

Little Easton Parish Council

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Minutes of the **Little Easton Parish Council** meeting held in the **Memorial Hall** commencing 7:30pm on Wednesday **25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018**

Present: Cllr Dodsley Cllr Jones Cllr Fowell Cllr Rush  
Dist Cllr Foley

18/53	<b>NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies noted for Cllr Wyatt and Cllr Hindley
18/54	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING</b> Cllr Rush, Item 18/62 - Planters
18/55	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2018 TO BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> to Approve as a correct record: Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Rush
	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</b> This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the Agenda OR of import. Time for this session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person with no repetition of a previous question)  None in attendance
18/56	<b>RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT</b> WASTE COLLECTIONS – Delays being caused by equipment failure, crews working double shifts in overwhelming heat, vehicle replacement being planned. SSE – The organisation has raised a sturdy legal challenge to MAG’s airport expansion proposals. ROADSHOW – The Deputy Clerk from Dunmow has mounted a series of “Roadshows” covering the Parishes not seemingly directly affected by the Easton Park proposals, to highlight the impact it will have on their communities; it has proven both informative and very well received.  COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – APPENDIX B
18/57	<b>CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE</b> FOOTPATH - Cllr Wyatt requested the condition of the footpath between Duck Street and The Stag PH be highlighted and action taken to clear the route – Cllr Jones to contact the householder concerned. 100 PARISHES BOOKLET – Now available for purchase. WEBSITE – In need of an update, idea of pricing required to complete the work, members asked to look at existing council sites to select those they like – CLERK to ACTION and place on next Agenda. LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – Is due renewal in August, Clerk requested authority to renew with existing contractor – <b>RESOLUTION</b> – to authorise Clerk to renew contract, Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Rush.

18/58	<b>PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b> None to review
18/59	<b>FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT &amp; AGREE PAYMENTS – APPOINT AUTHORISER</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve expenditure: Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Dodsley AUTHORISATION – Cllr Jones APPENDIX A <b>18/59.1 – AUTHORISE CLERK TO MAKE PAYMENTS DURING AUGUST</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Authorise action: Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr Fowell Clerk to forward August Finance statement and updated Cashbook
18/60	<b>REVIEW PLANNING FOR 2018 SOCIAL/FUND RAISING EVENTS</b> FUNDAY – Some equipment still needed, rope for skipping, bean bags and place award stickers, Cllr Rush to acquire. RISK ASSESSMENT – Cllr Dodsley to complete Risk Assessment for the event. QUIZ NIGHT – October 12, agreed Cllrs would provide Ploughmans, bring your own drink, a raffle will be held, council will print tickets, event to help raise funds for Play equipment. CLERK to apply to UDC for Licence to hold the raffle.
18/61	<b>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:</b> <b>WAR MEMORIAL</b> – Request to provide a larger tie-on Poppy for each serviceman who served in the First World recognised on the Memorial – CLERK to forward email from RBL <b>MEMORIAL HALL</b> – Anti Social Behaviour remains a challenge, possible evidence of drug abuse, people in vehicles congregating and acting suspiciously; residents asked to remain vigilant, note vehicle registration numbers of such vehicles and report to the Police. CLERK to raise issue with the PCSO and raise awareness in 5 Parishes magazine. <b>FOOTPATHS</b> – Cllr Fowell is to assist with Footpath monitoring. <b>HIGHWOODS QUARRY</b> – Meeting 25/07, Extracting water at Point E and Recharging at Point F, 50% of water is being pumped to the Ponds in Lt Easton but cease pumping at weekends due to the very low water levels and their need to be on site to monitor the process. Planning application to be submitted requesting vehicle movements commence at 6am to help reduce the congestion on the A120, all vehicles are loaded and ready to exit the site the evening before. <b>PLAY AREA</b> – Zip Wire now disabled due to dangerous condition, awaiting quote from Wicksteed to repair. Cllr Rush contacting play equipment suppliers for quotes to complete repairs as highlighted in the PlaySafety inspection report including renewing some of the surfacing. CLERK to approach UDC/MAG/TESCO for grant funding.
18/62	<b>UPDATE ON PROPOSED MAINTENANCE WORKS TO VILLAGE PLANTERS</b> Planters are now partly cleared, Gardens of Easton Lodge are prepared to donate plants and compost once it is confirmed the plants will be watered and tended. Council is awaiting an update on a recent resident led initiative to take on the management of the Planters; the alternative council led, costed, initiative remains in place pending the outcome.
18/63	<b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON LETTER PROPOSED SENDING TO POTENTIAL HERITAGE STATUS PROPERTIES</b> Defer to September meeting
18/64	<b>RECEIVE FEEDBACK FOLLOWING REGULATION 19 PUBLIC MEETINGS</b> 39 Comment slips to be handed to Great Dunmow Town Council to incorporate in their findings and ultimate response to Uttlesford District Council
18/65	<b>EASTON PARK – RECEIVE UPDATE ON REGULATION 19 PROCESS TO DATE</b> Process well underway, awaiting various reports from members to enable drafting of the official council response. Individuals are urged to send their own comments to UDC, if necessary the parish council can assist with that process.



