

# Little Easton Parish Council



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**72 ST. EDMUNDS FIELDS**  
**GREAT DUNMOW**  
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Minutes of the meeting of the **Little Easton Parish Council** held in the **Memorial Hall** commencing 7:30pm on Tuesday **28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017**

Present: Cllr Dodsley Cllr Rush Cllr Jones  
Members of the public

<b>17/47</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
	Cllr Hindley and Cllr Wyatt
<b>17/48</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR JUNE MEETING</b>
	Cllr Rush – Item 17/52 Finance
<b>17/49</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2017 TO BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN</b>
	Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Rush
	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</b>
	No topics presented
<b>17/50</b>	<b>LOCAL PLAN &amp; EASTON PARK, RECEIVE REPORT FROM PPWG MEETING 22 JUNE</b>
	See <b>APPENDIX A</b> for all reports, pages 15 to 19.
	Next PPWG meeting scheduled for JUNE 29, representation from the parish council and the Stop Easton Park group to attend.
	Further related meetings with UDC scheduled for 6 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> JULY. A public consultation commences 12 <sup>th</sup> JULY and runs to 29 <sup>th</sup> August.
	Plans before the Planning Inspector MARCH 2018, final date to be advised.
	Dist Cllr Foley outlined his concerns and views from a District level perspective, particularly the lack of clarity when ascribing Garden Settlement / City principles to a development.
	The representatives approach for the next meeting was discussed.
	It was noted that the Carver Barracks site is probably to become available for development in the not too distant future and that the proposed housing numbers for Easton Park are in addition to the existing build permissions.
<b>17/51</b>	<b>CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE</b>
	XMAS TREE – Advice is to make a small grant to a third party who will take responsibility for the project.

	<p>PRINTING – Any print and distribution of flyers can only be for information purposes, not for the benefit of any one individual or group and not biased in any direction.</p> <p>VACANCY – No respondents to date for the position of parish councillor.</p> <p>DUCK STREET – Site visited, no action to be taken at present as standing water not visible.</p> <p>LAUNDRY LANE – Standing water reported to Highways, awaiting response.</p> <p>DERELICT HOUSE – Empty Housing Officer has reopened the case and will advise outcome.</p> <p>CARAVANS ON FIELD – Enforcement Officer has reopened the case, CLERK to ascertain from District what type of evidence is required to pursue the matter.</p> <p>MEMORIAL HALL – The Hall Committee can proceed with the wording, purchase and installation of the car park sign(s) but to confirm final design with the parish council before going ahead.</p> <p>SALT – Members to confirm whether the parish needs to proceed with another delivery.</p>
<b>17/52</b>	<b>FINANCE – RECEIVE JUNE FINANCIAL STATEMENT &amp; AGREE PAYMENTS – REVIEW PROGRESS OF ONLINE BANKING APPLICATION</b>
	Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Rush, Chairman signed finance statement attached to these minutes as a true record
<b>17/52.1</b>	<b>TO AGREE AND SIGN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT</b>
	Duly signed by Chairman and Clerk
<b>17/52.2</b>	<b>TO COMPLETE AND SIGN THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2016/17</b>
	Duly signed by Chairman and Clerk
<b>17/53</b>	<b>PLANNING – REVIEW ANY APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT</b>
	None to consider
<b>17/54</b>	<p><b>RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:</b></p> <p><b>SPEEDWATCH</b> Purchase of lockable cabinet at £169.00 to securely house the Speedwatch equipment was agreed by council. Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr. Jones.</p> <p><b>WAR MEMORIAL</b> In his absence Cllr Wyatt asked that it be noted that the memorial garden is now ready for planting and requested council consider the “memorial plaque / planting” space rental suggestion.</p> <p><b>MEMORIAL HALL</b> None</p> <p><b>FOOTPATHS</b> None</p> <p><b>HIGHWOODS QUARRY</b> Quarry vehicle movements after 5pm are sub-contracted, those present were urged to report the time and registration number of quarry vehicles flouting any of the regulations that govern their movement.</p> <p>Ponds water supply from the quarry is currently pumped to settlement tanks and not piped direct, the quality of that water is monitored, awaiting quality reports; meanwhile the ponds are topped up via bore holes.</p> <p>Dog walkers are asked to keep dogs under control at all times, on a lead when in the vicinity of quarry traffic for fear of a tragic accident</p>

