

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER AT 7.30PM IN THE UPSTAIRS ROOM, THE THREE HORSESHOES PH, DUTON HILL

Present: Cllrs Chris Audritt (Chairman), Doug Wyatt (Vice-Chairman), Eileen McKendry-Gray, Jess Rush, Sue Gilbert, Chris Hindle, Martin Foley (UDC) and Simon Walsh (ECC). Also present: Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

1. There were no apologies for absence and no declarations of interest on agenda items
2. Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Public Forum** Public Forum:
 - 1) Police Sergeant Richards, based at saffron Walden Police Station, attended on our invitation to discuss the police response to recent break-ins and started by explaining the significance of cuts to PCSO jobs and changes to neighbourhood policing. The 999 service is unaffected by current re-structuring. Parish councils have a direct contact with the neighbourhood policing team and members of the public will be served for all non-urgent enquiries by the 101 service, rather than being put through to local police stations. Burglary remains a priority and should be attended within an hour of the crime being reported. Speed monitoring and Community Speedwatch will become the responsibility of the Fire Service and neighbourhood policing will not attend reports of anti-social behaviour. Current focus is on "hidden harm" which includes domestic violence, online crime and sexual offences.
 - 2) Bus service network consultation – the County Council's proposal to discontinue the timetabled 312 and 313 bus service and offer a Dial-a-Ride type service was discussed during the public forum and concluded in the next agenda item.
4. **Bus service consultation** – it was thought that the suggested Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) would suit even less in the community than those currently using the service and the Clerk agreed to request a meeting to discuss alternatives. The following points were agreed:
 - 1) This is the only public transport link between Thaxted and Great Dunmow and the DRT service will be used by less people than currently use the timetabled service by the nature of the DRT, which requires prior notice and the necessity to make contact to request the service.
 - 2) Current and replacement services do not serve the needs of the majority of current residents and removes provision in planning conditions for major new developments in Thaxted, Little Easton and Great Dunmow
 - 3) Route and timetable of 313 and replacement do not give adequate service to a railway station, the main shopping at Tesco in Gt Dunmow, Herts and Essex and Broomfield Hospitals. Inadequate service is provided to Chelmsford, London and Cambridge, which are the main centres for work and leisure for our residents. The only railway station served by the DRT service is the Branch line at Braintree and the only hospital is Braintree Community Hospital, which are not required by our residents.

5. **Parish council meetings** - It was agreed that parish council meetings will start at 7.30pm in future.
6. **Stansted Airport consultation** on the permanent use of Performance Based Navigation – it was agreed that, on balance, noise disturbance would affect less homes and so should be supported.
7. **Ideas for a fundraising event** – deferred to the next meeting.
8. **Gravel pit sign** – councillors considered re-wording or possibly removing the sign on the B184 but decided it should stay as it is.
9. **Village sports day and Christmas party** – feedback on the sports day was discussed and it was decided to appoint a representative for village events at the May meeting and plan events further advance in future. An information pack was suggested for both events. The village hall will not be available for the Christmas party so it cannot be held this year. J Rush agreed to make enquiries with neighbouring villages and it was agreed that the allocated budget can be used to subsidise alternative arrangements, if they are open to our residents.
10. **Neighbourhood Plan** – deferred to the next meeting pending further information.
11. **Finance and budget update** – councillors suggested new allocations for next year. Additional £2k should be allocated for tree works, £1k for play safety surface and an additional £1k towards the war memorial rear fence. C Hindley will review these with the Clerk before the next meeting, to check required level of precept for the next financial year.
12. **Recreation ground** – a quote was received for safety surface repairs and this will be considered when another comparable quote is found. It was decided to accept a quote of £445 (paid from allocated grant from the district councillor) to put in a concrete base for the basketball hoop and for N Holden to use the soil elsewhere on the recreation ground.
13. **Representatives' reports** – the play area safety surface has been washed but the lime tree is dropping sap, which is making it slippery. All councillors were asked to look at the tree and the safety surfaces before the next meeting. A Community Speedwatch meeting has been arranged at Gt Dunmow police station.
14. **Clerk's report and correspondence** – The external audit has been completed. It is noted that the village hall valuation and other assets should be fixed and not revalued each year. The designation of the conservation area has been advertised. A poppy wreath will be taken to the remembrance service by the Chairman. Councillors' representative responsibilities and committees have been updated and will be put on the website. The staffing sub-committee will report at the next meeting for the Clerk's annual review.
15. **Planning** – No applications for consideration. Decisions made: **UTT/15/2069/OP** 65 new dwellings on land to the east of the Stag PH – refused, Hill Cottage, Duck Street – conditional approval.
16. **Finance** – Balance on 1st October was £20,417.74
Payments: J Deane £461.04, S Gilbert £17.00, Essex Air Ambulance £100, EALC £70, PKF Littlejohns £240, CA Beattie £110, E-ON £59.82, SNH Garden Services £248.50, MD Landscapes £78.00, A&J Lighting £23.10.

17. **Items for the next agenda** – fundraising event, lime tree in the playground and the local plan consultation.
18. **Date of the next meeting** - 25th November 2015 at 7.30pm – venue to be confirmed
19. Meeting closed at 10.20pm