## County Councillor's Report, July 2018

### Reading Well for Mental Health

Essex residents can learn how to better understand and manage their mental health by reading books endorsed by medical experts and people with mental health needs.

Essex Libraries, working in partnership with the Reading Agency and Society of Chief Librarians, has launched a new and revamped version of the acclaimed Reading Well Books on Prescription programme.

Now named ***Reading Well for Mental Health***, the new booklist contains 37 titles, ranging from popular memoirs and self-help books to tried and tested classics that health professionals turn to every day.

Backed by Public Health England, the Royal College of General Practitioners and NHS England, the titles covers a variety of common mental health conditions, such as anger, bereavement, low self-esteem, social anxiety and shyness, sleep problems, stress depression, panic, obsessions and compulsions.

Binge eating, bulimia nervosa, body image and body dysmorphic disorder, mood swings, post-natal depression and support for carers are also covered.

Cllr Susan Barker, Cabinet Member responsible for Libraries, said: "Libraries as a space are often considered great welcoming places, sources of solace for people with mental health conditions. It's important that not only can people find refuge in libraries but that they can also find the tools to help themselves.

"Reading any book can have a positive impact on mental health, and these books are chosen by health experts, or people coping with the conditions on a day-to-day basis and are endorsed by national health organisations, so they really can help people better understand and confidently self-manage their mental health."

Have a look at [Essex Libraries website](#) for a full list of the books or pop in and ask a member of staff.

### Cash prize for schools which love their clothes

School children across Essex have raised over £3,700 for their schools by donating over nine tonnes of old clothes to be recycled.

The competition, run by Bag2School in partnership with Recycle for Essex, saw 37 schools take part with the winning school, Rickling C of E Primary School collecting the equivalent of 2.57 kg of clothes per pupil.

To celebrate this big achievement, the school has won a free upcycling session run by local artist Connie Flynn. During the session pupils from learned how old fabric and clothing could be used to make new items. After taking some time to look at examples of upcycled fabric put together by Connie, the pupils had a go at using cut up old clothes to put together their own patchwork artwork.

Every household in Essex throws away the equivalent of 36 woolly jumpers each year, but recycling old clothes and textiles is becoming easier. Many districts and boroughs in Essex offer kerbside collections, all recycling centres

accept textiles, along with the many textile banks located all around the county. All clean clothing and textiles can be recycled, even items that are ripped or have holes in.

Councillor Simon Walsh, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Waste offered his congratulations to schools taking part in the competition, saying: “The schools recycling competition has been a fun new way to encourage pupils and parents to learn about the value of recycling their clothes. I would like to congratulate Rickling School, and all the schools who took part, for encouraging young people in Essex to become a new generation of recyclers”. To find out more visit [recycleforessex.com](http://recycleforessex.com)

## **A new-look Cabinet unveiled at Essex County Council’s Full Council**

### **The new-look Cabinet**

**Cllr Kevin Bentley** will continue in his role as Deputy Leader, but will take on a new and larger Infrastructure portfolio, which now includes highways. Cllr Bentley will continue to lobby for infrastructure investment that can drive economic growth.

