

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2012, at 8pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Sue Gilbert (Chairman), Janina Jones (Vice-Chairman), John Willson, Rob Boulton, Roger Board, Lawrence Smith (UDC), Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

1. **Apologies** for absence and declaration of interest – Apologies received from Steve Oakey and County Cllr Simon Walsh. There were no declarations of interest for agenda items.
2. **Presentation on Land West of Woodlands Way, Gt Dunmow** - Andrew Blackwell, Partner, Bidwells LLP: There is a clear distinction between the Barratt proposal to that recently exhibited by Land Securities, creating a strong northern boundary with wetland and ecological areas from Hoglands to High Wood SSSI. It would also include a primary school, allotments, public and school playing fields and land available for a new health centre (www.westofwoodsideshowconsultation.co.uk)
Q&As – Residents asked for clarification on why developers are asking for development in addition to what is in the District Council's draft allocation and if the Land Securities land would be part of one large development, working with Barratts. Mr Blackwell commented that in combining the two proposals, it would trigger a requirement for a new secondary school and might make other developments unviable.
3. **Public Forum** – Residents questioned the motives of Land Securities offering a buffer zone of land to be made over to the Council and any other incentive for agreeing to support the Land Securities proposals. All residents expressed opposition to the Land Securities plans and asked how the Parish Council would oppose the forthcoming application. A resident asked that consideration be given to traffic calming measures from Duck Street towards Great Easton – and asked if it were possible to have a new vehicle activated speed sign at this end of the village.
4. **Minutes** of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Easton Park and Neighbourhood Plan** – Suggested comments have been circulated for the Parish Council submission to the public consultation. It was agreed that an extension to the consultation period should be formally requested and feedback will be given to the Clerk on the bullet points for Parish Council priorities. It was agreed that no specific examples or conditions should be stated at this stage. Reflecting on the information given on Neighbourhood Planning and comments from the meeting with Gt Dunmow Town Councillors, it was decided that it would not be advantageous to the Parish to start the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Great Dunmow has a designated Neighbourhood Plan Area for expansion within its parish boundaries.
6. **Planning application** - UTT/12/5575/OP, Land at The Old Stag Cottage Duck Street, outline application for the erection of 5 detached dwellings with all matters reserved except access. Parish Council comments have been sent, in relation to the previous appeal decision, being outside the development envelope and on a

dangerous bend. An extension of time for an additional comment has been agreed but councillors decided that no additional comments were necessary.

7. **Budget and Precept** – The Clerk circulated a review of expenditure and consideration of items to be included in next budget. It was agreed that no increase would be necessary. The actual 2013-14 Precept Request should be completed at the January meeting.
8. **Delegated authority** was agreed for the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and another R Board, to liaise with Peter Snow at UDC and Gt Dunmow Town Council regarding Woodlands Park Sector 4.
9. **Representatives' Reports:** Steve Oakey had circulated a report to councillors prior to the meeting giving details of his meeting with the Alexia Wilson Trust. This included information on a fundraising event at the “Pride of Sylet” on 5th March 2013. Photographs have been circulated for comment for the website. An amendment paragraph has been circulated to the Cricket Club and Memorial Hall Committee and agreement should be sought at the next Parish Council Meeting. S Gilbert has updated details on the emergency plan. Cllr Walsh sent a report expressing objection to the Land Securities proposals, reminding councillors of the Minerals Local Plan consultation and giving an update on the winter salt service. ECC is likely to move into a further phase of cost savings, with another £200m savings to be made over the next few years.
10. **Clerk's Report:** ECC Highways department has given information that the proposed road layout in connection with the new Woodlands Park development is to the specification of the original S106 agreement. Queries over concerns from Little Easton and Great Dunmow are ongoing. Winter salt has been delivered and residents wishing to have their own bag delivered should contact the Clerk. Cllr Walsh has been asked for help in getting the bin at the corner of Park Road cleared out and re-filled. The Clerk contacted A Taylor at UDC with suggested wording to the Draft Development Framework to give more robust protection from “coalescence and the loss of the separate identity of nearby settlements”. He has responded to say that, although it is too late to receive representations, they will have a look to see whether they “could improve their very similar policy”. Residents wishing to be updated on the land Securities proposed development can be updated on email by sending contact details to lt_eastonclerk@btinternet.com and they will be added to a group mailing list. Details of the Uttlesford Residential Parking Standards consultation have been circulated to councillors, with responses to be received by Friday 11th January. Stop Stansted Expansion has sent a letter to Parish Councils, updating on activities over the past year and requesting financial support.
11. **Finance:** Balance at 1st December 2012 was £15,506.32. In November, the deposit of £125 was paid to Activ Web Design.
Cheques agreed: J Deane £367.23, Post Office £158.09, Poppy appeal £15, S Holden £105, Wicksteed Leisure Ltd £11,712.72, MD Landscapes £78, A&J Lighting 41.04, S Gilbert £87.73, E-On £44.38.
12. **Planning** – no other applications for comment and no decisions noted
13. **Items for next agenda** – Setting the Precept, financial support for SSE, Woodlands Park Sector 4 and electoral boundaries, Cricket Club Agreement, playground update. R Boulton gives apologies for January meeting.

14. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday, 23rd January 2013, 8.00pm at the Memorial Hall.

15. Meeting closed at 10.20pm