

Easton Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting of
Monday 8th June 2015
At the Village Hall, Marlingford Rd, Easton

Present: Mrs Linda Ford, Chairman, Mr Peter Milliken, Vice-Chairman, Mr Jonathan Bailey, Mrs Clare Chisholm, Mrs Margaret Hart and Mr Michael Jobling.

In attendance: Mrs Diana Dring (Locum Clerk)

Members of the public: 27

The meeting was delayed due to the extended Parish Meeting and started at 8.35pm

1. To approve the appointment of a locum clerk following the resignation of the Parish Clerk

Agreed Diana Dring taken on as locum clerk to provide support for meetings but Peter Milliken will remain main contact for public and correspondence.

2. To accept apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr Dennis Barrow who had to leave prior to the start of the meeting as he was unwell

3. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and any requests for dispensation

All the members present except for the Chairman declared an interest in the item 8 as members of the Easton Matters group (previously Easton Against Development group) objecting to the planning application for 907 homes.

Linda declared an interest as Chair of the Humpty Dumpty playgroup.

4. To adjourn the meeting for public participation and reports from the Police and District Councillor, Margaret Dewsbury

A member of the public requested that the 'Easton against 907' notices around the village should be taken down as they would put prospective house buyers off. Margaret said she would do what she could. Discussed followed about changing the wording of the notices. Complaint about overgrown weeds and nettles on St Peters path.

Margaret Dewsbury gave an update on the approval of Northern Distributor Route, which would start following completion of a further 6 week response period. She said the County Council had a new policy, Norfolk Re-imagined, which would look at ways of reducing expenditure by a further 20%. Margaret would be attending a meeting regarding the bus services and she would report back the outcome.

Peter commented that he had received a complaint about a flag flying in a garden, which he advised was a matter for South Norfolk Council and should be taken up by them.

5. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of 11th May 2015
Minutes approved

6. Report of matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda, for information only

Linda reported issues around the bus stop with littering and overgrown vegetation around bus shelter which obscuring view of passengers and bus drivers (bus has gone past). The seat at Bawburgh Rd/Hall Rd had been pulled out of the ground and thrown in hedge, a witness had seen some young people damaging the seat. It was suggested the council may need to approach the college to discuss both matters. Council to consider appropriate action.

7. Planning applications, decisions and other planning matters

Notification had been received that planning application 2014/0960, at 8 Marlingford Way for minor alterations had been approved.

Peter commented that the planning application for an extension to Premier Inn, on the boundary of Easton, would be close to the path crossing the A47 to Longwater and the Council would need to consult with Costessey Parish Council to make a joint comment. Peter to follow-up with Costessey.

8. To consider a report from members who attended the South Norfolk Council Planning Committee meeting of 2 June 2015 and agree any further action

Peter gave a report of the recent South Norfolk Council (SNC) Planning Committee meeting, concerning the application for 905 houses, which he and other members had attended and he had spoken against the application. He said that every legal challenge he had made was trumped by the emerging policy EAS1. The application was approved on a majority vote of 7 votes for to 3 against.

Although a decision had been made Peter said there were still many hurdles to get over, one being the footpath over the A47, which was to be widened to 1.8 metres. Costessey Parish Council had viewed this to be dangerous and inadequate. SNC had confirmed that no Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding gained from housing development would go towards improving the A47 junction.

Peter advised that there was a possibility of reducing the number of houses on the Easton development on the grounds that the inspector had been given misleading information about the existing size of the village. Peter would look into this and report back.

Linda commented that Easton would have the opportunity to influence future planning through the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and that having a such a document would put the Parish Council in a stronger position.

9. Neighbourhood Plan Terms of Reference and formation of the Steering Group.

Jonathan outlined the background and purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan and that an application had been sent to South Norfolk Council to designate the parish boundary as a

Neighbourhood Plan area. This was out to consultation and confirmation was expected shortly.

Jonathan advised that the plan captures information from the village and the council would look to form a Steering Group of 12 members comprising councillors and community volunteers. He asked members of the public to show their interest in joining the Steering Group and names were duly noted.

Jonathan proposed the Parish Council adopted the draft Terms of Reference, which had been circulated to members. The proposal was seconded by Margaret and adoption agreed unanimously.

10. Report of various village matters including issues concerning highways, flooding and bus shelters, and to agree any further action

Linda gave a report of progress on various ongoing village issues;

- i) **Graffiti on the bus shelter on Dereham Rd**
Peter reported that the graffiti had proved difficult to deal with, particularly as water gathered at the back of the shelter. He advised that the council should get cost quotations for the cost of the removal of the graffiti and resolving the flooding.
- ii) **Hall Rd flooding**
The flooding at Hall Road was still under investigation with the highways department to establish who owned the land, a report was expected soon.
- iii) **The resurfacing of the approach road to the A47 roundabout had not been carried out since Highways had been contacted in March, a reminder would be sent.**
- iv) **College Heights- agreed Margaret and Mike to look into issues and propose course of action to be agreed at the next meeting**

11. Progress reports and further action required relating to Social Media

i) Parish Council website

Peter had attended a training course on creating a new Parish Council website, which he would be working on and, in due course this would be passed over to the new Parish Clerk to manage. He commented that the new website was not mobile friendly and that he would be working on that.

ii) Facebook

Clare had been managing the PC Facebook page and feedback some of the comments regarding the date of meetings, public access to councillors through drop in clinics, providing more info about clubs and societies, showground parking info and filming meetings.

It was agreed on the proposal of Peter, second by Margaret, that the council should hold drop in sessions on a Saturday morning on a 6 month trial, subject to availability of the village hall.

12. Accounts

i) Approval of payments for May/June 2015

The Council was unable to make payments as new bank signatories had not been set up, so payments would have to be delayed until this had been arranged. It was suggested

that previous councillors who were still on the bank mandate could sign with the authority of the council but the Clerk was doubtful and advised waiting.

ii) To note the bank reconciliation for the month

No bank reconciliation was available

13. Correspondence received

None notified

14. Agenda items for the next Parish Council meeting is on 13th July 2015

New footpath crossing point, Neighbourhood Plan, disposal of parish land, Jubilee Playing Field equipment.

15. Resolution to exclude Press and the Public in order to discuss matters where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature under the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, that is staffing matters.

The resolution was approved on the proposal of Mike, seconded by Jonathan. The remaining public left the meeting.

16. Staffing Matters

i) To consider the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk

Agreed to put an advertisement in with Norfolk Association of Local Councils, Locum Clerk to draw up and agree job description based on NALC model. Hope to appoint new Clerk by September.

ii) To consider the storage of Parish Council documents and files during the interim period.

Agreed to ask Village Hall Committee if it would be possible to store documents in their storage room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm