

2022/21) Councillors' Reports

None received.

2022/22) County & District Councillor's Report

A written report which had been received previously was noted by members.

2022/23) Updates

a) Persimmon Homes

Mr Josh Pitcher, Persimmon Homes, gave a verbal update which included the following points –

Condition 22 – The crossing on A47- WPS have finished their re-design and this is now with National Highways and await their comments. Other aspects are footway/cycleway from Premier Inn to College road, expected comments from Norfolk County Council as now 12 weeks and should be in, also William Frost Way expected this week.

Condition 26 – site access, waiting for tweaks, horizontal levels to address as the fall of the existing road is non-existent hoping to use divets. Norfolk County Council have agreed to be more relaxed on the gradients. Waiting for Norse to sign off and also the soakaways under the pavement.

Phase 1 – Bawburgh Road – this is going to be re-aligned to come into the Persimmon's site and should receive technical approval this week. Should do site access first but depends on when approvals come in. Current timescales, if technical received this week, then two to three weeks for legal agreement and then will mobilise their teams straight away.

Nutrient neutrality – this issue was raised by Councillors as there were lots of concerns which the local press had highlighted. People are now moving into the houses but would not be able to sell in the future until condition 42 is released according to the legal advice sought by Easton Parish Councillors. It was stressed there is good communication between Easton Parish Council and Persimmon Homes, the problem is for South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council to address and it is frustrating as they are not communicating well.

New Village Hall land – Easton Parish Council has now been granted planning permission for the new centre and Persimmon has staked out the land to enable building to commence asap.

Phase 2 – do not have reserved matters approval and this is delayed until the nutrient neutrality issue is resolved and will be the same for Phases 3 & 4. Anglian Water has previously approved the foul water system but may require mitigation to include creation of wetlands elsewhere.

b) Orbit Homes

Cllr Milliken gave a brief verbal update as follows –

- Cllr Milliken and Cllr McCarter attended a meeting with Orbit Homes on site a few week's ago.
- The soil on site has turned to "powder" hence the dust issue experienced
- First Show home expected April 2023
- Have struggled with costings as materials have greatly escalated in price

c) Norwich Western Link

Noted there is a meeting pending which will be at the Costessey Centre, Cllr McCarter offered to attend.

d) Any other updates

A47 improvements – was approved but now being legally challenged by Andrew Boswell, independent environmental consultant, which may set the project back.

11 Dereham Road – hedge to be replanted, one more parking space, reduced height and render colour will be grey.

ACTION: PMc

2022/24) Finance matters

a) Payment lists to-date –

On the motion of Cllr McCarter, seconded by Cllr Lewis, it was

RESOLVED to accept and approve the payments to 26 September 2022 to a total of £71,037.29

b) External Auditor's report & conclusion of Audit 2021/22 –

Mr Woodcock, Responsible Finance Officer, presented the External Auditor's Report and completed Audit for financial year 2021/22 to Councillors. Noted one tick box had been left unchecked on the AGAR and confirmed Easton Parish Council are not a sole trustee, there are individual trustees in place.

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve the External Auditor's report which confirmed the AGAR was as in accordance with proper practices with no matters of concern raised.

c) Purchase of new bins –

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

RESOLVED to purchase 4 x bins at a total cost of £2,880

ACTION: CLERK/RFO

2022/25) Transfer of land

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve the transfer of land from South Norfolk Council to Easton Parish Council at St Peter's Drive and Cardinal Close Play areas and Cllr Milliken and the Clerk will execute the Deed.

ACTION: CLERK/PM

2022/26 Deed of Release

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve a Deed of Release of Overage relating to land on the North side of Dereham Road, Easton, Norfolk and Cllr Milliken and the Clerk will execute the Deed.

ACTION: CLERK/PM

2022/27) Review of Financial Regulations

The Clerk presented the updated Financial Regulations for Easton Parish Council which were adapted from the NALC model document and which had been previously circulated to all Councillors..

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve the Financial Regulations presented.

2022/28) Correspondence received to-date

Civility & Respect pledge –

Cllr Milliken raised concern regarding sanction of Councillors and referred to his experiences of abuse by members of the public.

On the motion of Cllr Moye, seconded by Cllr McCarter, it was **RESOLVED** to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge

South Norfolk Tree Warden – vacancy-

Recent correspondence from the South Norfolk Tree Warden Network had suggested the recruitment of a Tree Warden, this was briefly discussed and a suggestion made for a possible appointment. Could also be in the next edition of the Grapevine if not filled beforehand.

ACTION: CLERK/PM

2022/29) Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public in view of the confidential nature of business to be transacted (Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

(The Chairman had to leave the meeting at this point due to a medical appointment)

2022/30) Confidential legal item

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

RESOLVED should Norfolk County Council fail to formally confirm their liability of St Peter's Path, Easton Parish Council will take the matter forward through legal means.

ACTION: CLERK/ALL CLLRS

Meeting closed at 2.10pm

Public Participation Notes

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

- Residents questioned the legality of the current road closure of Dereham Road, there had not been any notifications received. Noted Anglian Water can do emergency closures but Cllr Milliken agreed to contact Orbit Homes once the meeting was finished to gather info and call Anglian Water if needed. Great concern regarding impact on the bus service as Excel not running, however, no. 4 bus was in service via Bawburgh Road.
- Resident wanted explanation regarding management of allotments as felt some were unkempt which was detrimental to other tenants and those waiting for a plot. Cllr Milliken advised he had been in the process of re-allocating vacant plots, had done two and only two more vacant. Noted we are now at the end of the growing season and also several tenants are growing organically. It had been hoped the allotments would be run by an association but no one seemed willing to take this on. The resident stated he would be interested in doing this in the future.
- Residents living adjacent to Jubilee Playing Field reported continuous anti-social and threatening behaviour incidents. They advised they were fearful to report to the Police because of possible reprisals. There was a fairly lengthy discussion including the suggestion to unlock the gate which was not agreed by the Parish Councillors as it would involve enabling access to another landowner's field. Cllr Milliken offered to make a formal complaint to the Police on behalf of the residents which they declined.