

Easton Parish Council

The Village Hall, Marlingford Road, Easton, Norfolk NR9 5AD
Email: clerk@eastonparishcouncil.co.uk
Tel: 07879379181 www.eastonparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Easton Parish Council Held on Thursday, 21 September 2023 at 1.45pm at The Village Hall, Marlingford Road, Easton

Present:

Cllr B Moye– presiding
Cllr D Lewis
Cllr P Milliken
Cllr P McCarter

In attendance:

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

2023/016) Apologies for absence

None, all Councillors present

2023/017) Declarations of interest

None received.

2023/018) Continued Delegated powers and quarterly meeting schedule

On the motion of Cllr Moye, seconded by Cllr Milliken, it was
RESOLVED to continue with previously delegated powers and quarterly meeting
schedule.

ACTION: ALL CLLRS/CLERK/RFO

2023/019) Suspension of meeting for Public Participation

On the motion of Cllr Moye, seconded by Cllr Milliken, it was
RESOLVED to suspend the meeting to invite members of the public to speak – see
“Public Participation Notes”.

2023/020a) Minutes of the Annual meeting held 17 May 23

On the motion of Cllr Moye, seconded by Cllr Milliken, it was
RESOLVED to accept and approve the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 17
May 2023 as a true and accurate record.

2023/020b) Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held 17 May 23

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting were noted for accuracy only

2023/021) Councillors' Reports

Verbal reports were received as follows –

Cllr Milliken reported speeding on Bawburgh Road and an accident where a pedestrian was hit by a van which was then found in the Gym car park. Cllr McCarter confirmed he was present at the time and an ambulance attended and took the person to hospital but is not aware any Police action was taken. Further near misses involving pupils from the Bridge School when on route to the Gym. The Headteacher feels it is too dangerous to take pupils along the road, there have also been reports of speeding Taxis. The School is tackling these issues and is in discussion with Norfolk County Council.

Regrettably, the new speed limits will still not extend far enough down this road and part of the road is currently in National speed limit.

Suggested Norfolk County Council Cllr Dewsbury could feed these reports in to Norfolk County Council.

2023/022) County & District Councillor's Report

Norfolk County Council & South Norfolk Council Cllr Dewsbury gave a brief verbal update as follows:-

South Norfolk Council - are now settled into their new building, Horizon Centre in Broadland Way. New Councillors and new Cabinet members; not too much to report at this time.

John Fuller spoke to the Prime Minister regarding Nutrient Neutrality and it was going to the House of Lords but this was stopped.

Norfolk County Council – Cllr Dewsbury knows about the issues in Bawburgh Road and Highways have been in touch. The road will be 20mph limit as far as the School and the Gym Club, she has an email which confirms this. Dereham Road will be reduced to 40mph as drivers come in.

A47 dualling – currently carrying out archaeological work and building of the road should be in January 2024. Originally put forward in 2014 but is now actually happening. Noted there was an appeal which is still ongoing.

2023/023) Finance matters

a) Payment lists to-date –

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve the payments lists May to September 2023 to a total of £808,117.00

b) Bank reconciliation –

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve the Bank Reconciliation dated 16 September 2023 to a total of £472,418.75

c) External Auditor's report & conclusion of Audit 2022/23 –

Mr Woodcock, Responsible Finance Officer, advised the Audit was now concluded and the External Auditor's report confirmed there were no issues. The Chairman thanked the Responsible Finance Officer for his work to complete the audit process.

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

RESOLVED to accept and approve External Auditor's report 2022/23

d) Insurance renewal –

It was noted when the new Community Centre is completed this will need to be added to the Council insurance policy which will increase the premium, it is currently under a separate cover.

