

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2015 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Sue Gilbert (Chairman), Eileen McKendry-Gray (Vice-Chairman), John Willson, Chris Audritt, Doug Wyatt, Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to give their views in the public forum. She explained that the Council was keen to take residents' views on board at meetings or in correspondence sent to the Clerk but they should not be malicious or of a personal nature.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllrs Simon Walsh and Lawrence Smith. There were no declarations of interest on agenda items.
2. **Minutes** of the last meeting were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Public Forum** – Councillors were asked to consider changing the meeting format so that the public can hear councillors views before residents make their own comments. An update was requested on the progress to reduce the speed limit between Duck Street and Mill End. D Wyatt reported that the County Council's feedback was that there were too few houses along that stretch of road to justify a 30mph limit but speed checks were due to be done in the near future. He added that the Council would be looking to re-instate the Community Speedwatch group and invited volunteers. A Park Road resident asked the Council for help following a planning consent for an extension to a neighbouring property. Councillors asked the Clerk to write to the District Council regarding its decision. An update was requested on the Superfast Broadband project, due to be implemented in the village in June 2016. A link for resident interest will be put on the website.
4. **Co-option of a councillor** – Chris Hindley was proposed by C Audritt and seconded by D Wyatt. He read the declaration and was duly co-opted onto the Council.
5. **Hall hire costs for parish council meetings** – It was agreed that a nominal payment of £10 per meeting is paid to hire the hall, to off-set the cost of heating and light. An annual advanced payment was agreed, to cover the 8 meetings in 2015.
6. **Pre-application consultation on land to the rear of The Stag public house** – an informal discussion with the landowner took place on 19th January, to consult on a forthcoming planning application. Community benefits were suggested to make an application for 85 homes more sustainable and serve the needs of an enlarged village. Councillors agreed that a play area should be shown on the plan and that it would be best located in the centre of the development.
7. **Review and adoption of updated standing orders** – updated wording was circulated prior to the meeting. D Wyatt proposed the adoption of the standing orders, seconded by E McKendry-Gray and agreed unanimously.
8. **Setting up a staffing committee** – It was agreed to set up a committee of 3 councillors – E McKendry-Gray, S Gilbert and C Audritt.
9. **Precept request** – A precept for 2015-16 of £15,700, with a district council grant of £800 was agreed and the request form was signed, to be returned by hand by 31st January.
10. **Essex County Council Flood Risk Consultation** – locations with a risk of flooding were identified as the road at Mill End, towards Bowyers Bridge and in Duck Street

alongside The Old Stag and Tingey Hoe. Just outside the parish boundary, a further flood risk was noted from Duck Street on the approach to Great Easton.

11. **Stansted Airport** – J Willson agreed to circulate the consultation wording, for councillor suggestions to submit for comment.
12. **Renewal of Stop Stansted Expansion membership** – renewal was agreed.
13. **Donation to Little Easton Good Companions** – a donation of £100 was agreed.
14. **Website** – New content was suggested and will be sent to J Willson.
15. **Quiz night** – There was a discussion on the arrangements for a fundraising event on 27th February, with proceeds to go towards costs of the planning appeal.
16. **Representatives reports** – E McKendry-Gray noted fly-tipping on a PROW to the rear of the Memorial Hall and on the bridleway from Brook End to Browns End Road. C Audritt attended a meeting of the Alexia Wilson Trust in Great Dunmow on the 19th January. The Trust provides funding to individuals in need when referred by agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and GP Surgeries. They also donate Christmas parcels and supermarket vouchers to those in need. Their annual fund-raiser is on Monday 9th March in Great Dunmow. S Gilbert reported that all the play equipment is satisfactory and the north-western boundary fence has been reinstated after recent vandalism. Remedial work to play surfaces, as outlined in annual safety report, will take place in the next few weeks. Football goal mouth needs attention in the spring as a large hole in the ground is making play difficult. The roadside planters have been renewed and quotes are being sought for the rear boundary fence around the war memorial.
17. **Clerk's report and correspondence** - An email from a Manor Road resident was received on 22nd December which included personal insults about the Chairman and the Clerk. It was not distributed to councillors but the matters raised were discussed with the Chairman. The resident was informed that it would not be circulated. Previous emails were regarding the location of a sign in Manor Road and were circulated and considered by the Council.
Councillors were advised of forthcoming meetings and consultations. The Clerk and 2 councillors had attended the UDC cabinet meeting, which was held in Great Dunmow as part of an initiative to make the meetings more accessible and inclusive. The withdrawal of the draft LDF and next steps on forming the new local plan were outlined.
18. **Planning** – **UTT/14/3642/HHF** - Ripley, Duck Street, single storey side extension and porch - no objection response was sent prior to the meeting, **UTT/ 14/3664** - Woodlands Park Sector 4 Pumping Station – no comment. E McKendry-Gray declared an interest in the amended application just received for **UTT/15/0189/HHF** Tower House, Easton Lodge, and took no part in the discussion – no objection was raised to the scaled-down application.
19. **Finance** – Balance on 1st January was £14,818.36
Payments made this month – Post Office (HMRC) £479.21, E McKendry-Gray (Xmas party expenses) £157.67, C Beattie (catering) £115.60, A&J Lighting - £46.20
Payments agreed – J Deane £935.53, E-ON £44.38, SNH Garden Services £297, Stop Stansted Expansion £10, Lt Easton Good Companions £100.
20. **Items for the next agenda** – Memorial Hall and access to the field behind the hall, Annual Parish Assembly.
21. **Dates of next meeting** – The meeting dates for 2015 were agreed. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11th March 2015, at 8pm in the Memorial Hall

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.