

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held at Easton and Letheringham Village Hall at 7:15pm
on Tuesday 1st July 2014.

Present: Cllr Owen (Chair) Cllr Gibbon Cllr Smith Cllr Boon Cllr Coney Cllr Kerr Cllr Hollins	In Attendance: John Lavery (<i>Clerk</i>) SCDC Cllr Snell PCSO Hassler 1 resident	Apologies SCC Cllr Bellfield
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EPC088/14 Chairman's Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
EPC089/14 Public Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No member of the Public wished to speak 	
EPC090/14 To Receive Apologies Cllr Bellfield sent apologies via e-mail.	
EPC091/14 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning item DC/14/1448/FUL 	
EPC092/14 To Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th May 2014 and the Finance meeting held on 14th June 2014 Both sets of minutes were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record. Proposer Cllr Coney, Seconder Cllr Hollins.	
<i>Meeting adjourned for the District and County Cllr's Reports and Police Report.</i>	
EPC093/14 District Cllr Bob Snell's Report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning. In February, the Secretary of State dismissed NANT's (No Adastral New Town) legal action Suffolk Coastal District Council's Core Strategy. On 16 June the Court of Appeal refused NANT's request for leave to submit a written appeal, saying that they had no reasonable chance of success. In order to delay the process further, NANT have now requested an oral hearing, which, at SCDC's request, has been fast tracked for hearing on 30 July. 2. Boundary Committee review. We are still waiting for the final decision from the Boundary Committee on the future shape of Suffolk Coastal's ward boundaries. 3. SCDC HQ office The Council's review of its headquarters office requirements is expected to result in a confidential recommendation to Cabinet on 14 July and to full Council on 27th. 4. Localism. Suffolk Coastal's Community Enabling fund provides each District Councillor with £4,000 for approved grant purposes in 2014/5. I was able to support the new facilities at the Bowls Club with a small grant from last year's fund. 5. Draft Easton Conservation Area Appraisal Out for consultation until 12 Sept 2014 and, when complete, will replace the 1999 version. I will be making my comments, so it would be helpful to receive those from the PC whenever they are ready. 	

6. Benefit Fraud

In a case brought by SCDC a former Martlesham Heath woman was given an 18-month suspended prison sentence for defrauding various authorities out of £140K benefits over a ten-year period.

7. New Chairman of SCDC – your ward member! I was pleased to represent the Council at the greeting of HRH Prince Harry at the recent Suffolk Show, which benefited greatly from his attendance. I am no longer Chairman of the Planning Committees, but will continue to sit as a member of the North area sub-committee.

EPC094/14 PCSO Christian Hassler reported

CRIME UPDATE

There has been 1 reported crime from 1st May 2014 to 30th June 2014

1 x Burglary- other building with intent 12 / 06 / 2014 Undetected

The next SNT public priority setting meeting will be held at Framlingham Police Station on Wednesday the 9th of July 2014 at 2pm.

Saxmundham Road
Framlingham
IP13 9DB

All are welcome to attend

EPC095/14 County Cllr Peter Bellfield reported

Please give my apologies to your meetings this week.

I am glad to say that I have more or less recovered from my two visits to hospital, but I am now having chemotherapy. Because of this I am advised to keep away from infection. However I do hope to continue to be able to assist you with any dealing you may have with the County Council from home. Do not hesitate to contact me and while this may not be a return to 'normal service' I will do all I can in the meantime.

As far as the council is concerned the leader, Mark Bee, has set out the priorities for the future, namely education, roads and supporting the vulnerable. This means that we will keep a sharp focus on the services that matter to the people of Suffolk even in these tough financial times.

Most of the Urban Traffic Management Control system in Ipswich should be switched on shortly and ease traffic flow around the town, I hope!!!!

The County Council has been awarded a silver medal at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2014. This is in recognition of the work done by the council to improve the safety, health and wellbeing of its staff, service users and the people of Suffolk.

As far as I am concerned, as Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee, I have been involved with press in the debate regarding the pension fund holding shares in tobacco stocks and this is to be debated at the next Council meeting. However the decision on investment strategy rests with the Pension Fund Committee and not the Council, but no doubt we will be looking into the matter

May I say again how sorry I am not to have been on top of all things regarding my responsibilities as your councillor, but please contact me for anything that you may require.

EPC096/14 Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Nearly everything I would have referred to in this report is already being covered on the Agenda

Weekly Summary

I will be implementing this starting from this meeting. I have been giving some thought to how I'm going to approach it. It may not always be possible to avoid sending round some e-mails as the information can be in the body of the e-mail rather, than being available at the end of a link.

Asset register

I have spoken to our insurers re the asset register. The cover we currently have doesn't quite match what's on the Insurance Policy. They are coming back to us with a quote if we need any adjustment to the cover. Although the value for Audit purposes of the assets doesn't nominally increase the replacement value does. The insurers are able to index-link the Policy to cover for inflation if Councillors feel this is adequate. The alternative is to have the assets fully re-valued on a replacement basis.

ACTION

Index –link the Asset Insurance on renewal. Assets were valued fairly recently.