On the motion of Cllr Moye, seconded by Cllr Milliken, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the annual insurance renewal with Ansvar Insurance to a total of £1,110.53

ACTION: CLERK/RFO

2023/024) New Community Centre

a) Progress update –

Cllr Milliken gave a verbal update; the roof is currently being built and is expected to take about nine weeks and the build is progressing well. The car park is currently porous tarmac and this will be covered with block paving later. There is a permeable surface to allow for drainage into system under surface. The external cladding should start the following week. The windows will be installed mid-October and a crane will be needed for the large windows. The doors and first fix electrics are to be installed and the project is moving rapidly. Has been negotiating with the different trades to keep costs as low as possible and trying to use local companies where possible. Solar panels to go on soon whilst scaffolding is there. Velux windows are on the roof. There will be a road closure for a few days.

The Council applied to amend a condition which would have taken the big trees out by the School as they wished to retain them. Residents are encouraged to comment on the application.

All details are on the Community Centre website which is updated regularly.

b) New Contract for Community Centre –

EPC are managing the project themselves and this will save a lot of costs.

c) Procurement process & any other matters –

Cllr Milliken advised there is a bespoke procurement policy in place for the community centre.

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

RESOLVED to accept the continued use of the special procurement policy for the Community Centre agreed at a previous meeting.

ACTION: ALL CLLRS/CLERK/RFO

2023/025) Grass cutting service & contract

Cllr McCarter reported on the recent communications with CGM and the poor service received. Has chased each time areas of cutting have been missed; has met with the Area Manager and walked him around the village to show him the various areas. CGM is being taken over by another company with better equipment so service may improve. Have issued a credit note to compensate for poor service. The Council could argue CGM are in breach of their contract for poor performance.

It was agreed HCR Solicitors should send CGM a letter warning of their breach of contract with Easton Parish Council. The Clerk to contact Norse for a quote and look for other alternative service providers. Cllr McCarter to meet with alternative contractor/s if they wish to visit the areas. Councillors thanked Cllr McCarter for all his time and efforts regarding this contract.

ACTION: PMc/CLERK

2023/026) Updates

a) Persimmon Homes – it was noted Condition 42 has still not been approved (neutrient neutrality) but people are still buying the new houses. Flagship are taking on the social housing but with indemnity in case there are problems. Persimmon are building wetlands and South Norfolk Council are getting involved with schemes to have wetlands, supposedly to deal with nitrates.

b) Orbit Homes - Houses are available and Easton residents are encouraged to apply by putting their names on the South Norfolk Council Housing list. Easton residents will get priority for these new homes.

c) Norwich Western Link – The project seems to be quiet at the moment. Cllr Lewis confirmed he attended the last meeting and the discussion was mainly around the challenges to this construction.

d) Any other updates or Planning matters-

Easton Neighbourhood Plan Review – the document has gone to consultation with Natural England it will then go to South Norfolk Council who will appoint an Inspector. Once the review is approved by the Inspector it will come back for Easton residents to vote on the changes.

2023/027) Any urgent correspondence (if any)

None received

2023/028) 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)

2023/029) Confidential item

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

RESOLVED to make an application for an advanced draw down of CIL funds for Phase 2/3 of planning application 2014/2611 to a total of £500,000 and Mr S Vincent will make the application for EPC.

ACTION: RFO

Meeting closed at 4.10pm

Public Participation Notes

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

- Resident raised concern a car had been parked for almost year and had been reported but no action taken – It was reported the car had just been moved away the day before
- It was queried if “Poppins” was to be given use of the existing Village Hall once the new Community Centre is completed. Concern was raised that other groups in the Village may have wanted the space – Councillors advised they could not confirm the Group they were in discussion with it at this time, however, when the public had been asked previously this was the only Group who showed an interest. All information would be available in the “Grapevine” magazine and Council website once a decision was confirmed.
- Resident queried the daytime meetings when in the past meetings were held in the evening – Councillors advised this was working well with a higher attendance than when evening meetings were held
- Resident advised there were incidents of cars with flat tyres due to screws in tyres which was reported on Facebook