**Cllr Gagan Mohindra** will take on the new portfolio of Economic Development, which includes housing, in his first senior Cabinet role.

**Cllr Dick Madden** remains responsible for Children and Families.

**Cllr John Spence** retains Health and Adult Social Care.

**Cllr Ray Gooding** continues in Education, but will now take on additional responsibility for skills to ensure the county has a workforce equipped for the future.

**Cllr Simon Walsh** continues in his role as Environment and Waste portfolio holder.

**Cllr Louise McKinlay** retains finance, but gains additional responsibility for traded and commercial services to help the council increase its income.

**Cllr Susan Barker** keeps the Customer portfolio, in charge of libraries, but gains responsibility for corporate services.

**Cllr Sue Lissimore** takes on the new Culture and Communities portfolio.

## **Planning inspector reports on North Essex garden community plans**

Ambitious plans to ensure North Essex is able to meet the housing and infrastructure needs of future generations are praised by the planning inspector for being ambitious and innovative, but require more work before they can be found sound.

The inspector has published his letter of recommendations following an examination earlier this year of the joint part of the Local Plans developed by Braintree District, Tendring District and Colchester Borough councils.

The three Councils created identical sections of their Local Plans – setting out how North Essex will grow over the coming years – the first time councils have come together in this way to look at a long-term approach to how homes, jobs and infrastructure are developed for future generations.

The ambitious projects for three garden communities, which also involve Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council, are designed to help tackle the area’s housing challenge while ensuring infrastructure like roads, transport systems, schools and health services are developed as the homes are built.

The independent Planning Inspector has said the plan requires work to strengthen and improve it before it can be taken forward. This will delay the process of adopting the Local Plan.

Further evidence is needed of the financial viability of garden communities, and how the feasibility of transport improvements such as those to the A120 and A12 fits in with the long-term plan.

The inspector praised the Councils’ co-operation, and described the proposed approach as “innovative and ambitious”. Although he said proceeding with garden communities as set out could be “difficult to justify”, he added: “It is possible that when the necessary additional work I have outlined is completed it will provide justification for proceeding.”

Discussions have already begun with Government about how its major infrastructure plans can be more directly linked up with garden communities to provide the reassurance sought by the inspector.

The Councils are now considering their next steps, and are continuing to work on developing the evidence and plans for the three proposed communities.

The inspector will report back on housing need at a later date, after consideration of a developer’s late submission regarding Tendring’s housing need projections.

The inspector’s report can be found here: [www.Braintree.gov.uk/LPExamination](http://www.Braintree.gov.uk/LPExamination)

### **Make mischief at Essex Libraries during the Summer Reading Challenge**

Children are being encouraged to unearth the Beanotown buried treasure in Essex Libraries this summer by taking part in Mischief Makers – this year’s Summer Reading Challenge.

The UK’s biggest annual reading initiative is delivered by The Reading Agency and libraries, who have partnered with *Beano* this year to help improve child literacy during the summer holidays when reading levels typically drop.

Reading just six books will help children earn their Mischief Makers certificate and medal. Along the way they’ll also collect stickers (including some special smelly stickers) which will help them find the buried treasure on their Beanotown map - available from all Essex libraries.

Those aged 10 and over can also get creative by joining in with ImagiNation 2018 to help their library make fantastic book displays by creating artwork or reviews inspired by the books they have read.

Cllr Susan Barker, Essex County Council's Cabinet member for Customer and Corporate, said: "I'm pleased we're again able to deliver the Summer Reading Challenge to Essex families and excited for children to experience and learn new things from the fantastic books our libraries have to offer.

"We know that reading is extremely important in helping children develop their language and communication skills and also a great way of supporting them to maintain these skills outside of term time.

