

Easton Parish Council

The Village Hall, Marlingford Road, Easton, Norfolk NR9 5AD

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Minutes of the meeting of Easton Parish Council held on Monday, 9 January 2023 at 1.30pm at The Village Hall, Marlingford Road, Easton

Present:

Cllr P Milliken – presiding
Cllr D Lewis
Cllr P McCarter

In attendance:

Gina Lopes, Acting Clerk to Easton Parish Council
Francis Woodcock, Responsible Finance Officer to Easton Parish Council
3 x public

2022/030) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr B Moye

2022/031) Declarations of interest

None received

2022/032) Delegation of powers and continuation of quarterly meeting schedule

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

RESOLVED to continue with previously delegated powers and quarterly meeting schedule

ACTION: ALL CLLRS/CLERK/RFO

It was noted the meeting schedule could be reviewed following the May elections.

2022/033) Suspension of meeting for Public Participation

RESOLVED to suspend the meeting to invite members of the public to speak – see “Public Participation Notes”

2022/034) Minutes of the meeting held 26 September 2022

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2022 as a true and accurate record.

Cllr Milliken advised the confidential item discussed at the last meeting was in relation to ownership of St Peter’s Path and Norfolk County Council. Legal action was taken and it is now confirmed this path is owned by Norfolk County Council.

2022/035) Councillors' Reports

Brief verbal reports were received as follows –

Cllr Lewis reported the battery for the defibrillator sited outside the Village Hall would need replacing later in the year, the other defibrillator in Lower Easton was also due for replacement. Cllr Lewis to contact the company and arrange for replacement batteries nearer the time.

ACTION: DL

Cllr McCarter advised the newly installed litter bins are being misused as all items are being placed in them. Items for recycling are not being placed separately in the recycling bins.

Cllr McCarter also reported speeding cars are still going through the Village and this is regularly reported to the Police. The Police do respond and often send the camera team to catch offenders. There was a suggestion there should be a “zero tolerance” policy put in place by the Police. It was stated issuing drivers with warnings does not save children’s lives. Cllr McCarter confirmed he will discuss this suggestion with the local officer.

ACTION: PMc

Cllr Milliken reported the Council is now in contract for the new Community Centre and the entrance has been made. This week the surveyors are attending to lay out the site, the position and heights. Next week the crew come to create the site compound and welfare areas. By the end of January, the contractors for groundworks will have been appointed and will make ready for the steels. The pad will be in 5 sections and groundworks should take about 6 weeks and in mid-March steels should take 1 week. SIPs will be done and should all be waterproof by end of April. Completion is still on track for mid October 23. This will enable possible move in by Christmas 23. The new Centre will have lots of facilities including a bar, 2 meeting rooms and a “blue light” office, There will also be electric vehicle charging points.

Funding is broken down into £505k from the Greater Norwich Development fund, £500K from a South Norfolk Council grant and Easton Parish Council will cover the rest of the costs utilising its current and future community Infrastructure funds from the Persimmon Homes development of phase 1 and 2.

Build costs have gone up to approximately £2.2million, however, by changing the structural build material and working with a number of partners including MKM Building Supplies we are looking to bring the project in at around £1.8m

There will be 139 solar panels producing 54 kw per hour of electricity. 70kw will be available on the battery and can be used in an emergency situation which gives a 7 day capacity.

There is a rain-water harvesting system and it may be possible to turn grey water into drinking water with a water filtration system. This should be considered as part of the emergency contingency plan.

2022/036) County & District Councillor's Report

No report received at this time.

