

Easton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Easton Parish Council held by Video Conference on Monday 4th May 2020 at 7.30pm

1. **Chairs welcome** **Action**

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

There were 4 members of the public attending.

2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. The minutes of the meeting of 6th April 2020 were approved – proposed MCa, seconded MB, agreed by all.
4. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda elsewhere:
Declaration forms for the offices of Chair and Vice chair have been signed and returned.

5. **Security for the Dereham Road development site.**

The Council discussed the action of securing the site from members of the public by erecting a piece of fencing by the bus stop, after receiving legal advice on the matter. Having seen dog-walkers and families exercising on the land, this entry and exit point had been blocked and warning signs put up. In addition, Highways England had placed plastic barriers in the area adjacent to the footpath where sink holes existed, as this could provide a further threat to walkers if traversed in order to gain access to the land. These measures were put in place to ensure that anyone entering the site could not lay blame for damage to property or person against the Parish Council.

PM reminded the Council that the site was available, with prior agreement by the Parish Council, to parishioners employed in public service, who had working/search dogs and had nowhere else to train their animals locally. This was reviewed on a case-by-case by the Council and the offer had currently been taken up by one parishioner.

6. **Adjournment for public consultation.**

A question was asked regarding the latest news on the Persimmon development. The Chair had received information that work on the Company's main sites was continuing but that this was unlikely to include the Easton development at present. It was noted that the deadline for completion of the current planning approval

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through reserved matters applications dealing with outstanding details is October 2021.

A question was asked to the Council on its willingness to judge an artwork competition that was being set up for both children and adults within the Village using stickers to create pictures. The Council thought this was a great idea. Details would need to be finalised but the idea would be for the top voted pieces in each age category to be presented to a panel of councillors for ranking and prizes presented to the winners, with one idea being through giving out art supply vouchers. The clerk agreed to discuss with the village hall committee turning the windows of the Village Hall into display boards that the Village could view safely. The artwork could also be uploaded onto the parish council website for those self-isolating.

7. Review of progress on the Covid-19 Emergency Plan

It was reported that the scheme was working well with no more than 3 calls a day. A vote of thanks was given to Alan Moll and his family for being prepared to operate the telephone helpline and connect the calls received by the District and County helpline number to the 15 doorstep helpers who had volunteered under the arrangements set out by the Easton Community Plan. Mike and Bernice Jobling were also thanked for their work as deputies. It was observed that the low number of calls received could be due to the existing friend and family support network in the Village which was good news. It was also noted that the scheme might need to be relied on more heavily in future if the lockdown continued for some but with more people returning to work.

It was noted that a £1000 grant had been received to support parish funds for the scheme and that two thirds of this had been committed in expenditure to date, without accounting for the clerk's additional hours so far.

There was a discussion on whether quantities of rubber gloves in the PPE purchased by the Council, should be distributed to other organisations such as care homes if unused. It was felt that it was too early to tell how long the Easton Doorstep Helper Scheme would be needed for. This would be an option for the future if the total stock of supplies did not improve for key users within the community.

8. Update: A47 dualling consultation

It was reported that PM had spoken to James Powis from Highways England and the consultation process had now completed at the end of April with no additional delays in receiving feedback despite the Coronavirus pandemic. There was confirmation that the Dept for Transport had refused to support funding to NCC for the Western Link but that a spur would be left to enable a link from the A47 at the proposed Honingham interchange at Wood Lane.

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9. Adjournment for public consultation to enable parishioners to join the discussion for the following agenda item.

10. Discussion of issues re St Peter's Primary School

Councillors and the public discussed the overflow arrangements for current year 6 pupils at St Peter's Primary School given the fact that parents had been advised by the School that the Ormiston Victory Academy at Costessey no longer had capacity to take them and NCC Education department would now be sending village students to the City Academy School in Earlham, Norwich. A communication from the Head at St Peter's had gone to every parent to this effect. The indication was that this would be the case for the following year at the very least. The Parish Council emphasized the fact that they did not have any powers when it came to education matters and that parents would have a more effective voice if they acted collectively. It was raised that a plan of action was needed to escalate the issue.

There was a general discussion on the difficulty of parents to now put down the order of the 3 choices of school for placement of their children. There was general agreement that the OVA was the natural high school for Easton Primary pupils to move on to, rather than having to jump over to the City Academy. This is a much greater distance to travel and a separate bus service will be required for these students. It was noted that the education department was legally bound to provide this service. They could also be challenged in court if an extended service was not made available for children to attend any after school activities.

