

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 **10 JULY 2019**

Present: Cllr Dodsley Cllr Fowell Cllr Rush Cllr Keefe Cllr Hindley
 Dist Cllr Tayler

Several members of the public

19/39	NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Dist Cllr Foley
19/40	DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING No declarations made
19/41	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 29 MAY, TO BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN RESOLUTION to Approve as a correct record: Proposed Cllr Keefe, Seconded Cllr Fowell
	<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Cllr Dodsley outlined the process for this session to help ensure an orderly and timely meeting, that everyone is heard and has the opportunity to express their view(s). He went further to outline the comments and PC position expressed in the background document accompanying the Agenda.</p> <p>The following is a summary of the comments, observations, questions and views expressed on the Memorial Hall Committee’s proposed erection and operation of a gate across the Memorial Hall car park their having taken legal advice on the matter:-</p> <p>1 – Had the PC taken its own legal advice? Cllr Dodsley advised that the view of the parish council was that this was not the best way to settle differences of opinion in the community. Further query as to why it had taken so long to arrive at the position we are at today, despite the matter, along with reports of anti-social behaviour being raised to the previous administration many months ago? Cllr Dodsley briefly explained that the formal notification from the Memorial Hall Committee was only received on the 28th of May 2019 and that this was the first council meeting following receipt of the notification to discuss the matter.</p> <p>2 – Why was it necessary to provide for parking overnight in what is not a public car park?</p>

3 – Travellers had arrived in the parish, parking on private land, Police enquired of land owner of other sites they could be moved onto as suitable locations are diminishing; removal from private land is a faster process due to the offence of Trespassing whereas open public land is not so quick an eviction process particularly if unprotected open public land; comment made that Travellers could not be locked onto public land and denied free exit.

4 – Who, how and where recorded the evidence of anti-social behaviour (ASB)? The gate posts have already been installed without consultation with the PC or outcome from this meeting? What other courses of action have been considered such as LED movement activated lighting and CCTV?
It was confirmed that the evidence and instances has and continues to be reported to the Police.

5 – The PC are the land owners whilst the MHC Charitable Trust are the Tenants, it appears the PC are being forced into a situation of acceptance particularly as the gate posts have already been installed? Minimal evidence of minor drug taking has been found on the car park, mainly small “laughing gas” cannisters with no obvious evidence of hard drug abuse.

6 – Does the MHC hold a Lease which permits them to control use of the property contained in that Lease? The council confirmed Yes.

7 – There is a real danger of Travellers settling on the car park or playingfield therefore the gate must be installed.

8 – If it is illegal to lock Travellers in on public land, who have previously entered via an open gate, an open gate is not about to deter Travellers or stop their free passage in and out of the car park or field.

9 – How and by whom is the gate operation to be managed?

10 – The gate has to achieve two aims, deter and stop anti-social behaviour which includes drug taking and erratic driving at speed around the car park plus deter Travellers; the playingfield also needs fencing off plus a gate installed.

11 – The MHC have taken legal advice and considered options but do have the right to take the action they are proposing to take.

12 – Residents should be consulted first.

13 – The gate is not proposed to be locked during the day.

14 – Anti-social behaviour including drug taking, abusive from car occupants, loud music, racing round the car park, groups of cars congregating on the car park, intimidating behaviour has been witnessed first hand on several occasions both very late at night, early hours of the morning and at times during the day, all reported to the Police

