

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2016
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Ford (Chair) (LF), Milliken (Vice Chair) (PM), Caton (MC), Chisholm (CC) and Jobling (MJ).

LF opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Jonathan Bailey

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

LF is an allotment holder.

The meeting was suspended at 7.31pm for public participation.

3. **Adjournment for public participation**

- One of the gate hinges at College Heights play area has broken. MJ to action.

4. **To receive reports from:**

District & County Councillor, Margaret Dewsbury. MD has given information to PM on defibrillator funding. MD gave her report: 2% increase to council tax for Adult Care Services. Police and other areas may increase. No further news on food hub. Meeting with Highways and district councillors coming up to discuss road.

Meeting opened at 7.37pm

5. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 14th December 2015**

- To add quote from former PC Margaret Hart re Jubilee playing field gate
- Change JB to MJ for approaching school re bus shelter painting
- Change Anglia Water to Anglian Windows

6. **To report matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda, for information only**

- Allotment: PM met with Chris Raine to discuss wish list. Some points such as toilet block need to be considered and another meeting will be held to go through specifics and add into 106 agreement.
- LF has contacted SN about the Bristol planning investigators inspection and subsequent ruling in the 1990's re contaminated land on Marlingford Road but they appear to have no records and no one working there now who has any knowledge of the matter.
MC and PM will try to get more accurate dates and then approach SNDC again.
- Asbestos – SNDC environmental department relayed that asbestos can be easily removed by specialist companies.
- Bus shelter – MC will drill holes at back for drainage. MJ has approached school and they are very keen and will provide sketches of designs.

7. **To make recommendations on planning applications, note decisions and other planning matters**

- No new applications received
- 2014/2611 amended application. Amendment postponed to February 3rd but as they are still awaiting replies from some statutory bodies there may be further delays.
- PC has submitted comments and objections
- Sport England were never consulted as a statutory body and are now disputing the validity of initial planning application approval. They are liaising with SNDC.
- PC still negotiating with consortium on parish council land inclusion.

8. **To update (where available) about the following ongoing issues:**

- Neighbourhood Plan – report from Cllr J. Bailey (read by PM in JB's absence).
Next NPJG - 21st January at 7.15pm in Village Hall.
Next community workshop – 30th January 2-5pm in Village Hall.
Newsletters will be circulated by 30th January.

- Food Hub – no news

9. To receive progress reports and agree any further action required regarding:

- Parish allotments

Report received under item 6. Renewal letters need to be sent. Discussed content - a draft has been done. Proposed MJ. Seconded MC (all in favour) of not renewing allotments for those not used for 2 years. Warning letters will be sent x 2 for unkempt plots before removing plot.

- Defibrillator – BHF funding application turned down as money no longer available. British Heart Foundation (BHF) still hope to have more funds shortly but may need to restart application. Have banked further £545 for defib fund. Thank you to Diocese House and all other contributors. MJ has approached Anglian Windows – they will donate £100 to an event being organised for defib fundraising. LF approached Tesco but we do not fall into their catchment area. Margaret Hart is still trying to contact BMW.
- Jubilee playing field – hedgerow maintenance to go ahead
Netting over MUGA to prevent damage from errant balls. CC to investigate.

10. To update progress towards receiving quotes for grounds maintenance and grass cutting within the Parish

MJ has received quotations from 3 contractors only. One particularly looks promising so MJ will contact their references. Subject to checks and assessment happy to go ahead. PM proposed. MC seconded. All in favour.

11. Accounts

iii) Precepts – suggested increase budget in 2016/17 due to neighbourhood plan and increased grounds maintenance.

SNDC suggest PC's increase council tax to cover reduced council grants. Suggested increase of 25%.

PM feels 25% too much increase in one year due to other predicted increases from SNDC. Discussed particulars and compared 2015/16 and proposed 2016/17 precepts.

CC proposed increase by 10%. 4:1 in favour (PM against). MJ seconded.

i) budget update - as per precepts

ii) approve payments – all agreed

12. To adopt Casual Vacancy policy

PM gave details of policy proposed for adoption. PM proposed. MC seconded. All in favour.

No election has been called therefore advert for a PC will now be placed on the board. Applications to LF with CV and reasons want to be a PC by Monday 1st February.

13. To receive update on Monday 21st December meeting with Easton land owners consortium with regard to parish land on Dereham Road

The new PC proposal on Dereham Road land sale was put forward at the meeting and received favourably although safeguards to guarantee future sale of land would be desired. Discussion followed as to the possibility of putting such safeguards into the final contract and it was decided that the PC would need to seek legal advice on this as an option. . PM requested that specialist legal advice should be sought.

CC queried timescale for decision. LF said the PC needed to wait for the outcome of the consortium meeting in late January and the planning committee meeting in February so PC might possibly need to make a decision within the next two months.

14. To consider correspondence received and agree a response or other action

John Whitcombe – has incurred postal expenses for PC

15. Agenda items for the next Parish Council meeting

- Updates on all agenda items discussed
- Policies
- Presence of dog faeces on village path
- New dates for PC meetings

16. Dates to Note:

Steering Group meeting 21st January 7.15pm
Councillor drop in and NP workshop 30th January 2-5pm
Next PC meeting 8th February

Meeting closed.