

Easton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Easton Parish Council held by Video Conference
on Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30pm

1. Chairs welcome

Action

Present: Peter Milliken PM	Mark Cordy MCo
Jan Hudson JH	Mike Jobling MJ
Mark Caton MCo	Ben Moye BM
David Lewis DL	Stuart Renders SR
Gillian Landles GL	Martin Betts MBe
Francis Woodcock - clerk FW	

Attendance by one member of the public.

Apologies for absence Cllr Margaret Dewsbury

The Council accepted for agenda item 10 to be brought forward ahead of the adjournment for public consultation.

2. There were no declarations of interest. There were no further requests for dispensation.

3. The minutes of the meeting of 1st February 2021 were approved – proposed MJ, seconded SR, agreed unanimously with one abstention.

4. The Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda elsewhere:

MBe to contact Isabel Horner, Sufficiency Delivery Manager, NCC Children's Services for reassurance that monies that would be set aside for resolving subsequent issues arising from the SEN development. An update on this item will be carried forward to a subsequent meeting.

5. **Mistreatment of verges on Marlingford Road and update of the quote to install bollards outside St Peter's Primary School.**

The Chairman gave an update on the increase in the price from the Highways Department for the placement of bollards within the grass verges surrounding the School to deter their mistreatment and damage caused by illegal parking. The issue of the final contract price would be put on the agenda for the April council meeting. It was noted that verge damage had been witnessed arising from building activities taking place at a property at the corner of Marlingford Way & Marlingford Road. This was evidenced at the meeting. A 'cease and desist' letter had been issued to the resident to make good the verge damage.

Adjournment for public consultation.

A resident raised the issue of the receipt of the 'cease and desist' letter, and that their family were unhappy with this letter and how the matter had been handled. A discussion then followed involving council members, with councillors agreeing that as a goodwill gesture the letter be retracted.

6. PM update Dereham Road land sale. It was reported that the on 15th February ESCO confirmed that the planning permission is a satisfactory planning permission in relation to the sale contract. All cost deductions have been agreed. A completion statement was issued by Norton Legal on 18th February 2021. Completion is due to take place on 31st March 2021. Easton Parish Council should be in receipt of net proceeds on 1st April 2021 totalling £816,212.58. Over the course of the development the Parish Council will receive the following additional sums, Community Infrastructure Levey £129,854.19 plus an off-site open space contribution of £100,000.00. The total net receipt for this development would be £1,046,066.77. A project manager will be appointed in due course.

7. PM update 2020/096 FUL/2020/0110 SEN School on Land to the East of Easton Gymnastics Club, Deer Park House, Bawburgh Road, Easton/Norfolk, NR9 5EA. It was reported that although an objection had been raised by the NCC Natural Environment Team, the School had responded by saying

“there is nothing in the NETI response of any fundamental concern. The referenced ecology/tree inspection surveys have either already been carried out or (in the case of the badger surveys) are in the process of being completed. In terms of replacement tree planting, we are currently showing 55 new trees to be planted on the school land. I will be asking our arboriculturalist to confirm the number of trees being removed, so we can review once again how we sit numerically with the 1:1 replacement requirement.”

The Chairman stated that in relation to the LLFA comment it is a common response from the LLFA to object requiring further information. He was however surprised at the robustness of their comments especially with the use of the word 'misrepresentation'.

The School had informed the Council that “We are also meeting the LLFA this week to review its consultation response, as it is important to note that there are separate drainage strategies for the school and road”.

8. Persimmon Updates:

8.1 New allotments. It was reported that the meeting with Persimmon had gone well and that a number of matters had been raised, including ¼ plot sizes, the issue of whether a bore hole could be accessed to save water costs, and the issue of water storage. Cllr Moye would be working with Persimmon to look at possibilities for an electrical supply and deep fencing to protect crops from rabbits and other wildlife.

8.2 Design layout of phase 2 open space area. Persimmon would prepare with their suppliers designs for a MUGA and other features by the of March.

9. For discussion and resolution: response to consultation on the GNLDP, required by 15th March 2021. The Council discussed the GNLDP and agreed that the following responses be made to the consultation:

- the area identified as EAS1 on the Plan detailing 80-90 additional houses is already designated as an area allocated to the new SEN school. The area allocated to the North of the Dereham Road which was a dump has an allocation of around 90

homes and has at present been deemed unviable due to high levels of contamination. Proposed PM, seconded MCA, all in favour.

- Additional activities identified for Easton Showground would impact traffic movements, particularly if there was increased retail and weekend events Proposed MJ, seconded JH, all in favour.
- Honingham development FEP near Church does not cross the boundary into Easton for either industrial units or private housing and is at odds with the ENP, proposed PM, seconded MCA, all in favour.

10. Agenda item moved to Item 5.

11. For discussion and resolution: Action, Play & Leisure Ltd's playground quote for the Phase 2 of JPF refit, utilising the offsite open space contribution of £100,000 as specified in the Dereham Road s.106 agreement.

The Chairman proposed that Phase 2 of the JPF refurbishment be started as soon as possible for completion of works by the end of April. Councillors discussed the issue but deferred holding a resolution to award the contract for £35,993 to Action Play and Leisure Ltd until the scope of work could be determined for the entire project, including quotes for fencing, and the potential restoration or replacement of the hedge along Woodview Road. Further discussion would take place at the April council meeting.

12. Update: NWL developments and feedback from meeting on 23rd Feb 2021

It was reported that on 26th February 2021 Norfolk County Council announced it is withholding its decision on the Norwich Western Link Business Plan until at least June 2021. It was stated that a report had been produced regarding protected bat species for the area in question.

