

**Minutes of the Meeting of Easton Parish Council held on  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm in Easton Village Hall.**

**Present:** Peter Milliken (Chairman)  
Mark Caton  
Clare Chisholm  
Mark Cordy  
Jan Hudson  
Catherine Moore, Locum Clerk

**Also present:** District and County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury and 15 members of the public were also in attendance.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Bailey and Mike Jobling.

**2. Declarations of interest for items on the agenda and applications for dispensations**

None.

**3. Presentation from Highways England**

The Chairman welcomed Dave Masters, Senior Project Manager; Romeo Reuter, Project Manager; Bea Narengen, Property Acquisition; and Zack Iveny, Mott MacDonald to the meeting.

The Highways England (HE) representatives noted that the plans for the re-routing of the A47 were on the website, and highlighted key points on the printed plans on display. He noted that the junctions were their first attempt, and that he was keen to gain local knowledge to help plan these. It was suggested by councillors that roundabouts formed pinch points and would not improve journey times. HE had a finite budget for the scheme which was costing over £100M, and that they were working to a short timescale. Detailed designs would be drawn and the statutory consultation would begin in Spring 2018.

The danger of the existing Easton roundabout was highlighted as a key concern, and it was not felt that this had been acknowledged by the designers. In response, HE noted that they were developing a traffic model to understand this issue. Traffic projections were made to 2036, and included approved and potential developments.

The potential 3,900 houses at Honingham Thorpe were highlighted. There was a need to alleviate rat running, and HE were aware of these issues. The scope of the project was to dual North Tuddenham to Easton, and a number of factors had to be balanced including finance, environmental impact and local feedback. The side road strategy needed to be defined. The preferred route had been announced and further designs would be brought back for public consultation. Informal feedback to help the design process was being requested now. The issue of severance was being explored.

It was noted that there was data showing that Easton roundabout was not fit for purpose. HE acknowledged that they were working to resolve this. If removing the roundabout was financially viable and dealt with the severance, then it could be done. Easton Parish Council was a key stakeholder. These comments would be taken away and discussed with Amey and Mott MacDonald.

Discussions were underway with Norfolk County Council about the Northern Distributor Road 'missing link'. It was known roughly where the corridor was between Honingham and Easton, however it was all open for discussion. HE would be attending a meeting with NCC, however it was not possible to put in a junction which would predicate

choice.

Concern was expressed about the Wood Lane HGV route. This had been acknowledged and moved. It was suggested that the Blind Lane entrance, around the Food hub, should have access closed off so traffic could only go one way.

It was suggested that the Easton Roundabout could not be improved and needed to be moved west, however the main problem was the wide visual splay from the main road.

It was impossible to turn right during rush hour and traffic needed to be slowed down.

The Chairman opened the meeting to comments from the public.

- It was noted that bridges were expensive, however it was impossible to get onto Dereham Road.
- Margaret Dewsbury noted that she had been told there would be a separate public consultation about the Easton roundabout, which had not happened. NCC were keen to deal with the problems of that roundabout.
- The Mattishall roundabout gave a local road priority over the A47. The access to Easton could affect the speed of the dual carriageway traffic and would not help with improving journey times.
- Concern was raised about design criteria for roundabouts, noting that the Easton roundabout had been designed with no impediment, which was fine for equally matched situations.
- A question was asked regarding grade separated junctions, which were expensive. It was confirmed that if a strong business case was put, more money could be requested for the project but was not guaranteed.
- A suggestion was made that controllable traffic lights could be used. In response, HE felt that this could destroy the economic case as it would create delays and impede the free flow of traffic. It was suggested that these would not be suitable for Easton.
- Concern was expressed that the new road would cut in front of Honingham Church, and HE were asked how the new A47 would meet the old one without a flyover? It was acknowledged that this was a problem area with no solution at present. The church was Grade 2\* listed, and a site visit would be needed to explore noise attenuation issues.
- Disappointment was expressed that HE had not given a more coherent description of the scheme, noting that more questions had been raised. It was felt that HE should put forward their technical expertise to bring solutions, rather than asking lay people to solve the problems. HE agreed that they would bring back further proposals, and ask their designers to attend as well. They were engaging the parish councils at earlier stages, and agreed to bring a further formal update to the October meeting.
- It was confirmed that the design process included lots of surveys including ground conditions and topographical, all of which would be used to ensure that noise was minimised.
- It was confirmed that all people who would be adversely impacted by the road had been contacted. Very complicated criteria applied to this.
- It was suggested that the Taverham Road junction leading to the roundabout was highly dangerous and notorious shortcut. It was suggested that the road could go under the existing, with a height and width restriction.
- The Chairman suggested that a suitable solution for Easton would be to move the junction to join the A47 closer to the Food Hub, using the church end for westbound traffic, and using the Longwater junction for eastbound. It was suggested that the Food Hub should be set up so that traffic could only use the A47.

The Chairman thanked the Highways England representatives for their attendance.

*13 members of the public left the meeting.*

**4. Presentation from Dong Energy**

Not present.

**5. Adjournment for Public Participation**

*The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to speak.*

The Fabric Officer of St Peters Church addressed the meeting, reporting that land had been taken east of the church and consecrated for burial ground. The scheme would need some landscaping, hedge cutting, ploughing and re-seeding, and tree planting. Norfolk Wildlife Trust had been to the site and would do a flora and fauna report.

