality in issues raised by residents. Decision – Council to collate issues raised by residents and inform H&M. Eg development too large, flood and drainage concerns... Highlighting the residents unhappiness with the proposed development and the scale of that unhappiness. • There appear to be discrepancies between the H&M feedback summary received by council compared with residents letters to EPC. Decision – Council to ask for more open/detailed feedback from H&M post the exhibition. • Decision - Council to ask H&M for clarification on the following issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presence or not of foot access to the village 2. Availability of car park for residents 3. Which sections of the new road will be 'adopted' and which 'unadopted' • Cllrs to forward to Clerk a list of further information they would like to have before the council meeting when the development planning application will be considered. 	<p>Cllr Owen & Clerk</p> <p>All Cllrs</p>
<p>EPC131/13 Highways (documents attached) Points noted and discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC do not necessarily own the first 1m of all verges. • Possibility of a 20mph speed limit through the village. • Decision – Cllr Coney and Cllr McEvoy to assess the verges along the main road in Easton and Hacehston Road for places where hedges/trees are overgrown and inform the clerk. • Clerk received an email from SCC highways this afternoon. In summary SLOW markings will be re-instated at entrances to the village and also on Framlingham Road leaving the 	<p>Cllrs Coney & McEvoy</p>

<p>village ie when heading North.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision – Clerk to write to Highways to arrange a site visit, details of where vegetation needs to be cut back and to ask for information regarding instating 20mph through the village. 	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>EPC132/13 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising (Safeguarding Policy attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bollards. EFM Surfacing Contractors is no longer in business, Abbey surfacing will carry out the same work. (7 bollards and 1 safety barrier for £2,002.50) Contractor recommended hardwood (oak) posts as they require less maintenance. Cllr Owen to arrange date with contractor. • Dog Bin. Decision – Dog bin to be located on 'no through road' sign at The Street-School Lane junction. Cllr Owen to liaise with SCDC. The donation received from the Hunt Kennels to be used to pay for the bin. • Safeguarding Policy. Easton PCC have a safeguarding policy in place. Decision – To accept safeguarding policy produced by the Clerk. Proposer Cllr Smith, Seconder Cllr Owen. • Standing Orders. NALC have sent a new model of Standing Orders. Discussion occurred whether all the orders would be relevant to a council the size of Easton. Decision - Cllr Owen to alter in line with changes made to last model and circulate to Councillors in due course. 	<p>Cllr Owen Cllr Owen Cllr Owen</p>
<p>EPC133/13 Finance (See attached reports)</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 30th October 2013 was £17,232.97 2. Authorisation of payments – Decision - Payments totalling £1,569.16 were authorised. Proposer Cllr Coney, Seconder Cllr Boon. 3. Annual Return and Issues Arising Report – The Clerk read the External Auditors Annual Return and Issues Arising reports. The action plan to address the issues arising is to carry out the council's internal control, including risk assessment, each February and to have it minuted at the March meeting. In regard to the issue over minutes the Clerk will scan the signed or initialled pages of minutes whenever she is sending them to an outside body and the clerk will consecutively number the pages commencing from January 2013. Decision - The Annual return was approved and accepted by the council. Proposer Cllr Owen, Seconder Cllr Coney. 4. 2014-2015 Budget – The Clerk circulated a draft budget for council's consideration. (The Clerk left the meeting whilst her salary and other administration costs were considered.) Points noted and discussed were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerks Salary and other administration costs • The cost of maintaining the play area • Cemetery grass cutting, Council will need to find more resources (voluntary &/or financially) to ensure that the cemetery continues to be maintained at a suitable standard • Donations to charity, requests received from Home-Start, CAB, British Red Cross. Decision – to try to budget £50 to spend on charitable donations. • Areas to consider reducing the budget for included Training, Maintenance of village areas (green, car park, cemetery, play area), Room Hire, Chairman's allowance and General Reserves. Decision – To advertise for a local grass cutter via the parish magazine. Clerk to obtain invoice from play area grass cutter. Cuts to play area to be 'signed off' by a council representative. Cllr Owen and Clerk to re work budget considering the above points. 5. All risks insurance items. Decision - Council to alter its all risks so that expensive items (>£500) to be insured at replacement cost rather than purchase price. Clerk to obtain replacement costings. 	<p>Clerk Clerk Cllr Owen & Clerk Clerk</p>
<p>EPC134/13 Planning Matters Council considered 2 Tree Works applications. (Cllr McEvoy left the meeting for the 1st tree works application only.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DC/13/3212/TCA. To crown reduce by 30-40% 3no. Willow trees for safety reasons to reduce the risk of wind damage at Wall View, The Street, Easton. Decision – Council found no reason to refuse the application. 2. DC/13/3148/TCA. To repollard 2no. Willows to original pollard height for safety reasons at The Stables, The Street, Easton. Decision – Council found no reason to refuse the 	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>application.</p> <p>The following planning decisions were received:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> C13/1225. Easton Grange, Kettleburgh Road, Easton. Erection of new footbridge over the River Deben to be used in conjunction with the Easton Grange Wedding Venue. Permission Granted. C13/2363/LBC. 2 Verandah Cottages, The Street, Easton. Various proposed alterations both internal and external as well as retention of works already carried out without consent. Permission Granted. 	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>EPC135/13 Christmas Tree Cllr Kerr to provide the clerk with contact details regarding a possible source for a Christmas Tree for the Village Green.</p>	<p>Cllr Kerr</p>
<p>EPC136/13 Clerk's Report on Urgent Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly Tipping. Garden waste had been left by the side of the 5 bridges foot path in both Easton and Letheringham parish. Following discussion with Letheringham Parish Council Clerk and Cllr Owen, as Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator and EPC Chairman, it was decided that information should be provided to the residents of Easton via the parish magazine regarding this illegal activity. Dog Bin. The post to which the dog bin at the end of 5 bridges footpath was attached has been removed by SCC. For hygiene reasons SCDC then removed the dog bin, it will be replaced once the new footpath sign has been replaced by SCC. 	
<p>EPC137/13 Officer's and Representatives Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Boon informed the meeting that he now had the round yellow way markers for footpaths and if anyone informed him of missing/damaged ones he would arrange replacement. Cllr Smith has found replacement goal nets for the play at £25 each. Decision – Council to purchase 2 nets using play area ear-marked funds. 	<p>Cllr Smith</p>
<p>EPC138/13 Correspondence Some items of correspondence were covered earlier in the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sax/Fram SNT meeting. The Clerk became aware of this meeting when she was sent the minutes. Cllr Owen to attend the next meeting in January. 	<p>Cllr Owen</p>
<p>EPC139/13 Matters for the next meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Litter pick (January 2014 meeting, date of litter pick March/April 2014) Highways – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking in The Street, (including information from PCSO Hassler) Review of SLOW markings at Pound Corner, 20mph speed limit. Mobile Police Station Review Emergency Policy (including considering the vulnerable people list and putting the policy on the website) Hopkins and Moore Development 	
<p>EPC140/13 Dates of Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date of the next EPC meeting is Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 7:15pm. Further EPC meetings will be held on Tuesday 4th March 2014 at 7.15pm and Tuesday 3rd June 2014 at 7.15pm (Annual Parish Council Meeting following the election on Thursday 22nd May 2014.) The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm. 	
<p><i>Meeting closed at 9.35pm approx.</i></p>	
<p>Chairman: Date:</p>	