The Chairman stated his personal view that Norfolk County Council had made a total mess of matters, NCC Highways have failed to make the necessary decisions around the side road strategy in relation to the A47 Easton to North Tuddenham, and with the inclusion of Highways England as part of the NWL LLG, this had blurred the lines between the two independent projects.

Weston Longville Parish Council was very vocal in the opposition to HE plans for the A47 at Lower Easton. He added it would seem they are very happy for approximately 4800 vehicles to travel along an unclassified road every day so as to avoid an extra 1500 vehicles on its B and C classed road network. This would still only give traffic though Weston Longville only 4100 vehicles a day by 2025. He was saddened to say that this view is shared by Ringland Parish Council.

He advised HE is pressing on with its submission to DCO and is on track to submit middle of March 2021.

A Powerpoint presentation was then made to Councillors by the Chairman regarding the Q & A section of the meeting on 23rd February 2021.

13. To resolve to approve CLT board representation by the Parish Council and to seek avoidance of any conflict of interest by Councillors performing a scrutiny role for the Council while retaining Board membership of the CLT.

It was resolved that any parish council representative chosen for the Council's CLT Board position would not have voting rights in any CLT board decision. This would allow the representative to retain their impartiality. Proposed MCA, seconded PM, agreed by all.

It was resolved that Councillors who were also members of the Easton CLT Board in a personal capacity with voting rights, would not take part in any council decisions on CLT matters. For relevant CLT agenda items arising at virtual parish council or committee meetings, screens and voices would be muted to avoid influence, or transferred to the waiting room. At physical meetings they would leave the meeting. Proposed PM, seconded MCA, agreed by 8 with 2 abstentions by those holding voting rights on the CLT Board.

14. Covid-19 restrictions on holding meetings. The Clerk provided an update that no guidance from government had been issued that virtual council meetings would be allowed to continue beyond the existing timescales within Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. Currently this would mean that the May AGM to be held on Monday 10th May 2021 would need to be a physical meeting held in the Village Hall.

15. Planning applications and issues.

15.1 2020/096 2021/0343: Land North And South Of Dereham Road – Persimmon Homes Discharge of Conditions 31, 32 & 34 of permission 2014/2611 - Ecological and Green Infrastructure Management Plan & Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation, Risk Assessment and Method Statement.

The Council resolved to approve the discharge of Conditions 31 and 34 without comment, and to approve the discharge of Condition 32 subject to the following comments. Proposed PM, seconded MCA, all in favour:

“We are pleased with the overall balance that has been reached in mitigating against the adverse impacts of the development and its construction on the ecology of the area however we would like to see two minor alterations to the plan on the grass verge near plot 21 and plot 196 with the installation of wooden bollards to stop these areas becoming unofficial parking places”.

It was noted that Chris Watts from South Norfolk Council's Planning department supported the request.

15.2 There were no other planning applications discussed.

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

17. Finance Sub Committee

17.1 Minutes of the Finance & Governance meeting of 17th February 2021 were presented and approved.

17.2 FW presented the current Financial Reserves position as at 17th February 2021, This identified a cash reserve of £45,422 and a forecast position at the year-end of £46,068. Earmarked funds accounted for £36,193 and general funds £9,228. Contingency Funds available at the end of the financial year were forecast to stand at £11,278 with VAT monies received or owed. The General Fund would be likely to be higher again by £1,800 if the Village sign repair could not be completed in time.

17.3 Detailed discussions on the JPF fence replacement had taken place at agenda item 11 and were not discussed further.

17.4 For resolution: Review of Risk Assessment Policy. The policy had previously been taken through the Finance & Governance Committee and was approved, proposed PM, seconded MCa, all in favour.

17.5 For discussion and resolution: adoption of a Parish Training Policy. A new policy on Training previously circulated was discussed and approved, proposed JH, seconded MCa, all in favour.

18. No correspondence or urgent matters had been brought to the Council that required further action.

Public section of the meeting ended 9.25pm

19. The Council resolved to exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. Proposed PM, seconded MBe, all in favour.

20. The Council discussed the forthcoming financial arrangements following the agreement of the s.106 for the Dereham Road land sale.

21. Agenda items for forthcoming Parish meetings

- Review of revised quote for bollards along Marlingford Road.
- Review of JPF scope of works for Phase 2 refurbishment
- The provision of grit bins.

Dates to note:

Annual Parish Meeting: Mon 12th April 2021. Both 7.00pm by video conference.

Parish Council meeting: Mon 12th April 2021. Both 8.00pm by video conference.

The meeting closed at 9.44pm

Signed: Peter Milliken, Chair

February 2021 payments				NET	SUB-TOTAL	GROSS
						Approved EPC Feb-21 F+G
				£	£	£
Clerk costs	Once a week @13 miles x £0.40 = £5.20					
Wymondham to Easton						total
21/01 Pick up leaflets for Eplan	2 x 11.5 =23 miles					9.20
22/01 Pick up leaflets for Eplan	2 x 14.5 = 29					11.60
23/01 leaflet delivery for Eplan						5.20
Phone/Internet						12.50
Clerks travel and phone						38.50
F Woodcock Feb Council						
14 hrs basic at 2020/21 pay rate					742.28	
Paid to HMRC (Tax + NI)	ref 120PH0029272221--				0.00	
Net Pay						742.28
J Cordy Feb						104.00
HMRC	J Cordy - Jan	ref 120PH0029272221--			21.00	
	F Woodcock - Jan				-	
						21.00
SLCC	Membership 2021/22			144.00		144.00
F Woodcock	reimbursement of expenses					
	1 x mth phone contract - Inv 25/11/2020			15.00	18.00	
	Minuteman - cards for E Plan			135.80	162.96	180.96
NALC	time mgt course - FW			40.00		48.00
National Allotment Society	- £55 subscription fee + £1 membership			56.00	11	67.00
Grand Total						1,345.74