

Easton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Easton Parish Council held at
Easton Village Hall, Marlingford Road, Easton on
Monday 3rd February 2020 at 7.30pm

1. Chairs welcome	Action
Present Peter Milliken PM	Mike Jobling MJ
Jan Hudson JH	Mike Bowman MB
Mark Caton MCa	Mark Cordy MCo
David Lewis DL	Gillian Landles GL
Francis Woodcock - clerk FW	

There were 3 members of the public attending plus DC/CC Margaret Dewsbury

2. There were no apologies for absence
3. There were no declarations of interest
4. The minutes of the meeting of 6th January were approved – proposed MCa, seconded JH, all in favour.

5. *Adjournment for public participation*

A question was raised on how long it would take for the verges on Church Lane by the FEP to be finished, and the speed signs to go up. It was thought that the road contractors would arrive within the next few weeks and a SAM2 machine would be redeployed along the road soon after this.

6. **Feedback : Persimmon Development**

PM reported back from a meeting of 24th January 2020 at South Norfolk Offices held with representatives of the SNC Planning dept and Persimmon. A number of issues over aspects of the design that had raised cause for concern were discussed at the meeting. These issues were reinforced in further correspondence to Persimmon and Easton Parish Council were awaiting their response. Margaret Dewsbury had been copied into this and reported that design changes raised in Reserved Matters, would be reviewed at SNC's Planning Committee. Principal issues were:

- Open drains (swales) along the spine road and their maintenance by Norfolk County Council. It was noted that an NCC council representative had confirmed that there would be no litter picking and the grass only cut 5 times a year.
- Noise from Showground events.
- Parking blight.
- Bin Blight
- Parking Courts

- Lack of sustainable forward planning (electrical car charging).
- The use of roads which have no raised kerbed footpath for safe transit of pedestrians.

The Council discussed how the lack of a kerbed footpath was at odds with road safety requirements needed for the forthcoming special needs school soon to be built in the Village. The Council voted on a motion to seek a meeting with Richard Bacon MP to discuss these issues, particularly on shared road space. Proposed PM, seconded MCa, all in favour.

7. Update : New Village Hall

PM identified that new draft plans for the Hall by the chosen architect WT Designs had been promised shortly and would be distributed to councillors for comment on publication.

8. Update : Food Enterprise Zone

A report was given on the latest food hub liaison meeting by PM. The Council discussed the development of a vertical farm at the LDO site which could potentially exceed the 10m height restriction set by the existing planning consent, resulting in a building height up to 12m. The Council took the decision that it would support this development, and specifically, that should planning permission be needed to increase the height of the building up to a further 2m, it would support that requirement. Proposed PM, seconded MB, all in favour.

9. A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling and Ringland suggestion for side road strategy

A proposal originally made by Ringland Parish Council in relation to changes to the side road strategy for the A47 dualling and to remove the side road access to Lower Easton was discussed. A route to the Church and main village would need to be provided by an underpass. The Council voted to support the original Ringland scheme, proposed PM, seconded JH, all in favour.

10. Consultation feedback response to the GNDP

The Council discussed the need to respond to the Greater Norwich Development Partnership before the end of the consultation period on 16th March 2020 on the draft Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP). Key points to cover were:

- A) A proposal to increase the number of dwellings that could be built in Easton by 90 in the area designated EAS1, even though the land had already been allocated to the new special needs school. The Council made the decision to oppose this increase. The motion was proposed by PM, seconded JH, all in favour.
- B) Ref CNP OH15/R-6: proposal for a mixed use LDO site adjacent to St Peter's church. The council made the decision to oppose this on the grounds that a

natural barrier should be retained surrounding the Church, proposed PM, seconded MB, all in favour.

- C) A Council response to a 40 point questionnaire within the GNLP would need to be agreed at the next full Council meeting. This would include a complaint to the Chair of the committee that the document was not user-friendly to the extent that it would appear to have been designed to hinder the consultation process.

11. Planning Applications and planning issues:

11.1 2019/1251 Dereham Road Housing Development

It was reported that the application was still held up awaiting a response from the lead flood agency.

