

Care - many more adults have needed help over the last couple of years; more domestic abuse and more children needing support or coming into care. Kinship Fostering being used but need to find more people willing to foster children, especially teens.

Employment - Adult Learning successful in £500,000 grant, to provide more courses to improve people's employment prospects and support the local economy.

Social Infrastructure Fund - received 64 applications for a grant from the Social Infrastructure Fund, the sum of which totalled in excess of £4,838,000

Crowdfunding - Cabinet meeting we agreed to launch a Crowdfunding initiative to enable people to help local organisations raise funds for projects.

Electric cars -increasing number of electric vehicles on our roads and people need to be able to recharge them at home. Cabinet has agreed a process by which people can purchase a Highways Licence which will give them permission to lay a suitably protected cable across the public footpath to charge their car. The licence will cost £51.63 for two years.

2021/024) Updates

a) Safe Crossing of A47 & Condition 22

It was confirmed legal advice had been taken regarding the lawfulness of Condition 22. If South Norfolk Council amend the decision the advice is this would not be lawful and could result in legal action. It is very important to ensure safe crossing of the A47. Building can only be to "pad" height before a full plan for a safe crossing must be in place. Costessey Town Council has not enforced this condition with Taylor Wimpey and Easton Parish Council would like them to join with them in this matter. The Vice Chairman of Costessey Town Council will take these comments to his Council.

Easton Parish Council wish to be involved with S.278. Costessey and other surrounding villages should be involved. Norfolk County Council Highways had funds from Persimmon Homes to work this through but it has not been done. The County Councillors suggested contact be made with Norfolk County Council.

On the motion of Cllr Milliken, seconded by Cllr Moye, it was

RESOLVED Easton Parish Council supports the use of all lawful measures to ensure that Condition 22 and 23 of SNC planning application 2014/2611 are enforced in full and any attempt to amend Condition 22 or 23 via a s73 application is challenged with vigour through the planning and, if necessary, the legal system. The reason for this motion is to protect public safety

b) Persimmon Homes

Advised there have been a lot of issues with the site –

Failure to comply with their own site management plan and traffic coming through the village – this was reported and is now being dealt with

One householder invited the Councillors to view their garden as concrete cutting was underway and should not happen on site because of silica dust (glass) is harmful to human lungs – Persimmons have been asked to respond but not received to-date Concern has been reported regarding tree protection and soil piled against hedging which may cause damage to roots – no response to-date

When work commenced it was questioned if electrical safety was in place, photos received illustrating lack of safety

Parkers Close residents witnessed diggers in the 10m buffer zone, established for wildlife protection, Diggers were dropping buckets in this area for no apparent reason

and great concern as to impact on wildlife. Reported a variety of animals appearing in other areas of the village – no explanation yet received

No wheel washers on site and mud on road – reported and site stopped, has improved as road sweepers now being used but no wheel washers yet

A number of roads need to have footpaths and Easton Parish Council has had some success in improving this

Phase 2 – the land Easton Parish Council said was contaminated was still allocated for the children to play on. Have found beryllium, lead and all highly toxic. Easton has brought in specialist consultants and will not accept land which has been contaminated.

c) Orbit Homes

An application was submitted to increase from 64 homes to 72. There was a meeting last week and discussions about making safe crossings along Dereham Road. The recent data from SAM 2 shows high speed, some above 70 mph. Talks have been constructive. Noted request for crossing by bus shelter and by Marlingford Road as used by several children in the mornings. Request for more SAM machines as they are a deterrent. Suggestion to extend the 30mph limit and this can be discussed, however, the 30 mph limit will be extended to the Costessey Lodge. Trying to tie safe crossing in with the existing plans for the new Village Hall, will use S.278 agreement. Advised costs for 2 additional SAM machines is approximately £6,000 and will consider at next working group meeting.

Vice-Chairman of Costessey Town Council advised “Safe Speed” cameras were very useful and encouraged Easton to consider use of these.

Mr McCarter was thanked for all his time and effort as a volunteer managing the SAM machines.

d) Norwich Western Link

Councillor Milliken has attended the NWL meetings but now handed over to Cllr Moye. At the last meeting there was discussion regarding the preferred contractor and impact it will have on A47. Easton raised concerns on how they quantified traffic movement and measures. Still in early stages but moving forward. More bat surveys are being done, the first report identified a colony of protected species. Now considering if route “C” is a preferable option.

