

Little Easton Parish Council

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Minutes of the **Little Easton Parish Council** meeting held in the **Little Easton Parish Church** commencing 7:30pm on Wednesday **27th MARCH 2019**

Present: Cllr Dodsley Cllr Hindley Cllr Fowell Cllr Rush Cllr Jones Cllr Wyatt
Dist Cllr Foley & guest

Members of the public

18/156	NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None
18/157	DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING Cllr Rush – Item 18/169 - Planters
18/158	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 06 MARCH 2019, TO BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN RESOLUTION to Approve as a correct record: Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Hindley
	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION Members of the public may raise questions about and comment on items on the Agenda OR of import. Session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person with no repetition of a previous question) PLAY AREA SIGN – Suggestion to move the Play Area sign along Manor Road to a taller pole so as to make it more visible.
18/159	RECEIVE THE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS Cllr Foley confirmed no discernible update since the comprehensive report provided at the Annual Parish Council on 20 March, that report reproduced in full for clarity at APPENDIX B
18/160	RECEIVE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE DEAD FISH ON PONDS – Report of dead fish on pond, owners to be notified. Environment Agency advised, possible blue algae contamination. MINUTES CORRECTION – Item 18/153 should read Close of Nominations 03 April 4pm. STREET LIGHTING ENERGY – Transfer of supply contract to be competed. CHANGE OF VENUE – Council meeting scheduled for 29 MAY to be held in Little Easton Church Chapel due to Annual Council Meeting on 15 MAY in Memorial Hall.
18/161	PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS None to review
18/162	FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT & AGREE PAYMENTS – APPOINT AUTHORISER RESOLUTION – Approve payments: Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr Jones AUTHORISATION – Cllr Jones 18/162(i) APPROVE NALC CLERK’S SALARY INCREASE FROM APRIL 2019 APPENDIX A

	<p>RESOLUTION – Approve +1 Scale Point increase: Proposed Cllr Wyatt, Seconded Cllr Dodsley</p> <p>18/163(ii) CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR</p> <p>RESOLUTION – Approve appointment: Proposed Cllr Hindley, Seconded Cllr Wyatt</p> <p>18/163(iii) AGREE EARMARKED RESERVES FOR PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT AT £5,000</p> <p>RESOLUTION – Approve: Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr Hindley</p>
18/163	<p>UPDATE ON NEW WEBSITE CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>CLERK to provide members with link to construction site</p>
18/164	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:</p> <p>WAR MEMORIAL – Railings to be painted, Plinth in need of repair - Cllr Wyatt to ACTION</p> <p>MEMORIAL HALL – Trustees awaiting quotes for Gate, update from Trustees to appear in Five Parishes magazine, parish council requested written clarification and full details of proposed actions</p> <p>FOOTPATHS – Condition of Duck Street footway to be reported to Highways; Footpaths to be walked to review condition; one open case pending response from Highways</p> <p>HIGHWOODS QUARRY – Nothing to report, SRC to be approached for contribution to play area funding</p> <p>PLAY AREA</p> <p>18/164(i) – ABACUS – TEMPORARY REMOVAL PRIOR TO REINSTATEMENT</p> <p>RESOLUTION – Approve removal to Cllr Rush house, ground fixings to be removed and made safe – CLERK to ACTION</p> <p>Council agreed to not repair fixings and reinstate item until further notice: Proposed Cllr Hindley, Seconded Cllr Wyatt</p>
18/165	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT BIN</p> <p>Cllr Hindley to place order</p>
18/166	<p>CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO PLACE A NOTICEBOARD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL/CAR PARK FOR USE BY THE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PARISH COUNCIL</p> <p>Council happy to consider a 50/50 cost consideration; as a non budgeted expense Cllr Hindley to liaise with Clerk on finances and affordability</p>
18/167	<p>RECEIVE RESULTS FROM THE INVITATION TO ADD PROPERTIES TO THE LOCAL LIST</p> <p>Nine invitations letters delivered, two responded positively – Cllr Dodsley to liaise with GDTC seeking confirmation of next action</p>
18/168	<p>CONFIRM AGREED PLACEMENT OF “DOG FOULING” SIGNS TO PLAYINGFIELD FENCE</p> <p>Council agreed to placement on fence only and not trees – CLERK to ACTION</p>
18/169	<p>CONSIDER BUDGET FOR PLANTING IN NEWLY REFURBISHED “PLANTERS”</p> <p>Councillors to acquire plant costings for approval at next meeting</p>
18/170	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 24 APRIL 2019 – CLOSE - 8:52pm</p>

Signed.....Date.....

