

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday, 23rd April 2014, at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Present: Sue Gilbert (Chairman), Rob Boulton, Chris Audritt (arrived late), Simon Walsh (ECC), Lawrence Smith (UDC), Jackie Deane (Clerk), and 9 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Doug Wyatt and John Willson. There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.
2. **Welcome from the Chairman:** Members of the public were welcomed and S Gilbert updated the meeting on the Easton Park planning situation by reading the Parish Council's letter to the Planning Inspector.
3. **Minutes of last Annual Parish Assembly** were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. **Chairman's Report** – Sue Gilbert's full report is retained on file.
5. **Clerk's Report on Finance** – The Precept was £15,500, unchanged from the previous year. Approximately 1/3 of the annual expenditure is spent on street lights and grounds maintenance. Tree works were carried out on the recreation ground and funds for other planned expenditure on village projects will be carried over into the next year. This is included in the total of £16,795 to be carried over to the next financial year. An income and expenditure report is retained on file.
6. i) **County Councillor's Report** – S Walsh gave an update on road repairs and new funding available for flooding protection. He assured residents that the Dunmow Youth Centre would remain open and resources have been used to increase the number of apprenticeships available in the county. He explained changes to care and waste services. (Full report on file)
Cllr Walsh agreed to look into an issue of water on the road in Duck Street
- ii) **District Councillor's Report** – L Smith reported on the District Council's progress with the new Local Plan and strategies to support businesses, review parking and support local community support officers. He allocated grants, totalling £2,000 to several local groups with each receiving £200-£400. (Full report on file)

Questions and comments from residents:

- 1 Some residents needed clarification over which planning application is currently under consideration for Easton Park. The Chairman explained that

- only the first application, refused last year, is subject of appeal. A new application was expected, with access from the new bypass but this has not yet been put forward.
- 2 There were several suggestions to the cause of water on the road in Duck Street. S Gilbert has reported it and was asked to give the reference details to Cllr Walsh for him to follow up with ECC Highways.
 - 3 A resident repeated a previous request to allow the public forum in normal meetings to be after councillors have discussed agenda items. It was explained that the purpose of the forum was to hear residents' views before the councillors' discussion and decision but there can be some flexibility for residents to join in on some discussions.
 - 4 There was a suggestion that the water pump in Manor Road could be refurbished at some point in the future to make it a feature in the village.
 - 5 A Mill End resident asked the council to make another application to get the speed limit reduced from the national speed limit to 30 or 40mph. The Chairman explained that the previous application for vehicle activated speed signs was not taken forward because the speed check did not record consistent speeding and so the criteria was not met. Cllr Walsh said that he would be supportive of another try to reduce the speed limit on Duck Street, between the village and Mill End, although a recent County Council review found the current limits to be acceptable.
 - 6 A resident asked Cllr Walsh about the possibility of reducing the speed limit in Manor Road and it was explained that it was not possible to introduce a speed limit on the bridleway part of the road.
 - 7 A Manor Road resident asked Cllr Walsh if he would support a request for the County Council to adopt Manor Road and he explained that it would not be a viable option for the County Council.
7. **Date of next Annual Parish Assembly** – Wednesday 22nd April 2015, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.
8. Meeting closed at 8.10pm