Clerk**EPC097/14 Finance****Finance Report**

Balance at the end of April £14,773-92

Receipts in May - June 2014:

Precept £3,550-00

Cemetery £25-00

Interest £1-49

Sub Total £18,350-41

Payments in May - June 2014:

SALC £158-00

Nelson Potter/ John Rook £47-56

Sub Total £18,144-85

Payments to be approved at this meeting

SCL Landscape Management £80-40 (For grass cutting in May)

Clerk's Pay for June / July 2014. £306-28

SALC Training for A Hollins £129-60

Usable Balance after the meeting £17,628-57

Payments

The payments shown above were unanimously approved and Cheques signed accordingly

EPC098/14 Planning Matters

- To consider the following planning application(s)
- N.B. Written objections have been received relating to application DC/14/1448/FUL

Application No.	Location	Proposal
DC/14/1448/FUL	Martley Hall, Framlingham Road, Easton	Erection of storage building. For use in association with adjacent stud farm. <i>Rejected: Councillors felt that the changes from the previous application DC/13/2155/FUL were minimal and therefore rejected the application for the same reasons as the previous one.</i>
DC/14/1504/FUL & DC/14/1511/FUL	1 Lowbarn Cottages, The Street, Easton.	Single-storey rear extension. <i>No Objection: Councillors noted that this extension might restrict natural light to the middle cottage.</i>
DC/14/1626/FUL	The Old Kennels, Framlingham Road, Easton.	New two-bay Cart Shed <i>No Objection:</i>

Clerk to inform Planning dept of Council's decisions

EPC099/14 Cemetery Maintenance

More Volunteers are needed for Cemetery maintenance. A number of individuals had been contacted to form a working party but hadn't yet confirmed that they'd be available. Cllr Owen had been co-ordinating some of this activity and wanted to point out that he wasn't the 'Custodian of the Cemetery'. The issue of insurance for volunteers was also raised in relation to accidents to volunteers or damage inadvertently caused by them. The Clerk will follow this up initially with SALC. Cllr Owen thought that we should consider whether this work should be handed to a Contractor. This may need to be looked into if insuring Volunteers proves difficult.

Clerk

EPC100/14 Cemetery – Painting of Headstones

Someone has painted two headstones and tried to paint black lettering in an attempt to make the writing more legible. Unfortunately the end result is unsightly. This matter needs to be handled with sensitivity as the person who did the painting is probably a relative of the deceased. This comes under various clauses of national and local regulation. The headstones are now effectively an unauthorised memorial which could theoretically be removed by the Parish Council. Council wants initially to contact the relatives and asked the Clerk to go through the Cemetery records to see what is known of them. In the mean time a small notice will be prepared and placed by the Graves to ask if the owners can contact the parish Clerk re 'maintenance' of these memorials. The Clerk is to send appropriate wording to Clare Owen who will prepare a sign.

Clerk

Clerk

EPC101/14 Cemetery – Burial Costs

Easton Cemetery's prices are now considerably below comparable Burial sites in the area. It is therefore possible we might suffer from too much demand for places. The Council felt that all prices apart from Registration Fees should rise to the level of comparable Parish Council Cemeteries. Cllr Owen will discuss pricing with Local Undertakers and other outside bodies to get a feel for the correct pricing levels.

Cllr Owen

<p>EPC102/14 Proposals for the Generation of Electricity in the Parish EPC has received an invitation to produce a proposal for the generation of electricity in the Parish. After consideration, including the cost of producing the proposal the Councillors decided to keep a watching brief but not to produce a proposal at this stage.</p>	
<p>EPC103/14 To consider joining (or creating) a Speedwatch Group Easton appears to be close to being able to become involved in the Speedwatch scheme. In order to progress this further the Clerk was asked to a.) Confirm the number of volunteers available. b.) Arrange a needs assessment with the Police c.) See if Hatcheson or other neighbouring Parishes might be interested in sharing costs and volunteers. To this end the Clerk was asked to liaise with Christian Hassler to gauge activity and willingness to engage in joint working locally.</p>	Clerk
<p>EPC104/14 Freedom of Information costs Cllr Smith has produced a comprehensive table of Freedom of Information charges. After discussion it was decided to adopt this for use if/when FOI requests are made.</p>	
<p>EPC105/14 Improved Broadband Update Cllr Owen believes that Ric Ackland-Snow may know what is happening regarding the local roll out of Broadband. He will follow this up and report back</p>	Cllr Owen
<p>EPC106/14 Clerk's Report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting Nothing new to report that hasn't been covered in this or recent meetings</p>	
<p>EPC107/14 Officer's and Representative's Reports There weren't any reports</p>	
<p>EPC108/14 Correspondence (for information) We received a reply from the Chair of Easton Harriers Hunt regarding dog fouling. In order that they can follow the law more closely the kennel hands will now have Poop-Scoops with them, whenever the pack is walked.</p>	
<p>EPC109/14 Easton School – Planning Queries from the Headmistress The Headmistress had contacted the Clerk regarding the Hopkins Homes development proposal which includes car parking for the school. She wanted to know why the Council had objected to the scheme. The Clerk had sent her a copy of the letter that EPC had sent objecting to the development. The Chair felt that as this is an important issue for the Community that he was prepared to meet the Headmistress out of courtesy to explain the Council's thinking on this issue. There were some concerns that meeting her could compromise the Council and the decision-making process. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek advice from SALC to ensure that any meeting was legal and would not compromise the Council, or any of its members or officers.</p>	Clerk
<p>EPC110/14 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council for the next meeting. The draft Easton Conservation Area Appraisal will be added to the next agenda</p>	
<p>EPC054/14 Dates of Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th September 2014 at 7.30pm. • The following Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th November 2014 at 7:15pm. 	
<p><i>Meeting closed at 9.00pm approx.</i></p>	
<p>Chairman: Date:</p>	