

Easton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Easton Parish Council held by Video Conference
on Monday 7th December 2020 at 7.30pm

1. Chairs welcome

Action

Present: Peter Milliken PM
Jan Hudson JH
Mark Caton MCo
David Lewis DL
Francis Woodcock - clerk FW

Mark Cordy MCo
Mike Jobling MJ

Apologies for absence – Cllrs Martin Betts MBe, Stuart Renders SR, Gillian Landles GL, plus District and County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury (MD). There were 7 members of the public present representing the proposed Special Educational Needs (SEN) school development.

2. MCo + PM gave declarations of interest in respect of agenda item 9.2 and MJ in respect of item 9.1, and requests for dispensation were granted.
3. The minutes of the meeting of 5th October 2020 were approved – proposed MCo, seconded MJ, agreed by all.
4. There were no matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda elsewhere.
5. **Adjournment for public consultation.** *Questions made in writing to the Council were discussed. Firstly, whether the SAMS machine could be made available on Dereham Road to deter speeding. It was agreed that while not currently operational, the aim was to get this working again. Secondly it had become apparent that the layby opposite Easton College and the Golf Club on Dereham Road being used as a toilet. It was agreed the Council would inform the SNC Hygiene Team. Reference was also made to the problem of fly tipping. It was noted that this problem had been discussed the previous month and due to a gate being left open on Easton College land. A letter would be raised, copying in Cllr Margaret Dewsbury.*
6. Presentation by Tim Waters from Renew Planning, on behalf of DfE, together with representatives of the project team, for the proposed SEN School - Land to the East of Deer Park House, Bawburgh Road, Easton, NR9 5EA.
Tim Waters and the Team gave a presentation to the Council following a public webinar on 23rd November 2020, as part of the local public consultation relating to the new SEN School aiming to open in January 2023.

The school is part of the Government's Free School Programme and the only one designated for Norfolk. Full teaching capacity would take 5 years to complete, reaching 170 children aged 4 to 19. It was stated that the aim was for the planning application to be made on 17th December 2021, with infrastructure works starting in May 2021 and school building work starting in November 2021.

Plans for the external site were presented. These detailed the site including car parking with room for 35 vehicles for dropping off pupils between the hours of 8.30-9.00am and after 3.00pm. Existing boundary shielding would be utilised on 3 sides and tree loss from the private access road from Bawburgh Road would be mitigated to give a net gain of trees on completion of the project. NCC Highways would enhance Bawburgh Road including a pathway on the College Heights (right) side of the road to include low level street lighting, up to a footway crossing point opposite the new 20mph private road coming off the left of Bawburgh Road looking down from Dereham Road. A substation would be sited to the right of the access road.

Councillors were given the chance to ask questions. Items raised included:

- Had the access changes from the reconfiguration of Bawburgh Road from the proposed spine road as part of the Persimmon Development been considered? Answer was that due to the earlier timing of the SEN scheme these could only be considered as and when any new routing arrangements were agreed.
- Lifespan of the steel framed modular buildings built by Portakabin? Answer 60+ years.
- Could the crossing include a raised platform to assist pedestrians and would the pathway go up high enough to incorporate a crossing on Dereham Road. Also whether Bawburgh Road could be made a 20mph limit due to the increased volume of traffic, the type of traffic including delivery lorries and taxis, and the blind-sided dip in the road coming into Easton. Answer was that these road safety aspects would need to be considered by highways engineers. However the aim would be to retain some funding after completion for improvements if required. It was noted that a second emergency exit was not shown on the plans.
- The comment was made that any roadwork disruption would best be scheduled in with the Easton College and Gym Club holiday timetables.
- Further comment was made for the need for speed signs and flashing warning signs.
- Concerns were raised over tree removal near to the access road and with road widening. A request was made to see the relevant tree and ecology survey.
- A request for the commissioned traffic assessment would be made to the NCC Highways Department contact John Hannah. Further discussions would be needed to look at the pre-existing conditions of Bawburgh Road including factors such as the reduced bus service to the Easton College campus which had resulted in more students walking up to catch buses on the Dereham Road.

Copies of the presentation would be provided in order that they could be made available to parishioners via the EPC website. Tim Waters and the Team were thanked for attending the meeting.

- 7. PM update Dereham Road land sale.** It was reported that the Section 106 scheme for the development was still awaiting sign off by the legal parties, and the Chairman had written to MD for assistance to ensure NPLAW made it their priority to complete their work on behalf of SNC as soon as possible. As part of the conditions of the

agreement, £50K would be given to the Parish Council in earmarked funds for the long-term maintenance of playground areas.

