

## LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the garden room, Easton Farm, Duck Street

Present: Cllrs Chris Audritt (Chairman), Doug Wyatt (Vice-Chairman), Jess Rush, Sue Gilbert, Chris Hindley. Also present: Jackie Deane (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies and members' interests** - There were no apologies for absence. S Gilbert declared a pecuniary interest on the Manor Road planning application as she lives in a neighbouring property.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Public Forum** – A resident raised a concern about the planning application in Manor Road, stating that the property was being used for a commercial business.
4. **Local Plan consultation response** – each question was discussed and the Clerk agreed to submit comments ahead of 4<sup>th</sup> December deadline. The Council agreed that the hierarchy of towns and villages should be used as a reference but that the main towns would not be able to sustain major development. One or more new settlements would be needed, in areas close to a railway station and growth employment areas.
5. **Neighbourhood Plan** - a decision on whether or not to form a working group was deferred to the next meeting.
6. **Councillor vacancy** – following the resignation of Eileen McKendry-Gray, a vacancy has been advertised and applicants are welcome to be co-opted as soon as possible.
7. **Recreation Ground** - It was agreed that, as the contractor on the previously approved quote for the base for the basketball hoop is no longer available, RW Blackwell's quotation should be accepted, subject to a reduction for keeping the soil on site. The Clerk will source another quote for the safety surface for consideration at the January meeting. Works to the lime tree in the play area will also be considered.
8. **Representatives' reports** - Superfast Broadband: Meeting attended by Adrian Hoodless on 16th November. Lt Easton is shown as Phase 2a starting in October 2016 although no timescales are shown on the map yet. They are to come. Most of our post codes show that we will get fibre but the area around Easton Lodge and the church are shown as non-fibre upgrade to minimum 2Mb only. They said this would be using a satellite solution.  
D Wyatt reported that the UDC grant application has been awarded for work to the side and rear boundaries of the war memorial.
9. **Clerk's report and correspondence** – A county councillor report was circulated ahead of the meeting. The Clerk submitted a comment on the Stansted Airport consultation with support for GPS technology, to be used on current flight paths. A Rural Survey was completed on behalf of the parish. Forthcoming meeting: Superfast Essex Countywide Parish Engagement Event - Wed 9 Dec 7pm to 9pm.  
A meeting was held with ECC in Foakes Hall, Gt Dunmow on 10th November.  
Representatives from Gt Dunmow, Thaxted and Lt Easton (J Rush and J Deane) discussed the potential to save 313 bus service. Comments already sent to the ECC consultation, with a preference of keeping the current timetabled route as it is the only route between Thaxted and Gt Dunmow. Charities donation requests from Homestart and CAB and passed on to J Rush to present at the next meeting.  
A pre-application meeting was held on 2nd November where Alexandra Patterson and Martin Curtis (Curtin & Co) presented Land Securities' draft masterplan for a new settlement of up to 10,000 homes. This was attended by representatives from Gt Dunmow Town Council, Little Easton, Broxted and Gt Easton Parish Councils. Questions raised were regarding comparison with other large settlements and examples of garden cities/villages such as their site at Ebbsfleet. None seem to be a good comparison and they were certain that open spaces within the development would be small in comparison to garden cities of Welwyn or Letchworth. Their major site at Ebbsfleet has

been slow to deliver homes. Other topics discussed: providing homes to support jobs growth areas between Stevenage and Cambridge (M11 corridor), potential to open up a railway line loop from Stansted Airport to Braintree, impact on Lt Easton Conservation Area, Government funding for major road and rail improvements, school and medical provision. All council representatives agreed that the new settlement would not be acceptable if located so close to the town because it would effectively form an extension of the town.

10. **Planning - UTT/15/3424/HHF** - Proposed demolition of existing garage and erection of porch and single storey extension - The Willows Manor Road - No objection to the application. Note comment in public forum.
11. **Finance** – Current account balance at 1<sup>st</sup> November £18,720.80  
Monthly payments: S Gilbert £17, Post Office £240.40, J Deane £757.78, EALC £15, MD Landscapes £78, E-ON £30.40, A&J Lighting £23.10, Poppy Appeal £15.  
Foakes Hall hire was agreed, payment pending updated invoice. Childrens' Xmas party allowance will be paid to the Gt Easton committee for those attending their party.  
A UDC grant has been approved for £1,725 towards works on the war memorial railings.  
Clerk's salary recommendation was presented, for consideration at the next meeting.
12. **Items for the next agenda** – Precept request form, Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, Transparency Code agreement for grant application, neighbourhood plan and Recreation Ground tree and play surface quotes.
13. **Date of next meeting** – 27th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall (depending on hall availability).  
Meeting closed at 10.20pm