	<p>The quarry operators have an open invitation for groups to visit the site for a guided tour of the operations.</p> <p><b>EMERGENCY PLANNING</b></p> <p>97% complete</p> <p><b>PLAY AREA</b></p> <p>Safety review last completed in May 2016, original contractor has not contacted the council to arrange overdue inspection, CLERK to approach ROSPA Playsafety Limited and one other to quote to complete inspection urgently.</p> <p>Residents to be invited to attend a meeting to discuss, contribute and review proposals for the future of the Play Area; details to follow.</p>
<b>17/55</b>	<b>REVIEW PROGRESS FOR COMMUNITY FUND RAISING EVENTS</b>
	Family Fun Day to be held on 13 <sup>th</sup> August, Flyer advertising the event is being designed for circulation and placing on the website.
<b>17/56</b>	<b>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT</b>
	Moved to form part of Item 17/50 Easton Park discussion
<b>17/57</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT METING – 19 JULY – CLOSE 9:31pm</b>

Payment List <b>JUNE 2017</b>											
Date	Payee	Description	Invoice No	Cq. No.	Account	Amount	Net	VAT	Ccentre	Ccode	Audit Box
28/06/17	I Brown	Expenses, Mileage 45p/M	N/A	101226	74159558	£4.50	£4.50	£0.00	Parish	Staff	4
28/06/17	I Brown	Salary	PAYE	101226	74159558	£306.32	£306.32	£0.00	Parish	Staff	4
28/06/17	RCCE	Subs	N/A	101219	74159558	£52.80	£44.00	£8.80	Parish	Admin	6
28/06/17	Pioneer Print Solutions LS	500 x Flyers	6527	101220	74159558	£225.00	£225.00	£0.00	Parish	Admin	6
28/06/17	MD Landscapes	Grass cutting	830	101221	74159558	£156.00	£130.00	£26.00	Parish	Grass	6
28/06/17	A&J Lighting	Annualised maintenance	30601	101222	74159558	£23.10	£781.92	£0.00	Parish	Admin	6
28/06/17	E.ON	Street Lighting	H148137266	101223	74159558	£75.97	£74.13	£1.84	Parish	Lighting	6
28/06/17	Activ Web Design	Web hosting and support	1926	101224	74159558	£210.00	£175.00	£35.00	Parish	Admin	6
28/06/17	Solum	Easton Memorial maintenance	475	101225	74159558	£750.00	£625.00	£125.00	Parish	Admin	6
28/06/17	SNH Garden Services	Garden Services	1945	101227	74159558	£243.00	£243.00	£0.00	Parish	Grass	6
		<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£2,046.69</b>	<b>£2,608.87</b>	<b>£196.64</b>			
<b>Account</b>		<b>Balance</b>									
General Community 74159558		£19,935.85		Signed _____		Date _____					
<b>Income</b>				Minute Ref _____							
<b>PARISH – 74159558</b>											
<b>PAYER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>METHOD</b>			<b>AMOUNT</b>						
		<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£0.00</b>						

## **APPENDIX A**

### **PPWG 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Report for LEPC**

We heard a presentation from one of the transport consultants who presented Gt Chesterford, Easton Park & West of Braintree as the preferred options from a Transport perspective.

AD presented a speech which challenged UDC to confirm why a different approach to the heritage assessments had been followed for Easton Park. AD stated that the Easton Park assessment downplayed the detrimental impact on the assets at Easton Park. The questions could not be answered at the meeting. An action was taken to respond after the meeting – No answers yet received – will raise again at UDC meeting tomorrow

Vincent Thompson also presented on behalf of Stop Easton Park.

Vincent Covered:

The proposal makes no sense as under a flight path, Urban sprawl, dormitory town

He challenged UDC on Land Securities' track record at Ebbsfleet

The fact that the Little Easton Conservation Area had not been included in any of their documentation – an addendum was issued on the night

The history of Easton Park

The number of listed buildings on the site

Easton Park as a Jewel of Essex

Subsequently the draft plan was issued on Friday and included Easton Park as well as Gt Chesterford and West of Braintree

### **Next Steps for Local Plan**

PPWG meeting 29<sup>th</sup> June

Cabinet on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July

Full Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July

Regulation 18 Public Consultation – 12<sup>th</sup> July to 29<sup>th</sup> August

Final Regulation 19 Consultation – Towards the end of this year

Formally submitted to Planning Inspector – March 2018

## VT to UDC PPWG on 22 June 17

Ladies & gentlemen, thank you for your time.