APPENDIX A

LEPC MARCH 2019 Finance Statement										
Projected balance at 31/03/2019 - £15,843.44								Budget	Net Expen	Diff +/-
								21,006	21,118	-112
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	Cheque no	Minute Re	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
07-Mar	Employee	Expenses	N/A	FPO		Y		16.20		16.20
07-Mar	SNH Garden Services	Groundworks	2095	FPO		Y		380.00		380.00
07-Mar	SNH Garden Services	Planter repairs	2096	FPO		Y		910.00		910.00
07-Mar	SNH Garden Services	Goal repair	2097	FPO		Y		161.50		161.50
28-Mar	Employee	Salary	PAYE	SO				365.00		365.00
15-Mar	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	32756	DD		Y		24.30	4.05	20.25
22-Mar	Eon	Street Lighting	H16E2E61	DD		Y		48.93	2.33	46.60
28-Mar	Just-Us Digital	Dibond sign	19/8416	FPO				36.00	6.00	30.00
28-Mar	Employee	Expenses	N/A	FPO				11.25		11.25
28-Mar	A Dodsley	Expenses	N/A	FPO				6.47		6.47
March								1,959.65	12.38	1,947.27
Closed March 2018 at £17,379										

APPENDIX B

DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT – Cllr Foley

COUNCIL TAX

You may have already had notice of this...

UDC element will go up by just under 3% this year.

ECC element will go up by 3 % this year

Adult Social Care will go up by 1% this year

Essex Fire by 2.9%

Essex Police by 14.7

Police - At last, there will be a few extra police in Essex (150 in total) but this follows a drop of 600 over the last few years and many believe (including serving police officers) that this has had a detrimental effect. This is against a background of over 20,000 fewer police officers in England and Wales.

NEW HOMES BONUS

I gave a grant this period for Play Equipment for Little Easton.

UTTLESFORD HIGHWAYS MEETINGS

Although highways are largely an Essex County Council Matter...

I have had a couple of meetings over the last two months with ECC Highways Liaison Officer for Uttlesford and asked for immediate action on the potholes and speeding issues on the main roads through The Eastons as well as the road between Thaxted and Dunmow and particularly the problems we have in Little Easton brought up at the last parish meeting.

THE (UTTLESFORD) LOCAL PLAN

Following the submission of the draft Uttlesford Local Plan to the Secretary of State which includes the 10, 000 homes at Easton Park. UDC received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate giving details of the inspectors appointed to examine the soundness of the Local Plan; they are Louise Crosby and Elaine Worthington. I have to tell you that this is not a done deal yet. I have opposed this plan throughout the consultation period and voted against Easton Park. I still believe this is the wrong place to put 10,000 homes and will continue to work with SEP and our Parish Council to do what is best for local people.

There is another issue which I think is relevant. Carver Barracks will become available in a few years time and it will be one of the biggest brownfield sites in East Anglia and likely be available for new homes. UDC has offered to build a running track on one part of the site at a cost of £500k as long as they had guaranteed that it would not disappear within a short period. The MOD would not give that undertaking and would not agree to a claw-back if it went to another use in a short period. This, many of us feel would be a better garden community than Easton Park.

I have seen a report from Campaign for the Protection of Rural England that there are in England enough brownfield sites to build around a million homes in the next few years. This is about the number that the government wants to build but instead allowing a massive takeover of our countryside and not really building the sort of housing that is actually needed. They often say they are going to build affordable homes. 80% of market prices in this area are not affordable to many people.

Just to be absolutely clear, I support "Stop Easton Park". Should it go ahead I will work shoulder to shoulder with Little Easton Parish Council on mitigation measures.

Libraries

I have been involved with others in the campaign to "Save our Libraries".

Working alongside many other local groups we have taken the "SAVE THAXTED LIBRARY" and "STOP CUTS TO DUNMOW LIBRARY" campaign to County Hall Chelmsford on several occasions and lobbied for support at Uttlesford District Council. We are grateful to all the people who have supported the campaign. We must keep our Libraries open, and keep the library staff, who play such an important role. We need to stay completely within the Essex Library Service to benefit from the essential professional support which it can offer.

THE AIRPORT -STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

Dr Mike Tayler who is here tonight myself and indeed the entire Stop Stansted Expansion team and thousands of residents have expressed dismay and disappointment that Uttlesford District Council (UDC) Planning Committee granted approval for Stansted Airport's planning application to grow to an annual throughput of 43 million passengers per annum. If this approval is allowed to stand, it would mean that Stansted could increase its flights by 44% and its passenger throughput by 66% compared to last year's levels.

The UDC Planning Committee, comprising ten elected Uttlesford councillors, split right down the middle with five in favour of the application (including the Planning Committee Chairman) and five against. Where there is a split vote, the Council rulebook gives the Chairman an additional (casting) vote. The voting by individual councillors is available but sadly it split into party political lines backing the government's wishes.

Campaigners from Stop Stansted Expansion and opposition groups at UDC had argued that the development should have been decided at a national rather than local level and SSE vow to continue their legal battle. After permission was granted by the council in November last year, the verdict was subject to a review by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

In a letter published last month, Communities Secretary James Brokenshire, unfortunately, confirmed the government's approval of the airport's planning application, lodged in February 2018.

There is a growing group of people like Dr. Tayler and myself will work together with SSE members ready to back a judicial review.

Martin Foley
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