2022/037) Updates

a) Persimmon Homes -

Noted there are many houses now built and Persimmon still do not have the discharge of conditions; nutrient neutrality has still not been sorted. Condition 22 is a very slow process. The Bawburgh Road improvements should have been completed but still not, along Dereham Road S.278 should be completed and Councillors are hoping they will only close the road once and do all the necessary works together. The bus shelter has been moved and is being used.

b) Orbit Homes –

Are on track for opening a show home late April. We will be arranging with Orbit to arrange services to support local residents who need to secure a property. In the mean time it is important to have your name on the SNC housing waiting list. .

c) Norwich Western Link -

This cannot proceed until the A47 work is done, there is a Judicial Review with a hearing scheduled late spring.

d) Any other updates –

None

2022/038) Finance matters

a) Payment lists to-date –

On the motion of Cllr McCarter, seconded by Cllr Milliken, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the payments to 6 January 2023 to a total of £83,507.03

b) Bank reconciliation –

On the motion of Cllr Milliken, seconded by Cllr McCarter, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Bank Reconciliation dated 6 January 2023 to a total of £776,224.73

c) Budget for financial year 2023 to 2024 –

Mr Woodcock, Responsible Finance Officer, and Cllr Milliken presented the draft budget to the members.

The allotment costs were highlighted and it was reported there had been a burst pipe resulting in a highwater bill being received. Members were asked to consider how to manage the allotments in the future. It was noted the allotment holders had been asked to form an association and handle the allotments themselves but no one had come forward. Currently all plots are rented and will review to see how many renew, it may be new tenants could be more proactive. To consider this item after the May elections.

On the motion of Cllr Milliken, seconded by Cllr McCarter, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Budget 2023-24 to a total of £23,488.00

d) Land Transfer To confirm transfer of land from Persimmon Homes to Easton Parish Council for new community centre. **RESOLVED** to accept transfer.

e) Precept request for financial year 2023 to 2024 –

An overall increase of 2.5% was discussed and it was noted the Council had good reserves which could prevent large increase.

There are 528 properties included in the taxbase figures.

On the motion of Cllr Milliken, seconded by Cllr McCarter, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Budget 2023-24 to a total of £22,488.00

ACTION: CLERK/RFO/ALL CLLRS

f) Jubilee Playing Fields Charity –

The accounts sheets for the Charity Trust were presented by the RFO and noted. Agreed Cllr Peter McCarter and Cllr Peter Milliken would be Charity Trustees. The RFO to upload all necessary information to the Charity Commission website.

ACTION: RFO/PMc/PM

2022/039) Equality and Diversity Policy

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve the Equality and Diversity Policy.

2022/040) Any urgent correspondence

Mr David Beckett expressed an interest in the role of the local Tree Warden. The Clerk was instructed to pass on the contact details for the Tree Network.

ACTION: CLERK

The meeting closed at 3.05pm

Public Participation Notes

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

- A resident asked why Council meetings had previously been recorded and put on You Tube but this had ceased and he would like this reinstated. He raised concerns at confidential items being heard when the public were excluded and why this was being done.– It was explained meetings had been recorded previously only during the Covid Lockdown as they were held virtually. To record successfully in the Village Hall would require the installation of expensive equipment which was not viable. He was advised residents could take their own recordings as long as they made it know in advance they were filming. The excluded items were only to discuss confidential items when necessary. This had happened more often lately because of the sensitivity of many quotes/contracts in relation to the new Community Centre.
- It was reported everyone in the Village was very pleased the bus shelter with the murals. It was suggested publicity should be sought to highlight this asset.
- A resident expressed his deep concern regarding the felling of 7 trees by the Diocese. A planning application had been submitted to fell 3 trees to make room for 2 car parking spaces and the resident advised when he spoke to SNC Tree Officer who was against the felling. The TPO Numbers are available and the resident will send to the Clerk. – this matter was discussed and the vacancy for a Tree Warden for Easton was noted, the resident may consider this opportunity.
- There were further concerns raised by another resident regarding how many trees had been felled along the road by the Persimmon Homes site. This action was taken to widen the road and provide access for the new school. It was noted 58 trees should have been felled but actually 76 were felled because of an error. It was noted this was a temporary order and the resident expressed great sadness at this action.