I address you today as spokesman of the Residents Action Group, **STOP EASTON PARK**

The Land Securities proposal makes no sense.

A new town:

- within 2 kms of a major airport;
- under a key flight path with 139 flights a day;
- with limited local employment prospects;
- to create a dormitory town;
- where transport links, road & rail, struggle to cope;
- to create urban sprawl from the M11 to Great Dunmow

The Land Securities proposal makes no sense.

As to its deliverability, the track record of Land Securities at Ebbsfleet speaks for itself.

And at what cost would this third-rate plan be achieved?

The Chairman of the Little Easton Parish Council has just highlighted how the loss has not been addressed in the papers given to you.

[It is a travesty that your Landscape consultants should state that “there are no Conservation areas within or adjoining the site” when the Little Easton Conservation Area marks one of the main entrances to the Park.]

Let there be no mistake, Easton Park has been one of the great parks of Essex for centuries:-

- Recorded in 1302
- Mapped in 1594, 1756 and 1777.
- Detailed on the first ordinance survey maps of 1875
- Evidenced by aerial photographs in 1943

It is equal to Hylands Park, Audley End, Braxted, Layer Marney, Wivenhoe, the great parks of Essex.

And it remains exactly as it has been for centuries, its boundaries, clearly visible to the casual observer, marked by:-

- The Conservation area to the north east
- The listed garden to the north
- The SSSI wood, Highwood to the south and other surrounding woods.

Enhanced by 19 listed buildings and a rich and colourful history.

Yes, many trees were tragically lost in 1943 and, yes, Easton Lodge was pulled down in 1950 but the park, the park, remains as was, a magnificent piece of land of great beauty, untold environmental value and widely enjoyed by walkers, runners, bird watchers and horse-riders from far and wide.

These aspects have not been brought to your attention.

Why squander such an asset on a third-rate housing project; an asset with the potential to play the role of the great parks of London

Ladies & gentlemen, there are alternatives. New settlements are not a government prerequisite. Carver Barracks will become available.

Recognise Easton Park for what it is, a jewel in Essex and do not squander it for a third-rate solution.

So Gt Chesterford, West of Braintree and Easton Park are the preferred sites – no surprise there!

The draft local plan was published last Friday and had clearly been written and completed prior to last Thursday night's meeting. Interestingly very few councillors were present and no residents from the discounted sites – clearly they knew that there was no need to attend as the plan had already been finalised.

I note that Councillor Lodge has said on the Residents for Uttlesford site this week that key evidence is still missing to prove the case for these Garden Settlements – I would be interested to hear this evening what that evidence is.

These 3 sites have been the preferred options for many months and each piece of "evidence" has been nicely tailored to fit the required outcomes. The transport study presented last week even went as far as to recommend these 3 sites as preferable for development and discounted the remaining 3 options, rather than, as it should have done, just present the impact of each scenario for consideration by the committee alongside a host of other evidence. This doesn't look like an impartial report to me and we shall have to wait and see how the Planning Inspector views this "evidence".

Nothing in the evidence presented gives me any reassurance that the development of two major sites along the A120 corridor – 20,000 new houses and an additional estimated 6000 car journeys at peak time – will not totally overwhelm our road network and bring the area grinding to a halt.

I asked a number of questions at last week's meeting as to why a fundamentally different approach was taken to Easton Park in the heritage impact assessments. These could not be answered and an action was taken by Mr Fox to respond to my questions – I have still not received any answers so: **Could you please confirm when I will receive these answers?**

**The Draft Local Plan states that Proposals should demonstrate how they respond to the landscape, the environment and historic assets. Can you please detail where and how the current Land Securities proposal demonstrates a response to any of these items?**

At the meeting last week, it was stated that there was further input and clarification available from Land Securities on their proposal. **Can the committee please confirm whether this has now been received, whether it has been made available to the public and, if not, when it will be?**

As things stand:

A wonderful dark sky landscape will be blighted by light pollution

A historic deer park will be concreted over by 10,000 homes

Valuable agricultural land will be gone forever

The settings of a large number of our heritage assets will be destroyed.

Let me be clear – Little Easton Parish are determined to preserve our heritage for future generations. You are just the current caretakers of our district and what you do now will affect this area long after you are gone. Don't let your legacy be the destruction of this beautiful part of Essex.