

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 11th December 2013 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall

Present - Cllrs: Sue Gilbert (Chairman), J Willson, Roger Board, Lawrence Smith (UDC), Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from R Boulton and S Walsh. 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** – A letter was handed to the Clerk for a written response, however the resident asked who had carried out the recent tree planting, how many meetings can a councillor miss and still remain a councillor and if the Council would consider cleaning an unofficial speed limit sign in Manor Road which has been changed from 10mph to 40mph. There was a request for an additional litter bin to be purchased and placed in the area of the zip wire and goal post, to the rear of the recreation ground. The Clerk was asked to enquire if UDC would empty it, should a new one be purchased. Councillors were asked if they had any influence in the timetable or implementation of the ECC Superfast Broadband works, due in 2016.
4. **Resignation of Vice-Chairman** – A letter of resignation has been received from Janina Jones. The Clerk explained the timetable for co-option of a new councillor. As the post of Vice-Chairman is vacant and the Chairman would be on holiday at the time of the January meeting, it was decided that J Willson would chair meetings in the Chairman's absence until the next election in May.
5. **Manor Road** – A written resident enquiry about maintaining the road was deferred to the next meeting as the resident was unable to attend this meeting.
6. **Co-option of a new councillor** – Chris Audrit was co-opted for the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Stephen Oakey.
7. **UDC Consultation on Housing Strategy and Additional Allocation Sites for the LDF** – It was agreed that councillors would consider the new questions and pass comments to the Clerk to collate and submit online if required.
8. **Emergency Planning** – UDC correspondence was discussed and it was agreed that R Board would attend a workshop on 19th February to help to deal with problems similar to those experienced in the recent loss of power to the village and add a strategy for the future for to the village emergency plan.
9. **Memorial Hall** – Details of a potential donation request for £1,000 were discussed and it was agreed that an allowance would be made in next year's budget to make a donation towards fencing around the car park, on receipt of relevant quotations and a forecast of on-going maintenance costs.
10. **Playground and tree works** on recreation ground – an estimate was received for fence repair and it was agreed that the £500 in the maintenance budget should be used for this purpose. Advice from the contractor who carries out the playground inspections is that a change of play surface would not solve the problem as any surface would become slippery in the shaded area. This was confirmed by making enquiries with other play equipment providers. It was agreed that a quote should be obtained for a removal of a tree and a decision would be made at the next meeting. In the meantime, the surface

has been cleaned as advised. An estimate has been received for a new sign to warn of children playing and this would be worked into the budget allocation for 2014-15.

11. **Budget and Precept** – the Clerk reported that income and expenditure had been analysed and projects should be started for works previously agreed out of allocated funds. Budgets have been adjusted to include planned projects for next year. The Clerk recommendation was to keep the Precept unchanged at £15,500, with an amount deducted for the UDC payment. As S Gilbert would be on holiday at the time of the January meeting, delegated authority agreed for the request form to be signed by the Clerk and Chairman prior to the January meeting and then this would be confirmed at the January meeting.
12. **Representatives Reports** – A report was received and circulated from the County Councillor Simon Walsh. S Gilbert reported on the planting of additional trees near the Memorial Hall, having been donated by Woodlands Trust. The Children's Xmas Party went well and thanks were given to Shirley Holden and everyone else involved. It was noted that there are currently less children in the village of primary school age. Damage to the Memorial Hall roof needed repairing as it was letting in water and the Hall Committee were in contact with the Cricket Club over responsibility for the damage.
13. **Clerk's Report and Correspondence** – An email was received from the Memorial Hall Committee with further proposals for an amendment to the Cricket Club Agreement. J Willson will attend their next meeting and report back to the Council. ECC Highways Department have given responses to all questions raised by a member of the public over the bridleway section of Manor Road and these have been forwarded to the resident.
14. **Planning** – Appeal on UTT/13/1451/OP - **APP/C1570/A/13/2208395** - Land Adjacent Elms Glebe Lane - Outline application for the erection of 3 No. dwellings with all matters reserved except access – Written representations must be received by 24th December 2013 – no additional comment to be submitted.
Decisions made - UTT/13/2816/CC - Highwood Quarry - Construction for the winning and working of sand and gravel without compliance with Condition 2 (Application details) to regularise changes in operations and the amendment of Condition 67 (to allow the crushing of inert waste) attached to planning permission ESS/65/06/UTT – no objections and **UTT/13/2813/CC** Retrospective application for extension to Bund 7 located on the northern boundary of Highwood Quarry by 15 metres to the north – no objections
15. **Finance** – Balance on 1st December was £21,896.21.
Cheques agreed – J Deane £304.05, Post Office £227.40, A&J Lighting £46.20, MD Landscapes £156, E-ON £44.38, CA Beattie £132, S Holden £112.33, SNH Garden Services - £171, S Gilbert £26.84, Royal British Legion £18.50
16. **Items for the next agenda** – Manor Road, Memorial Hall Committee regarding the Cricket Club.
17. **Next meeting** – Wednesday, 29th January 2014 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall
Meeting closed at 9.35pm