

## Easton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Easton Parish Council held by Video Conference on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm

#### 1. Chairs welcome Action

<b>Present:</b> Peter Milliken PM	Gillian Landles GL
Jan Hudson JH	Mike Bowman MB
Mark Caton MCa	Martin Betts MBe
David Lewis DL	Mike Jobling MJ
Francis Woodcock - clerk FW	Mike Cordy MCo

There were no apologies for absence. 1 member of the public attended, District & County Council Councillor Margaret Dewsbury (MD).

2. One declaration of interest was accepted from MCa relating to a connection with planning application 2020-0762, ref agenda item 11.
3. The minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 were approved – proposed MCa, seconded JH, agreed by all.

#### 4. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda elsewhere.

Highways England had contacted the Chair with a request to hold a closed meeting with Parish Councils adjacent to the A47 to discuss options for the side roads strategy. PM would request that the meeting was recorded on Zoom.

MD gave a report noting that much of the council business was being conducted working from home and that the Norfolk Fire Service were conducting a recruitment drive ending on 26<sup>th</sup> July and looking to fill on-call and regular hours vacancies. A notice would be posted up on the parish website.

5. *There were no questions raised in the adjournment for public consultation.*

#### 6. Persimmon Homes planning application 2020/0962

Members of the Council discussed the application and a report presented to them by the Chairman, which detailed a number of major concerns, highlighted below, that should be addressed before giving its approval for the scheme to proceed. The Council resolved that it was unable to support the application on the basis of a failure to comply with several planning policies, Proposed JH, seconded MJ, all in favour. The Council agreed that a request be made for Deferred permission until the following matters had been addressed:

- A 1/5 of all properties on phase one are non-compliant with ENP 7.3 which is a loss of at least 1,260sqm of residential parking.
- Over a 1/4 of all properties on phase one are non-compliant with ENP 7.4.
- A 1/5 of all properties parking layouts may lead to neighbourhood disputes and lead to social disharmony. It has been calculated in the region of around 42%1 of residents on this phase have the potential to be affected by parking disputes.

- Current density goes against ENP Policy 2 Preserve 'Village Feel', Policy 6.3 Housing & Its Setting and Policy 8 Housing Mix & Character.
- Housing Mix – masccaraing 4-bedroom homes as 3-bedroom homes – JCS Policy 4.
- Affordable homes and high-density areas have a disproportionate reduced number of visitor spaces. SNC Place Making Guide SPD 3.7.2.
- Bin blight continues to be a concern and needs to be designed out ENP 7.5
- Fear of Crime likely to affect 29% of the residents, due to poorly designed alleyways leading to the rear gardens of properties. Failure to meet ENP 6.6 ❖ Shared roads have the potential to breach the Equalities Act 2010.
- Over 47% of plots are accessed from 'Shared Private Drives' – creating conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles and failing to meet NPPF para.110.

PM agreed to submit the Council's response the day following the meeting.

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

FW gave a report on the status of the Emergency Plan. No new calls had come in during the last few weeks, although a number of helpers were providing ongoing assistance to neighbours which was really appreciated. The helper system and support of the parish emergency phone would be left in place in case of a second wave of the virus later in the year, and the possible need to reintroduce lockdown or other measures. It had been confirmed that parishioners could still contact the SNC Help Hub on the Emergency Telephone number that had been advertised and highlighted to parishioners on the support cards posted through every door. As before, the Help Hub would assess calls coming in and reroute low dependency calls for help through to the parish emergency phone.

It was reported that a third information card would not be produced at the moment due to the quick-fire changes in lockdown instructions being given out by central government, and the potential risk of issuing of out-of-date information.

FW had agreed with the Village Hall Committee for art competition to remain up at the Village Hall windows as it was unlikely that the Hall would be open again until September at the earliest.

## **8. Discussion of issues re St Peter's Primary School**

A meeting was held between MBe/FW and governors from St Peter's Primary School. District and county councillor Margaret Dewsbury had agreed to write to the Head of Education at Norfolk County Council to clarify arrangements for the criteria for entry to the Ormiston Victory Academy, together with future plans for secondary education in general within the OVA catchment area. A further meeting with the Education Dept would hopefully be arranged. The Chair of Governors at St Peter's agreed to write to governors at the other feeder schools to OVA.

It was noted that the rules on allocation given over-subscription for places were not clear, given the current pressure on places and pressure building in subsequent years from NCC's own predicted numbers of children in the five OVA feeder schools, including St Peter's, which would only get worse. Data presented highlighted increases in school places for current Yr 5 and Yr 4 students in these primary schools, but this did not take into account the impact from expected expansion in St Peter's due to forthcoming housing development.

