

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th July at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Sue Gilbert (Chairman), Janina Jones (Vice-Chairman), John Willson , Roger Board, Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from R Boulton, S Oakey, L Smith (UDC) and S Walsh (ECC). Declarations of interest were made by S Gilbert regarding item 4, with an interest in the Cricket Club (spouse) and the Memorial Hall Committee and by J Jones for item 4 as Memorial Hall Committee representative.
2. **Minutes** of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Public Forum** – 3 members of the public were present with one resident informing the Council of their objections to the planning application UTT/1166/12/FUL, primarily regarding the proposed location and scale of a new cart lodge, with concerns regarding the negative impact on the listed setting. The application description of re-positioning is inaccurate and misleading because this would be a new and larger structure. Further concerns were raised regarding the proposed extension, that it would not be in-keeping with the listed setting. Other neighbouring residents were not notified by UDC.
4. **Planning application item brought forward on the agenda - UTT/1166/12/FUL**
Single storey side extension, repositioning of cart lodge and pitched roof to replace flat roof at rear Gardeners Cottage Easton Lodge Little Easton – Extension of time was requested by Clerk for comments to be sent by email to the planning officer on 19th July. Councillors agreed on the following comments:
 - Concerns regarding the new cartlodge and its close proximity to listed buildings and the detrimental effect it might have on the character of this setting.
 - LEPC was not consulted in full detail regarding the plans as the size of the proposed new cartlodge was not conveyed to us. Residents made enquiries to UDC and were informed that the size is to be 5m x 5m which is larger than we would expect for a cartlodge (normally no more than 4m in height) and councillors would object to this aspect of the plans.
 - LEPC has been informed that the boundaries on the plans provided are inaccurate and are misleading, making it impossible for LEPC to base make further comment on the incomplete and possibly inaccurate information provided to us at this stage.
 - other residents are possibly still unaware of the proposal.Unless the officer is minded to refuse the application on other grounds, LEPC requests full and accurate information on which to base a decision.
5. **Cricket Club** – Chaired by R Board - additions to the 10-year agreement to be discussed. Wording regarding the request for extra fixtures was agreed by the Council but not by the Cricket Club. Representatives from the Cricket Club explained that they wished to increase the number of fixtures, to develop a youth team, without incurring an extra cost per fixture. It was agreed that a working group

would meet, with parish council representatives giving updates at parish council meetings. It was proposed that representatives would work towards additional wording for approval at the parish council meeting on 13th March 2013.

6. **New Code of Conduct** - J Jones reported on the meeting she attended and details of the UDC code were discussed. It was resolved to adopt the UDC Code of Conduct in its entirety with immediate effect. Councillors need to ensure that their details are up to date and returned to the Clerk for disclosure to UDC within 28 days of this meeting.
7. **Funds for Village Games** – Details were received of costs incurred by the Duton Hill Residents' Association for adult and child t-shirts. LEPC was not made aware of the proposed costs ahead of purchase but has agreed previously to make a financial contribution towards this community event. £550 has now been requested from the organising committee. It was decided that, in the first instance, a representative in the village would request grant funding from the District Councillor from the New Homes Bonus fund. If this is unsuccessful, councillors agreed to raise funds by holding another function in the village.
8. **UDC Development Plan Consultation** – J Willson reported on a proposed change of policy regarding employment units on the Stansted Airport Site. Councillors opposed the change and agreed wording, with reference to the previous refused planning applications, to be sent to UDC by the Clerk. It was also agreed that changes to wording regarding the departure from policy S7 and replacement wording with detail on categories of important countryside was a weakening of the current policy protection. The wording “where possible” in the document should be removed. All comments to be agreed for 23rd July deadline.
9. **Comments on UDC Enforcement** were to be considered in response to Broxton Parish Council correspondence, however, the parish council was informed that this situation was now being resolved.
10. **Playground annual inspection** – the goal post was now included in the annual inspection. N Holden was requested to carry out minor repairs as detailed in the report. Quotations have been received regarding repairs to the playground fence and drainage for the goal area and these are retained by the Clerk for consideration at the next budget review.
11. **Representatives' Reports** - J Willson reported that weather conditions had delayed progress of the access road and put the programme behind schedule.
12. **Clerk's Report and Correspondence:** The substation lease is due to be signed by the Trustees and LEPC have agreed costs with the solicitor. A Jubilee weekend financial review will be included in the next report, along with an update on 30mph sign request. The Clerk has received a reference number from UDC Jubilee Grant Fund. Quotations have been received for another bid, regarding the War Memorial Garden.
13. **Planning – Delegated Authority** – It was agreed that delegated authority would be given to S Gilbert, R Board and J Jones, in liaison with the Clerk, for decisions on comments for planning applications received with deadlines before the 12th September meeting.

For comments:

– **UTT/1301/12/FUL** Proposed roof window to second floor on west elevation Elmbridge Barn Mill End Little Easton – no comment.

- **Additional information for UTT/2507/11/OP** Demolition of derelict former Brookfield Farmhouse and construction of up to 125 No. dwellings and associated estate roads, garages, car parking spaces, footpaths, cycleways, cycle stores, refuse storage, public open space, landscaping and foul and surface water drainage with pumping Little Easton/Great Dunmow Bovis Homes Ltd - foul sewer along the B184 and dry balancing pond. Sector 4 Woodlands Park - submission has been sent by the clerk (details previously circulated) for the report to UDC Planning Committee and councillors agreed on further points for refusal at the committee meeting:

- Little Easton would grow by 70%. The cost to our community is too high a price for perceived benefits to Great Dunmow.

- Explicit linkage of planning permission to the earlier completion of the NW bypass road is unacceptable.

- It would introduce 125 new households, all totally reliant on car use for essential services in the town.

- The Inspector stated “the site does not score highly on environmental sustainability. It is not a suitable site for housing.” Since then, UDC has made considerable progress in advancing the Draft LDF.

It was agreed that S Gilbert will represent LEPC at the meeting and additional conditions would be circulated to all on the Planning committee regarding:

- Roundabout /junction design for better safety

- Firm commitment of a regular bus service of at least half-hourly intervals

- An area of wildlife mitigation to be provided prior to construction

– A fully paved footpath for the entire length of the routes to Gt Dunmow town centre and along the new by-pass road.

– LEPC to ask that the officer be directed to refuse planning permission if there is no adequate S106.

It was decided that all present would meet again to formulate exact wording for S Gilbert, based on the agreed principles.

14. **Finance:** Balance at 1st July 2012 was £13,164.35. Cheques agreed: Broadmead Leisure £84, SNH Garden Services £600.27, S Holden £49.10, RCCE £40, MD Landscapes £312, E-ON £44.38, J Deane £661.10, A&J Lighting £41.04, S Gilbert £17.99

15. **Items for next agenda:** Footpath 22, new Chairman’s project to be discussed, village beacon – arrangements and costs for retaining the beacon permanently on R Board’s land, website – presentation by L Smith and discussion led by R Boulton on paid and free alternatives, possibly in partnership with the Memorial Hall Committee.

16. **Date of next meeting(s):** Wednesday 12th September, 8.00pm at the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 10.35pm