

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Sue Gilbert (Chairman), Eileen McKendry-Gray (Vice-Chairman), Chris Audritt, Doug Wyatt, Chris Hindley, Martin Foley (UDC) Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 11 members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs John Willson, Simon Walsh and Lawrence Smith. S Gilbert declared a pecuniary interest in an item on Manor Road, to be added to the agenda for a decision on a financial contribution for filling in potholes. There were no other declarations of interest on agenda items.

1. **Minutes** of the last meeting were corrected relating to S Gilbert's report on the recreation ground and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
2. **Public Forum** – Manor Road residents and the village hall committee asked for financial assistance to help with the costs of filling potholes in the bridleway section of the road. The full cost was estimated at £200-£300. A village hall trustee explained that regular cleaning at the hall is of a good standard and the cleaner was thanked for keeping the hall clean and tidy. There is currently a problem with the hall not being cleaned effectively after some regular evening bookings. A group of residents intend to raise money for a defibrillator in the village, preferably located in the telephone box. A coffee morning is being held on 16th May and more information will be given at the annual parish assembly. There were concerns that the planned broadband upgrade would not give the fast speeds available elsewhere. A problem in the exchange has been reported and it was suggested that the Parish Council ask for feedback from residents by putting an item on the website. The Clerk was asked to contact residents on the mailing list for parish council updates. The hedge by the riding stables is overhanging the road.
3. **Village Hall** – It was agreed to pay the trustees £100 to partially fund the filling of potholes in Manor Road and the hall car park. Topics for representatives at the next committee meeting were discussed. There was clarification on the informal agreement regarding the gated access to field behind the hall and a complaint about the lack of cleaning before functions will be passed on to the hall committee meeting.
4. **Highwood Quarry Liaison meetings** – It was decided that meetings should be reduced from 6-monthly, as in the planning consent, to an annual September meeting, with a site visit, and the option to call interim meetings as and when required.
5. **Community Clear-Up Day** – Councillors were not available to coincide with UDC's date but agreed that there will be a village litter-pick on Saturday, 25th April, meeting at the Memorial Hall at 10am. The Clerk was asked to get equipment from the district council.
6. **Agenda for Annual Parish Assembly** – items suggested were fundraising for a defibrillator, reforming the speed-watch group, updating the village on the conservation area proposal and the village litter-pick. The Clerk was asked to invite a representative from Highways so that solutions to the speeding issues could be discussed.
7. **UDC consultation on community engagement** – councillors were asked to read through and give comments to the Clerk as soon as possible.

8. **Clerk training** – A budget has already been allocated for additional hours and EALC has now been offered training sessions spread over the next few months to complete the Certificate in Local Council Administration. Attendance at additional meetings was agreed.
9. **Representatives' reports** – J Willson sent in a report on the quarry liaison meeting he attended on 10th March. There are three outstanding planning applications, all with Essex County Council. The first is the long outstanding crushing plant. This is likely to go ahead and only formalities are delaying it. The second is for a silt press as part of the recycling scheme. The third is for additional office space at B Lodge. These last two are relatively minor and Essex Minerals department is supportive. There is an open offer for councillors to make a site visit on a Saturday morning. S Gilbert reported that planned tree work on the recreation ground has started. Rolling of the playing field was needed to remove tyre tracks. A picnic bench has been donated and will be placed inside the play area.
10. **Clerk's report and correspondence** – A county councillor report has been circulated and Cllr Walsh drew attention to the bus consultation. Meetings: Conservation area consultation on 14th March 10-12 in the Memorial Hall and Superfast Broadband meeting on 18th March in Chelmsford. Communication was made with UDC and a resident regarding a recent planning approval and a subsequent complaint made by the resident. The Carnegie Trust asks for more information on grant-aided playing fields between the wars, including one in Little Easton. They would like to reinforce the legal protection afforded to the playing fields and so further information is being sought to confirm whether it is the recreation ground or another field nearby. A letter was sent to the Memorial Hall Trustees for them to use in support of their grant applications for a replacement roof for the hall. A letter of thanks was received from the Little Easton Good Companions for a donation which will pay for at least 3 months travel for the group. Nigel Holden intends to make a start on the ground work in the play area within the next couple of wks. Southon Engineering suggested a simple curved bar fence instead of the specification quoted for the rear of the war memorial. E-On has sent notification of a price increase on the unmetered supply.
11. **Planning** – No new applications for consideration.
12. **Finance** – Opening balance was £14,781.73
 The quiz night made a profit of £1,495.58
 £2,200 grant was received from UDC for replacement wall and railings
 £25 rent was received from the Village Hall Committee
 £422.50 was received from the Cricket Club for half the annual grass cutting cost
 Payments made this month – Roy W Blackwell Ltd £1,452 (front wall at war memorial), Southon Engineering Ltd £3,811.20 (railings). Cheques signed - E-ON £42.92, A&J Lighting Solutions £46.20, J Deane £1,328.21, Post Office (HMRC) £544.44, Memorial Hall £100.
 Clerk's salary includes the remainder of overtime from the public inquiry and 3 hours for meetings in Saffron Walden and Chelmsford.
13. **Items for the next agenda** – donations to charities and local groups, defibrillator, continuation of service in the telephone box.
14. **Date of next meeting** – Annual Parish Assembly and meeting to follow, starting at 7.30p on Wednesday, 22nd April 2015, in the Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 10pm