Points were raised on the problem of a lack of places in schools throughout the area with a lack of joined-up thinking by the County Council planners to match housing development and school capacity. In previous discussions with the local MP, Richard Bacon, it had been acknowledged that a new high school would be at least 5 years away. A revisiting of boundaries was discussed with the neighbouring villages and Wymondham and where a new school could be built in relation to these catchment areas. It was noted that the lack of a feeder school for Easton could be a detriment to young families moving into the Village both now and in the future with the forthcoming housing developments due to start.

The Parish Council discussed the parking issues brought about by the daily school run at St Peter's School. There had been communication with the Chair of Governors at the school on the potential for bringing in hostile parking measures. There was general agreement that no funding provision would be made by the Council for this yet, but it was an option. There was discussion that speeding was taking place along Marlingford Road and that speed bumps could address this problem but road alterations were the responsibility of NCC's Highways Dept.

11.Planning Applications.

Planning application 2020/0795 Extension and alterations to 34 Wheeler Crescent, Easton was discussed and approved. Proposed MJ, seconded MCo, all in favour.

12. Finance Sub Committee

- i. It was resolved that payments for authorisation prior to processing online by Barclays, would undertaken by both the Chair and Vice Chair, with payments subsequently approved made available for Councillors to review ahead of the following council meeting. Proposed PM, seconded MCo, all in favour.
- ii. A schedule of May 2020 payments had been received and approved by MCo -see below
- iii. The financial outturn for 2019/20 was discussed ahead of the figures being presented for internal audit. The clerk was thanked for his work producing the accounts for the year. The detailed accounts would be sent to all councillors to review. FW

13. Correspondence and urgent matters brought to the Council requiring action

13.1 Confirmation had been received that the Food Enterprise Liaison Group meetings were currently suspended due to Coronavirus. Condimentum would still be operating and the mint harvested would be processed for the first time on site.

13.2 It was raised that the allotment plot price for 2020/21 recorded on the parish council website needed to change to £13, together with the fact that all plots had now been taken up for this financial year.

14. Agenda items for forthcoming Parish meetings

- June 2020 payments
- Update: Emergency Plan
- Update: Persimmon Development
- Update: Highways England plans for the A47 dualling
- For decision: ratification of quote for architect's fees for new village hall plans by WT Designs
- For discussion: re-launch of EPC's facebook page
- For decision: Revised Communications and Social Media policies

15. Dates to note:

Parish Council meeting: Mon 1st June 2020, 7.30pm by video conference

The meeting closed at 9.24pm.

Signed : Peter Milliken, Chair

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<u>April 2020 payments</u>					NET	GROSS	GROSS
						Approved EPC April	Approved EPC May
Clerk costs	Once a week @13 miles x £0.40 = £5.20					£	£
Wymondham to Easton	PC	F+G	Emr Plan	CLT		total	
	0	0	1	0		5.20	
sat 4/4							
Phone/Internet						12.50	
Clerks travel and phone						17.70	
F Woodcock April - Council							
14 hrs basic						622.71	
overtime						-	
Paid to HMRC (Feb+Mar NI)	ref 120PH002927222012					99.71	
Net Pay							722.42
J Cordy April							100.00
Westcotec	Painting repairs to the bus shelter in Dereham Road				120.00		144.00
Azbag	Planning Support Retainer Fee 2020/21 - Access to Ad Hoc advice for 12 months to 31st March 2021				2,000.00		2,400.00
M Jobling	reimbursement of expenses re allotments				29.94		
	reimbursement of expenses re Emergency Plan - printer cartridges				14.00		43.94
F Woodcock	reimburses of expenses re Emergency Plan						
	cable ties					2.35	
	notecards				135.80	162.96	
	nitrile gloves				221.00	221.00	
	rubber gloves				71.00	71.00	
	printer cartridges				23.48	23.48	480.79
TSM	Allotment tap repair				131.00		131.00
CGM	Woodchip for College Heights - Stern Close/Eddington Way				160.56		192.67
CGM	March Grass Cutting				182.97		219.56
Grand Total						3,217.43	1,234.65

<u>May 2020 payments</u>					NET	GROSS	GROSS
						Approved EPC May	
Clerk costs	Once a week @13 miles x £0.40 = £5.20						£
Wymondham to Easton	PC	F+G	Emr Plan	CLT		total	
incl Lower easton delivery 17/4			1			6.80	
13/4 + 21/4	2					10.40	
Phone/Internet						12.50	
Clerks travel and phone						29.70	
F Woodcock May - Council							
14 hrs basic						722.42	
overtime						-	
Paid to HMRC (Tax + NI)	ref 120PH0029272220--					0.00	
Net Pay							722.42
J Cordy May							100.00
M Cordy	Reimbursement of fence panel to secure Dereham road				17.50		17.50
F Woodcock	reimburses of expenses re Emergency Plan						
	Minuteman 2nd print run of notecards				135.80	162.96	
							162.96
Grand Total							1,032.58

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