

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd January 2013 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Sue Gilbert (Chairman), Janina Jones (Vice-Chairman), John Willson, Roger Board, Steve Oakey, Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies** were received from Rob Boulton, Lawrence Smith (UDC) and County Cllr Simon Walsh. There were no declarations of interest for agenda items.
2. **Public Forum** – There were no comments from the public.
3. **Minutes** of the last meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Cricket Club Agreement** – The 10 year agreement was renewed in 2007 but additional wording can be agreed on an annual basis with agreement from both parties. S Oakey and J Jones have met with Cricket Club representatives and they will be considering the proposed changes to wording when they meet in February, ready for the March Parish Council meeting. Feedback from the Memorial Hall Committee is that the Hall's revenue was reduced this year from a reduction in bookings and the accounts only just broke even. In light of this, they have requested that any new arrangement with the Cricket Club should be on a one-year trial basis, so that any impact on bookings can be reviewed.
5. **Website update** – The Memorial Hall has set up their own website and so will not be contributing financially at this stage. The Clerk confirmed that a budget had been set to cover the entire set-up costs and the annual fee had been taken into account. S Oakey agreed to be the editor and displayed a sample home page. He invited all councillors to send him wording that can be used and to consider having their photograph on the website. Any other ideas for content should be sent to Steve and he will continue to liaise with Lisa Smith. It will be possible to include pages or links for other village organisations and perhaps include details of local businesses.
6. **Easton Park Update** – The Clerk read out correspondence from Land Securities confirming receipt of the Parish Council comments. A scoping opinion application has been lodged with UDC and opinion given. The promoted site near Tesco has also put in a scoping opinion application. Details for both applications are very similar.
7. **Changes to the Ward Boundaries** have been proposed and Parish Council comments were taken into account. It is proposed that there will be no Eastons Ward but instead Little Easton will be in the Thaxted Ward, along with Great Easton, Duton Hill and Tilty. The Council supported the proposal for the Ward boundary to be moved so that Woodlands Park Sector 4 will be within the Dunmow North Ward. In light of the discussions between the Clerk and UDC over the community identity of the parish and the extension of Woodlands Park, the Clerk asked councillors to consider starting the process of a Community Governance Review. It was agreed that, providing there was no good reason for a delay, it should start the process of a Community Governance Review as soon as possible. It is the Council's view that parishioners of Little Easton would wish the parish to retain its rural character and

not to include the forthcoming Woodlands Park Sector 4 development. Furthermore, the Council believes that future residents of the new Sector 4 would consider that they belonged with the rest of Woodlands Park and Great Dunmow. The Clerk was asked to check with UDC that there is no reason why it would be advantageous to delay the process and, providing that there was no good reason for a delay, the Clerk should make the request to Peter Snow, for the parish boundary to be amended to exclude the Woodlands Park development.

8. **Assets of Community Value** – Details for the Memorial Hall and the Recreation Ground are being processed, to be considered at a UDC meeting on 19th February. J Willson will continue to gather information on the fishing lake of Horse Pond and the surrounding area. He will also include the public open space that will be provided on completion of the Gravel Pit. S Gilbert will send information regarding the Gardens of Easton Lodge and J Jones will make enquiries about the Manor and Barn Theatre. The Clerk agreed to send an email so that all councillors have a copy of the forms to be completed.
9. **Setting of the Precept** –The Precept request is to be agreed and signed by the Clerk and Chairman. The Council resolved to set a Precept of £14,503 being the Council's net requirement of £15,500 less an agreed grant of £997 from the District Council.
10. **Stop Stansted Expansion** – A request for financial support, in addition to the membership renewal will be considered at the next meeting. The Clerk agreed to give information on available funds to be carried over into the next financial year.
11. **Representatives' Reports** – The County Councillor's report to the Clerk urged fresh requests for pothole repairs to be sent on the ECC website and that twice-daily gritting of the roads had been effective. He will be chasing the Parish's request for a vehicle activated speed sign.
12. **Clerk's Report and Correspondence:** ECC Highways are to carry out a new speed survey to consider eligibility for vehicle activated speed signs. A copy of the paid invoice has been sent to the District Council and payment of the grant for playground equipment is expected within 10 days. Other parish councils have contacted the Clerk regarding difficulties with getting hard copies of plans and submitting comments on the new planning portal. UDC has made changes to the settings and it is now possible to submit comments. Notification has been received on the Minerals Local Plan consultation 17th January to 28th February, with a drop-in session in Foakes Hall on 8th February, 11am to 7pm. Application for charity donation and information on Home-Start Uttlesford's loss of statutory funding. A donation request was also received from Catch 22 (moped loan scheme). These will be considered at the next meeting. The Clerk advised councillors that her laptop screen is not working but the computer is still functioning. Councillors are aware that the Clerk is using her own hard-drive storage at present and asked for her to consider a "cloud" storage option.
13. Finance: It was agreed that the laptop should be repaired, for a cost up to £150. R Board agreed to review the accounts and risk assessment with the Clerk before the next meeting.
14. Balance at 1st January 2013 was £14,777.36 (payment to Wicksteed £11,712.72 has been made, grant and VAT refunds are pending)

Cheques agreed: N Holden £296, Deane £450.28, E-On £22.25, A&J Lighting £20.52

15. **Planning** - Applications for comment: UTT/13/0068/CC or ESS/77/12/UTT Highwood Quarry – application for the bagging of indigenous and imported aggregates together with the erection of a building – No objection
UTT/13/0033/FUL - Easton Lodge Park Road, erection of a temporary visitor centre – No objection
UTT/13/0060/HHF Gardeners Cottage Easton Lodge- Councillors had not had an opportunity to consider the details of this application and compare it with those recently approved. If any comment is to be made, councillors agreed to inform the Clerk in advance of 19th February deadline.
Decisions – **UTT/12/5575/OP** Land at the Old Stag, Outline application for the erection of 5 no. detached dwellings with all matters reserved except access – refused. Decisions – UTT/12/5575/OP Land at the Old Stag, Outline application for the erection of 5 no. dwellings - Refused
16. Items for next agenda – Cricket Club, website
17. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 13th March 2013, 8.00pm at the Memorial Hall.