

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Chris Audritt (Chairman), Doug Wyatt (Vice-Chairman), Jess Rush, Chris Hindley, Andy Dodsley, John Freeman (UDC), Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and announced the resignation of Sue Gilbert, giving his personal gratitude for her help and support when he took over from her as Chairman and thanks from the Council for 9 years as Parish Councillor, including 4 as Chair. Cllr Audritt noted that Sue is a perfect example of how a resident can become actively involved in the village by becoming a councillor.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Martin Foley (UDC) and Simon Walsh (ECC). 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 – Adrian Hoodless, as broadband champion for the village, gave an update that Little Easton will be one of the first to get the upgrade for phase 2, commencing in June. It will cover the whole parish.
Cllr Freeman reported an increase in the Council Tax to keep a budget for essential services including Highways Rangers, which will be match-funded by the County Council. He will be arranging an introductory meeting with the new UDC Chairman.
4. Approval for the Clerk to visit a solicitor with a member of Memorial Hall Trustees – agreed for a one-hour consultation. The item was brought forward on the agenda so that Adrian Hoodless could take part in a brief discussion, as a Memorial Hall Trustee.
5. UDC call for sites – factual inaccuracies and comments on 6 SHLAA sites were agreed in principle and an additional representation was discussed in relation to site 5, which is the site West of Great Dunmow, still awaiting a decision on the public inquiry.
6. Playground quotations:
 - 1) lime tree removal quotation from Acer Tree Services £650 was agreed
 - 2) safety surface repairs quotation from Acorn Services £660 & VAT (not to include a repair to a dip under the slide)
 - 3) basketball hoop base was previously agreed and an increased sum to be confirmed as it was agreed to move the equipment and new base alongside the play area, when room is made available by the tree removal.
7. War memorial – two benches for the war memorial garden were agreed at £625.50 each. Dedication plaques would be included in the price, with wording to be discussed benches.
8. Cricket Club - a request for a permanent line fixed to trees in the recreation ground, for fitting a mesh curtain when required, was discussed and agreed in principle, subject to approval of a satisfactory drawing.

9. Queen's 90th birthday beacon lighting at 7.30pm on 21st April – C Audritt is leading on the preparations for the event. A possible celebration in June was deferred to the next meeting.
10. Representatives' reports – Sue Gilbert sent in her final report on the recreation ground, with only area for attention being the goal mouth and some damage caused by being mown too early and some parking on the edge of the grass. Weekly inspections will be carried out by Nigel Holden in future. N Holden asked for consideration to be given for an outside tap at the Memorial Hall, enclosed in a box for security. C Audritt attended a gravel pit liaison meeting. D Wyatt attended a Memorial Hall meeting and congratulated trustees on the hall refurbishment. C Audritt and D Wyatt will attend the next Local Highways Panel meeting.
11. Clerk's report and correspondence – updates were given on the war memorial railings, due for completion on 11th March, and changes to the bus service. The county councillor report was circulated prior to the meeting. For parish council consultations, wording will be circulated for the SHLAA and Chris Hindley and Doug Wyatt agreed to review the Statement of Community Involvement and liaise with the Clerk, both with a deadline of 8th April.
Andy Dodsley and Jess Rush agreed to read up on the process of Assets of Community Value and liaise with the Clerk on considering other assets as an agenda item.
Chris Audritt and Andy Dodsley will consider agenda items and publicity for the Annual Parish Assembly and liaise with the Clerk.
12. Planning - Applications for consideration: UTT/16/0069/HHF - Proposed two storey side extension, Margaret's Cottage, Park Road – no comment
13. Finance:
 - 1) opening balance £17,137.60
 - 2) a credit from the Transparency Code grant £1,710.29 has been received but not shown in the cleared balance
 - 3) cheques agreed – Little Easton Good Companions £25, MD Landscapes £60, J Deane (includes clerk accrued overtime and computer) £1,809.65, Post Office (HMRC) £368.40, Lt Easton Memorial Hall (hire charge) £40, E-On £58.83, A&J Lighting Solutions £46.20
 - 4) balance after payments and credit £16,439.89
14. Items for the next agenda - Review of community assets and community events.
15. Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday, 27th April at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, followed by a meeting of the parish council.

Meeting closed at 10.40pm