	<p>15 - The PC chairman asked the chair of the MHC to confirm the position of the trustees in respect of the gate being locked with a combination code and the code being made available to any Little Easton resident who asked for it. The chair of the MHC confirmed that the MHC were in agreement that any gate would be locked with a combination code and the code would be made available to any resident that asked for it. The PC chairman also suggested that a review of the operation of the gate should be undertaken after 6 months of operation to assess whether the operation is working satisfactorily and establish whether any changes need to be made. The MHC chair agreed that this would be a good idea.</p> <p>Finally the PC Chairman presented an overview of the numerous responses received from residents and the input the council had received on this matter, confirming that the overwhelming majority of responses were in favour of a gate being installed.</p>
19/42	<p>DISCUSS THE MH COMMITTEE PROPOSALS TO ERECT A GATE ACROSS THE CAR PARK AND DECIDE WHETHER TO GRANT APPROVAL</p> <p>RESOLUTION: To grant approval to the MHC proposals to install a gate. Approval conditional on the gate being installed with a combination padlock and the code for the padlock being made available to any Little Easton resident who asks for it. A review of the operation of the gate will be undertaken after six months of operation. Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr Hindley.</p> <p>CLERK to send a letter of confirmation to the Memorial Hall Trust Management Committee, text available at APPENDIX C</p>
19/43	<p>RECEIVE THE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS</p> <p>Dist Cllr Taylor reported – An emergency Council meeting had been called to discuss the S106 agreement (type of mitigation funding) questioning the now suitability of that proposed S106 agreement due to material changes, such as the risk to UDC from a legal challenge from M.A.G (Manchester Airport Group), the climate change emergency highlighted in 2018 and the impact from Noise Pollution; there should be a request for the S106 agreement to return to Planning.</p> <p>The current elements of the Local Plan have been under examination, Legal, Housing and Spatial Strategy (a recording of this examination is available via the UDC website). An overall lack of sustainability has been highlighted thus far.</p> <p>Communities may be invited to participate in a “Community Trust Group”, Cllr Dodsley expressed some scepticism with the value of such groups due to previous experience.</p> <p>Libraries across Essex scheduled to close will not now close but opening hours will change and an increase in the employment of volunteer service to man the service.</p> <p>COUNTY CLLRS REPORT – APPENDIX B</p>
19/44	<p>RECEIVE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>PARKING - An instance of inconsiderate parking on Father Day along Park Road adjacent to the Church, the entrance to The Manor and the Manor Function Rooms reported by a resident – Confirmed an extraordinary attendance of the Fathers Day celebration at the Church contributed to the excessive parking. Owners of The Manor</p>

	<p>offered free use of the Function parking to the Church when the private area is not in use – CLERK to advise Church Warden.</p> <p>HISTORICAL GATE POSTS – A request received seeking the PC to adopt responsibility for the care, repair and maintenance of the two historical gate posts along Park Road, wooden posts situate either side of Park Road adjacent to the entrance to The Manor, which probably formed an official entrance to the Gardens or Lodge. It is not currently known who owns the posts.</p> <p>Cllr Fowell to enquire of Historical England whether they can assist with the support or suggest a solution to their care.</p>
19/45	<p>PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS None to consider</p>
19/46	<p>FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT & AGREE PAYMENTS – APPOINT AUTHORISER RESOLUTION – Approve payments: Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr Hindley AUTHORISATION – Cllr Rush APPENDIX A 19/46(i) – AUTHORISE CLERK TO MAKE PAYMENTS DUE AT END OF JULY RESOLUTION – Approve Clerk to make payments: Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr Rush</p>
19/47	<p>AGREE GRANT AWARD POLICY TIMING - APPLICATION, PROCESSING AND AWARD MONTHS Confirmed – OCTOBER, FEBRUARY AND MAY</p>
19/48	<p>REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH CONTRACT FORMAT AND CONTENTS TO BE ISSUED TO CONTRACTORS CLERK to circulate example templates for further consideration</p>
19/49	<p>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS: WAR MEMORIAL – CLERK to enquire of groundworks Contractor as to scope of their works and report to council MEMORIAL HALL – No report in addition to early item concerning the gate FOOTPATHS – NO feedback from residents on condition of footways and kerbs, Cllr Fowell to complete inspection of footways and report condition, complete with photographic evidence to Highways for inclusion in repair schedule HIGHWOODS QUARRY – No Report PLAY AREA – Signs erected on Basketball hoop structure, Waste bin installation in progress, Cllr Hindley submitting second part of CIF grant application EASTON PARK – Item covered in previous comments, Cllr Dodlsey soon to attend and comment at a series of Inspectors Hearings on behalf of the council. He will challenge the need for the proposed 10,000 Homes and seek the relocation of a far smaller number at a different location on the site.</p>
19/50	<p>AGREE ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE PLAYSAFETY PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT Playingfield Working Group to meet and agree next course(s) of action to present to the council</p>
19/51	<p>RECEIVE UPDATE ON PROPOSED WAR MEMORIAL & BENCH MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME Cllr Keefe now contacted both families associated with the benches in the War Memorial grounds to confirm their approval for the proposed works to be completed</p>
19/52	<p>IDENTIFY AND AGREE LAST MINUTE ACTIONS FOR THE AUGUST FAMILY SPORTS FUN DAY</p>