"If your child is feeling a little mischievous this summer, head down to your local library and find out more."

More than 46,000 families are expected to visit Essex Libraries as part of this year's Summer Reading Challenge which is free and runs from Saturday 14 July until Saturday 1 September in all Essex Libraries, including mobile libraries.

## **'Solar Together Essex' online auction opens today**

From today, Essex residents can register in 'Solar Together Essex' the solar panel group buying scheme aiming to create a greener and more sustainable future for our county.

Launched by Essex County Council in partnership with iChoosr- the group buying specialist, Solar Together Essex offers residents the opportunity to take part in an online auction for high quality solar panels, saving money on both installation and future energy bills.

The more people that register for the auction, the more competitive the offer Solar Together is able to secure. When the auction closes residents are sent personalised offers from the winning supplier should they wish to continue with the work.

Cabinet member for Environment and Waste, Cllr Simon Walsh said: "Having solar panels installed is one way that we can all contribute to achieving a greener and brighter future for our county- they can also help save money on energy bills and generate clean electricity too. If you have been thinking about getting solar panels- now is the time to do it. By registering with 'Solar Together' not only will prices be lower than on the open market, residents will also be paired up with trusted suppliers to carry out the work."

## **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

**Registration:** Residents can register from now until 22 August on the Essex County Council Website here- [www.essex.gov.uk/solaraltogether](http://www.essex.gov.uk/solaraltogether) If you register, you are under no obligation to continue.

**Auction:** a supplier 'auction' will be held on 22 August, when our approved solar suppliers will bid for the work. The more people that register, the better the deal should be for each household.

**Personalised offer:** from 10 September you will be contacted with a personalised offer, based on the specifications of your roof. This includes your costs and return on the investment of a solar panel installation.

**You decide:** the decision is then yours as to whether you want to accept your offer. There is no obligation to continue. You will have until 19 October to decide and will be invited to visit an information session.

**Installation:** if you accept the offer, the winning supplier will contact you to survey your roof and set an installation date. All installations are planned to be completed by the end of March 2019.

To register and for more information please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/solartogether](http://www.essex.gov.uk/solartogether)

### **Council gives the green light to increased fees, support and training for Essex foster carers**

In recognition of the life changing work foster carers do with local children, the Essex County Council Fostering service is set to significantly increase its fees, support and training package for foster carers.

The decision will make becoming a foster carer a more financially viable option for more people in the county and brings Essex in line with the fees paid by neighbouring local authorities and independent fostering agencies.

The increased fees, when combined with the weekly allowance which foster carers receive for each child in their care, mean that from 1 October 2018, foster carers can expect to receive up to £479 a week for each child they care for. A foster carer on a specialist therapeutic scheme will receive up to £600 a week.

Aligned to this are service improvements including dedicated resources to manage initial enquiries, specialist therapeutic support for all foster carers – clinical psychologists and mental health coordinators in each quadrant – respite and peer support for foster carers and a reward and recognition programme.

There will also be increased opportunities for existing carers to be supported financially to extend their homes to provide increased capacity to care for more children.

Phase two of the project will also look at the use of digital options to enhance the marketing of fostering, to ensure immediate and positive response to enquiries and improve the experience of current foster carers. This will include a case management portal for foster carers and social work staff and implementation of an online expenses system for in-house foster carers.

Councillor Dick Madden, Essex County Council's Cabinet member for Children and Families, said: "We are delighted to be able to reward our foster carers with a new financial package and increased support and training. We know that stable foster placements provide the best experience for children in care and investing in our own in-house fostering service ensures we continue to support carers to provide the best outcomes for local children

"We need more local carers so we can meet the needs of children in Essex, in their own communities and our aim is to ensure as many of our young people as possible are well-matched with Essex's own foster carers and can benefit from the excellent support networks we provide".

For more information about the new scheme and to find out how to register your interest to become a foster carer please visit the [Essex Adoption and Fostering website](#) or call 0800 801 530.