- 8. PM update Persimmon.** It was reported that Reserved Matters application 2020/0962 – Persimmon Phase 1 Land North and South of Dereham Road, had been received. The Clerk would seek an extension from Chris Watts at SNC until after the January EPC meeting to enable the Council to agree a response. Reserved Matters would cover access, appearance, scale, landscaping and layout including open space, sustainable urban drainage systems, landscaping, infrastructure and earthworks. **FW**

9. Planning applications and issues.

9.1 2020/1991 Applicant: Mr & Mrs Rod and Krysia Stone, Location: Land Adj To 69 Dereham Road Easton Norfolk Proposal: Variation of condition 2 - changes to front elevation first floor window, replacement of garage door with window, a wood burning stove flue added and dropped kerb for new access added and removal of condition 3 (surface water drainage) of 2019/1255.

A resolution approved the application, proposed PM, seconded MCo, carried by unanimous decision. Clerk to respond. **FW**

9.2 2020/2033 Applicant: KA Lawn, Location: 44 Woodview Road Easton NR9 5EU Proposal: Erection of side extension.

A resolution approved the application, proposed PM, seconded MCo, carried by unanimous decision. Clerk to respond. **FW**

9.3 There were no other applications.

10. *There was no further adjournment for public consultation.*

11. Finance Sub Committee

- i. Payments approved totalling £1,876.78 were reported from the November Finance & Governance Committee – see list.
- ii. The Clerk reported that the external auditors PKF Littlejohn had completed their audit. On the basis of the review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters came to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.
- iii. Updated costings were provided for work highlighted from the annual playground inspection at the JPF, fixing the picnic table to the ground £260 + VAT, and cutting off at concrete level two of the old gym equipment bases £205 + VAT. It was decided to review prices for plastic and not aluminium No Dogs Allowed signs, due to risk of theft of metal signs.
- iv. FW presented the current Financial Reserves position based on the previous month's transactions and forecast reported to the Finance & Governance Committee. The Council had bank balances of £37,452 in earmarked funds together with £15,670 in general funds. The current forecast for the end of the financial year showed a balance of general funds of £12,696.

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

Correspondence had been received that the Ormiston Victory Academy had decided not to proceed with the proposal to remove St Michael.s Junior School from the list of feeder schools. This would result in a lack of availability of places for pupils from St Peter's Primary School with a greater likelihood of placement at the City Academy School until completion of a new building extension for September 2022, increasing year 7 capacity for 210 to 300 places.

It was reported that OpenReach had provided the availability for its 150mb fibre broadband connection: free of connection charges through grant funding if minimum numbers at registered Easton addresses (both residential and self-employed) signed up to taking the scheme - 200 properties from the Costessey exchange, 400 from the Honningham exchange. It was discussed to utilise the postcard information service provided to every household during the initial lockdown to help advertise this.

A complaint had been received from a resident of Buxton Close that SNC had damaged their caravan in the process of clearing Russian vine and that they would deal with the matter.

13. Agenda items for forthcoming Parish meetings

- Update PM: Dereham Road Site
- For resolution: Persimmon planning application 2020/1962
- For resolution: 2021/22 budget and parish precept

Dates to note:

Finance & Governance Committee meeting: Wed 16th December 2020.

Parish Council meeting: Mon 4th January 2021, 7.30pm by video conference.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed: Peter Milliken, Chair

November 2020 payments				NET	SUB-TOTAL	GROSS
						Approved EPC Nov-20 F+C
				£	£	£
	Clerks travel and phone					22.90
	F Woodcock Nov Council					
	14 hrs basic at 2020/21 pay rate				742.28	
	Pay award arrears Apr - Oct				139.02	
	Paid to HMRC (Tax + NI)	ref 120PH0029272221--			-10.72	
	Net Pay					870.58
	J Cordy Nov					104.00
	HMRC	J Cordy - Oct	ref 120PH0029272221--			21.00
	P Milliken	Printer Cartridges		89.56	17.92	107.48
	F Woodcock	reimbursement of expenses				
		1 x mth phone contract - Inv 25/11/2020		15.00	18.00	
				-		18.00
	Easton CLT	Membership joining fee		1.00		1.00
	D Ditton	Community Car scheme to 31/03/2020		219.19		219.19
	CGM	Grass contract to 21/10/2020		427.19	85.44	512.63
	Grand Total					1,876.78