JULY statement 2019-2020										
Precept	23,540							Budget	Net Exp	Diff +/-
								23,189	4,537	-18,652
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	BACS	Minute Re	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net
Opening Balance							23,756.72	0.00		0.00
03-Jul	TSB	Service Charge	701003204			Y		8.25		8.25
11-Jul	A Dodsley	Water carrier						14.99		14.99
11-Jul	MD Landscapes	Grass cutting	95					156.00	26.00	130.00
11-Jul	RCCE	Subscription	2020					52.80	8.80	44.00
28-Jul	Employee	Salary	PAYE	SO				404.73		404.73
11-Jul	HMRC	PAYE						10.00		10.00
11-Jul	SNH Garden Srv	Maintenance	2144					132.00	0.00	132.00
11-Jul	MD Landscapes	Grass cutting	123					156.00	26.00	130.00
11-Jul	Employee	Expenses						4.50		4.50
03-Jul	TSB	Repayment				Y	10.85			
03-Jul	TSB	Repayment				Y	8.25			
July							23,775.82	939.27	60.80	878.47
Closing balance							22,836.55			

APPENDIX B

County Councillor's update, July 2019

Parents, did you know?



Children in Essex state their parents are the best source of information and advice around staying safe. That's why Essex Safeguarding Children Board has teamed up with Barnardo's and The Children's Society to help parents and carers improve their understanding of child exploitation.

A number of 'Parents, did you know?' events are set to take place across the county over the coming months, to help you spot the signs your child could be in danger and to provide a safe space where you can get advice and speak to subject matter experts, including Essex Police and the Essex Youth Offending Service.

Short talks, which can be booked for free in advance, will also be available during each event and information packs will be available to take away. [Find an event near you.](#)

Discover something new with the Essex Explorer Pass



Spending time outdoors is a great way of improving your health and wellbeing, having fun and discovering something new about the county's beautiful landscapes. To help you get out more this summer, we have launched the new Essex Explorer Pass which will help you save money on car parking, cafes and other attractions at Essex Country Parks.

From the ornamental lakes at Danbury, to the deer park and Stick Man trail at Weald, there is something for everyone all year round. To find out more, visit the [Essex Country Parks website](#).

Get in touch with your creative side this summer



The county's largest visual arts festival – Essex Summer of Art – is back this year, featuring over 20 art trails, events and open studios - from Harlow to Harwich and everywhere in between!

Learn more about the artistic talent Essex has to offer and enjoy celebrating the county's diverse artistic heritage.

[Find an event near you](#) and get in touch with your creative side this summer.

Highway matters

Highways: resurfacing work reaches its peak during the summer months and that coupled with water mains replacement and broadband cabling can mean extra delays on some routes.

As ever, if there are any highway problems, please use the ECC website to report them.

Simon Walsh

July 2019

APPENDIX C

Text of letter to be sent by the CLERK to the Memorial Hall Management Committee

Dear Jenny,

I am writing further to your letter of the 24th May 2019 regarding the installation of a gate across the entrance of the Memorial Hall car park. This matter was discussed at the meeting of the parish council on the 10th of July 2019 which you attended.

I am writing to formally confirm that the parish council passed a resolution to grant approval to the proposals to install a gate. As we agreed at the meeting, approval includes the condition that the gate will be locked with a combination padlock and that the combination code will be made available to any resident of Little Easton who requests it.

We also agreed that a review would be undertaken after six months operation to assess how the operation is working and whether any changes need to be made.

Although we didn't discuss at the meeting, it is our understanding that the Memorial Hall Committee will also be installing a notice board giving details of the opening and closing times of the gate and upcoming functions. We feel that this is an excellent idea. We would also suggest that the combination code be advised to UDC Waste services as a contingency measure should the gate ever be locked when the refuse lorries collect from Manor Road.

Kind regards