The problem over distance for Easton children when considered by the OVA appeals panel for places was discussed. The need for the School and governors to make these issues transparent to parents at St Peter's was highlighted.

#### **9. Update for the building of the special educational needs school in Easton**

There were no new updates on this School. Activity within the Education Dept at NCC was still about firefighting and trying to manage the Covid-19 situation to enable all schools to reopen fully in September. MD informed the Council that one of similar school projects in Fakenham was moving forwards with an expected opening in 2022.

#### **10. For discussion: Transfer of Council allotments to a Tenants Association**

Councillors agreed that initially the allotment tenants should be canvassed to gauge their feelings on the issue. It was agreed that FW would put together a letter and for MJ to review this, together with providing the list of addresses for posting.

#### **11. Planning applications**

##### **11.1 Review of Planning Application 2020/0762: Two storey and single extensions and alterations; 13 Buxton Close, Easton.**

Easton Parish Council refused the above application by a vote of 7 to 0, with one abstention and one exclusion on the grounds of a declaration of interest. In reviewing the application, the Council considered that this application was not valid as no block plan was submitted. Therefore, it was not possible to form an opinion on the application as there was no way of determining the position of the extension within the available plot and whether this has met with legal requirements, and has no way of knowing how the extension would look once constructed.

##### **11.2 Review of Planning Application 2020/1150: Remove all dormer windows and build up first floor to new roof height front and back, replace roof with shallower pitch; Avondale 15 Marlingford Road Easton**

The Council agreed to request that the date for returning comments be put back until Friday 7th August. This will allow time for the application to be reviewed in full at the parish meeting to be held on 3rd August.

*12. There were no questions raised in the further adjournment for public consultation.*

### **13. For discussion: setting up a Youth Council.**

The idea of a Youth Council was discussed in general terms. It was agreed that FW would make an initial approach to Horsford Parish Council which was setting up a Youth Council to help shape thinking on the matter and report back. MBe would also look at what other organisations had achieved in this area.

### **14. Finance Sub Committee**

- i. Payments for July 2020 totalling £2,573.40 were approved – see list.

### **15. Correspondence and urgent matters brought to the Council requiring action**

15.1 NCC Highways Dept wrote to the Council (and would contact the Village Hall Committee and Hair Salon separately) to announce a full closure of Marlingford Road between Dereham and Woodview Road (while allowing access from effected houses & adjoining streets) for 7 weeks from Monday 27th July. A signed diversion route would be operating outside of the Village. Information would be posted onto facebook and the parish council website before the start date.

15.2 The issued had been raised regarding possible use of the Jubilee Playing Field whilst the Gym Club couldn't utilise its indoor facilities. It was agreed the JPF was not suitable due to risk of injury or infection, given that it had not been able to secure the JPF in a manner preventing all access to the Park over the lockdown period. However, it was felt Easton College could be approached to provide more suitable facilities.

It was also noted that bins were still being used for dog waste, though the use of a lockable commercial bin would help stop the problem. The Council took the view that the long-term solution would be to install another dog bin in the vicinity of the entrance, and then have it put on the rota for emptying by SNC. This could be actioned when funds are made available to the Council. The Clerk would write to the Club to relay the result of these discussions.

### **16. Agenda items for forthcoming Parish meetings**

- For information: July/August 2020 payments
- For discussion: St Peter's Path – issues of overgrown footpath
- For discussion: return to formal meetings at Village Hall

### **17. Dates to note:**

Parish Council meeting: Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020, 7.30pm by video conference

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Signed : Peter Milliken, Chair

June 2020 payments		NET		GROSS
				Approved EPC July
Clerk costs		£	£	£
Wymondham to Easton				total
9/5 + 17/5 + 19/5				15.60
general expenses		10.83		13.00
office expenses		2.92		3.50
Phone/Internet				12.50
Clerks travel and phone				44.60
F Woodcock June - Council				
14 hrs basic			722.42	
overtime			-	
Paid to HMRC (Tax + NI)			0.00	
Net Pay				722.42
J Cordy June			104.00	
Pay arrears April+May due to coding notice change			8.00	
	paid by SO		112.00	100.00
	paid by BACS			12.00
Oxbury - Surveyors (New Village Hall		1200.00		1,440.00
HMRC	J Cordy - May		21.00	
	less unallocated payments April-20		- 4.18	16.82
F Woodcock	reimbursement of expenses re Emergency Plan			
	1 x mth contract	15.00		18.00
CGM	Grass cut to 6th May	182.97		219.56
Grand Total				2,573.40