ACTION: ALL CLLRS/CLERK/RFO

2021/025) Finance matters

a) Payment lists to-date –

On the motion of Cllr Milliken, seconded by Cllr Moye, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Payment list to 1 October 2021 total £206,566.79 net (Appendix 1) and the Bank Reconciliation to 1 October 2021 total £689,482.18

b) Mobile Phone contract –

On the motion of Cllr Milliken, seconded by Cllr Moye, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £150 (ex VAT) to put towards a new mobile phone with existing Vodafone SIM contract

c) Easton Covid Recovery Fund –

Reported no-one had previously come forward to assist the distribution of £10,000 grant funds set aside by EPC. However, Revd Penny Goodman has now offered to manage the fund and the application process will be advertised on the website with two months for applications. Revd Penny will make a recommendation to Council.

On the motion of Cllr Moye, seconded by Cllr Milliken it was

RESOLVED the Covid Recovery Fund would be managed by Revd Penny Goodman

d) Budget & precept for financial year 2022 to 2023 –

There was a very lengthy discussion regarding the future budget and precept for the year 2022 to 2023. It was reported a grant of £10,000 had been successful for the review of the Easton Neighbourhood Plan which will be done progressively. There were increased needs as Easton grows bigger but these are ahead of receiving the money from developers. There is no wish to increase the burden on the residents and it was suggested a transitional fund should be set aside. A hundred new homes per year are expected and this will adjust the tax base which relates to the precept. This transitional fund could be drawn to cover costs and, as the tax base increases, be repaid fully by year 7.

On the motion of Cllr Milliken, seconded by Cllr Moye, it was

RESOLVED to increase the precept to £20,069.00, a 2.5% rise on current year.

On the motion of Cllr Milliken, seconded by Cllr Moye, it was

RESOLVED to earmark £30,000.00 to the Easton Transitional Reserve, this amount can be flexed.

ACTION: CLERK/RFO

More funds to come from Orbit Housing once underway, will not be CIL money so unrestricted on use. Negotiating with Orbit and will pay £25,000.00 for each extra dwelling, £136,000.00 expected. If Phase 2 progresses, will receive payment for use of drainage system. £100,000.00 coming for off-site works, used for play equipment. No update from CLT. Orbit monitors who is placed in the houses and those on the "Gold" list will get priority. Easton Parish Council are asking for Ex-service personnel with connections to our community to also get priority. Homes will be 60% affordable rent with the remaining being affordable shared ownership.

The Chairman advised the financial situation reflected all the work done in the Village, play areas, bus shelters, the village sign, the Councillors are trying to improve the Village and attend to all necessary.

2021/026) Correspondence received to-date

College Heights – Wetpour surfacing has been completed and invoice is expected, equipment to be available for use in next week.

Play areas – all refurbished except Cardinal Close, Cllr Milliken has handed the project to Cllr Moye to progress.

Drain covers to be changed on Cardinal Close play area.

Fencing at Jubilee Playing Field still to be done but CGM have staff shortages due to illness.

MUGA surface painting to be done shortly but again difficulty with Covid sickness and fuel shortage.

Request for repair to bench by Church and this is being done as soon as wood can be sourced and contractor availability.

The Church has £1,500.00 for the new churchyard and Easton Parish Council has two benches which will be refurbished and installed once the church advises where they want them to go.

New Village Hall application is progressing and the images look very impressive. Some grasscrete may be put down for occasional parking.

ACTION: CLLR MOYE

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. - Meeting closed at 11.15am

Public Participation Notes

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak and comments received included the following –

- Query why the Council meeting was being held in the day instead of the evening – the Chairman advised the time had been agreed to ensure Councillors were able to attend and be quorate and was within the legal requirements for conducting meetings
- Objection was made to a letter from Easton Parish Council sent in response to a planning application and now available on the South Norfolk Council website – it was confirmed Easton Parish Council had submitted its' response and the application is now in the hands of South Norfolk Council and they will decide on the application
- Noted previously the number of Councillors had increased to 10 but now only 4, what action has been taken to attempt to increase the number of Councillors? - the Chairman confirmed it would be easier to share the workload and there had been much to do during Covid, the vacancies had been advertised in several places and had tried to find new Councillors. Advised a grant fund had also been allocated but had not found any residents willing to assist with distribution
- Neighbour of planning applicant felt the proposals sat well with the street scene and felt this matter was personal