11.2 There were no other time limited planning applications received.

- 12.** A report from County and District Councillor Margaret Dewsbury was received. NCC's Infrastructure Committee had agreed a motion that due to the extended delays in commencing road improvements on the A47, Highways England were deemed not fit for purpose, and that the project should be transferred over to the NCC Highways Dept to manage. EPC discussed this matter and a decision was made to state for the record that Highways England received the Council's full support, and moreover the proposal for responsibility for this work to be taken over by NCC was not in the best interests of the Village. Proposed PM, seconded MJ, 7 in favour with one abstention.

13. Adjournment for public participation

A question was asked on the nature of shared roadways and whether their design could incorporate planting areas or knee-high railings to separate the traffic from pedestrians. It was remarked that NCC Highways were not in favour of this approach in the design of shared roadways.

14. Finance Sub Committee

- i. The total reserves position reported at the F&G meeting of 22 January 2020 The budgetary position at the meeting date was discussed. The total reserves position as at 22 January 2020 identified a balance of £59,820, of which £14,265 were general funds, with a forecast general fund balance at 31st March 2020 of £14,717.
- ii. A schedule of January 2020 payments was received -see below.
- iii. The contingency fund requirement of £15,000 was discussed. It was noted that Government Governance & Accountability Guidance issued recommended a minimum General Fund calculated as half the annual precept from South Norfolk Council plus the full cost of an annual insurance premium. In the case of Easton this would equate to approximately £10,000. A further contingency was currently held by the parish council of £5,000 was being retained as an additional contingency. The reserves balances were being monitored on a

monthly basis. A list of short term capital projects were in the process of being finalised which would utilise capital receipts from the forthcoming Dereham Road land sale rather than these reserves funds.

15. Correspondence received requiring action

A response to a letter to Easton College requesting a donation for maintenance repairs to the bus stops had been received from the Director of Estates and advised that the request would be passed to management at Norwich City College to review.

South Norfolk Council had contacted the Parish Council to see if it would like to join their annual litter pick scheme. It was agreed the clerk would write to the NCC/Easton College student union to enquire whether they would be interested in participating in a joint event.

A quote for bark chippings to be placed in various shrub areas had been received from contractors CGM. They had agreed to come and quote for a fence to be erected by the hedge running alongside the Woodview Road side of the Jubilee playing field. The issue of the refurbishment of the hedge was discussed. It was agreed to obtain quotes for the removal of the ivy within the hedge and for replanting, together with the alternative cost for total replacement of the hedge. It was further debated whether the aim should be to retain as much of the existing hedge as possible or to remove it totally and replace with a new hedge.

16. Agenda items for forthcoming Parish meetings

- For decision: Agreement of Easton Parish Council's response to the Greater Norwich Development Partnership's (GNDP) 40 questions contained within the draft Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP).
- Chairman's update : Persimmon development
- Chairman's update : Dereham Road development
- For consideration : Options for the Jubilee Playground hedge management
- For consideration : Feedback provided by WT Designs on proposed plans for the new village hall.

17. Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the council

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Council agreed to discuss the following item of business in private session as if in public it would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

Resignation letter received from Councillor Norman

18. Dates to note:

Finance and Governance meeting 19th February 2020, 7.30pm Village Hall.
 Parish Council meeting: Mon 2nd March 2020, 7.30pm Village Hall.
 Highways England Consultation Meeting A47 North Tuddenham to Easton
 dualling: Wed 4th March 2020, 12-9pm, Village Hall.

19. *The Council met in private session and the resignation letter from Councillor Norman was discussed. It was agreed that the clerk would write to thank him for his work on the Council.*

The meeting closed in private session at 9.35pm.

Signed : Peter Milliken, Chair

<u>January 2020 payments</u>						£
Clerks travel and phone						48.90
F Woodcock Jan						619.22
J Cordy Jan						100.00
SLCC membership						136.00
Norfolk Playing Fields association						25.00
Easton Football club donation						70.00
Easton Village hall donation						30.00
Grand Total						<u>1,029.12</u>