There were no indications of cost or timescale, and the church was looking at around 12 months before any scheme began. In response, the Chairman noted that the Council would need firm costs to be able to consider this for the precept, and that CIL money was 5 to 10 years away from being received. He suggested that figures should be received by mid-November. He also noted that glebe land was being sold, and that the diocese should be giving some of the money to the PCC.

A member of the public asked whether a round of grass cutting had been missed. The section from College Heights to the field was too high and had got bad. It was **agreed** that Mark Cordy would contact the contractor to discuss.

**MC**

A member of the public asked how accurate the SAM2 machine was. It was confirmed that speedometers on cars were slightly under-calibrated, and that the SAM2 used lasers to measure speed. The battery also needed time to settle down whenever it was changed.

A member of the public raised concern about noise at the Sundown Festival. The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to Silver Command on the evening in question, and that the problems were being investigated. Police cones had been removed without authorisation, and the sound management had not worked. The Festival organisers were not taking responsibility, and the licenses times had over-run. The sound went on until 11pm on the Sunday night. There were problems with litter from the site as well. It was hoped that the situation would be improved for Reload, however there would be more of a parking issue then.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

**6. Minutes of the meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 were **agreed** as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed by Mark Caton, seconded by Jan Hudson, all in favour.

**7. Reports**

**i) District and County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury**

Margaret reported that she had been involved in the A47 discussions, and the Sundown problems. Margaret noted that she was surprised to hear from HE that they had been discussing the A47/Western Link plans, as councillors had not been involved in this. She would take this up with officers.

**8. Planning Application 2017/1842**

The Chairman reported that the application dealt with increasing the size of the office space at the school, and removing the waiting area. He raised a query about where additional parking would be located if the number of staff increased. It was **agreed** to support the application subject to confirmation of the parking arrangements.

**9. Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

**10. Updates on ongoing issues**

**i) Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman reported that the referendum had taken place and the Neighbourhood Plan had been agreed with 96% voting in favour, and a 35% turnout. He thanked all those involved in the process for their hard work and support. The document was now 'made' with all policies being legally in place. He noted that the skills and knowledge within the Steering Group should be utilised into some form of Planning Committee for larger applications. It was **agreed** that this would appear on the next agenda.

**Clerk**

**ii) Food Hub**

Nothing new to report. An appeal had been lodged with the Information Commissioner complaining that the Secretary of State was not releasing the reasoning for the decision made.

**11. Progress reports**

**i) Parish Allotments**

Nothing new to report.

**ii) College Heights**

The grass cutting issues had been discussed, and excuses would not be accepted.

**iii) Planning Application 2014/2611**

Nothing new to report.

**12. Update on Grounds Maintenance and Grass Cutting**

This matter had been passed to Mark to deal with. Although the weather had not been great, the area was looking a mess. The thorns needed cutting back on the Jubilee Playing Field.

**MC**

**13. Finance**

**i) Payments for September 2017**

It was noted that payments had been signed off at the Finance meeting.

**ii) Minutes of the Finance Meeting**

Mark Caton reported that he was now a signatory on the accounts, although the information requested from Barclays had not been forthcoming. The Annual Return had come back, with a good report. Some notes had been made about fixed assets. The cradle swing had been removed from the play area at Jubilee Park, and replacement would be £115 plus VAT and delivery. The Clerk had booked on play area inspection training, and Mr Harrowven had handed in his notice following a request to attend training. The SAM2 data had been taken off the machine and was being analysed. The average speed was 44mph, with over 4,000 vehicles speeding in a week. The machine had been turned to face the other way. This would help inform

the Police of the times that they should be carrying out speed monitoring. Some high viz vests would need to be purchased for the safety of those working on the SAM2. It was **agreed** to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee, proposed by Mark Caton, seconded by Jan Hudson, all in favour.

Clerk

**14. Updates**

**i) Training**

Jan Hudson and Mark Caton to attend Chairmanship training. Jan Hudson to attend basic training.

**ii) Awards for All**

Defer to next meeting.

**iii) Parish Partnership Scheme**

It was suggested that a bus shelter could be provided on Dereham Road, cantilever with no sides and with perch seating. Mark Cordy would look at prices and viability, and check whether planning permission was required.

MC

**iv) The Grapevine**

It was **agreed** that Peter Milliken would write this in the absence of the Clerk.

PM

**v) Defibrillator Training**

Defer to next meeting.

**15. Highways England Multi-Council Meeting**

A parishes meeting was scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> September, and councillors from Easton were encouraged to attend. This would take place at Hockering Village Hall.

**16. Western Link Consultation**

A meeting was scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> September, with Peter Milliken attending.

**17. Public Participation**

*The meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to speak.*

Margaret Dewsbury asked whether the proposed Planning Committee would be open to the public, noting that the public would need to know where to put their views. It was confirmed that decisions could only be made in public meetings.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

**18. Correspondence**

None.

**19. Outstanding Issues**

None.

**20. Items for next month's agenda**

None.

It was noted that the sensor on the lamppost in Dereham Road related to the music festivals.

It was noted that there had been a white powder incident, this was felt to the youths being childish.

**21. Any Other Business**

None.

**22. Dates to Note**

- Finance Committee Meeting Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 7.30pm.
- Parish Council Meeting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 7.30pm.

**23. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

It was **resolved** to exclude the press and public for the duration of item 24 on the agenda, as matters related to contractual negotiations, proposed by Peter Milliken, seconded by Jan Hudson, all in favour.

**24. Land on Dereham Road**

Land at Dereham Road was discussed, and it was **agreed** that a further meeting would take place.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**CHAIRMAN**