

# LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29<sup>TH</sup> January 2014, at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

**Present - Cllrs:** J Willson (Acting Chairman), Roger Board, Rob Boulton, Chris Audritt, Lawrence Smith (UDC), Jackie Deane (Clerk) and 14 members of the public.

### AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Sue Gilbert and Simon Walsh (ECC).  
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. **Co-option of a new councillor** – Doug Wyatt was co-opted for the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Janina Jones and made the statutory declaration.
4. **Public Forum** – The Chairman allowed additional time for the forum to allow for residents' views on planning applications and Manor Road. He outlined details of a forthcoming planning application for land at Easton Park, and an appeal of the one refused last July.

A resident passed on details of a grant for War Memorial improvements. These were passed to Doug Wyatt, who will make further enquiries.

There was a request that the Council considers rearranging the format of meetings so that the public forum is held later, after hearing the Council's views on agenda items. Objections to a proposed youth shelter at Woodlands Park Sector 4 were illustrated by showing photographs of a burnt out youth shelter at Oakwood Park, to reflect what could happen if the District Council requires one to be built at Woodlands Park. The Parish Council has already submitted a comment in support of the applicant's request for removal of the obligation.

There was a report that there might be a further delay to the new bypass road. Objections to the Easton Park proposals included access, as the new bypass road would become an estate road for the new homes and it might lead to more proposals coming forward. Suggestions were made about forming a working party to sketch out a response. There was a comment that funds might be raised to help defeat the application and the expertise of a planning consultant might be needed. Residents agreed that a proposed access through Park Road was only one of many objections to the proposals.

Manor Road - A Manor Road resident explained that speeding vehicles and a general increase in traffic have resulted in a need for repairs to fill potholes and to make a reasonably level surface. The resident asked about the possibility of the Parish Council making a financial contribution to the repairs

5. **Manor Road** – The Clerk was asked to contact ECC Public Rights of Way to ask for them to inspect and report on the condition of the bridleway. It was agreed that Councillors would be supportive of Manor Road residents forming an association and would consider making a financial contribution to a costed proposal. It would be expected that details of the works and the level of contribution the residents are prepared to meet would be among the requirements.

Councillors agreed to the purchase of a sign, at £165, with the wording "Caution – Children Playing", to be erected alongside the recreation ground. It was agreed that

SNH Garden Services should be asked to erect the sign, as a part of other works to be carried out on the recreation ground. At this time, councillors agreed that the illegal speed limit sign should be removed, in consultation with the Memorial Hall Committee. R Boulton was asked to make enquiries with the committee.

6. **Easton Park** – A meeting took place on 16<sup>th</sup> January where Emma Carriaga (Land Securities) and Andy Martin (PPS) reported on their intention to appeal the refusal of their planning application in July. They explained that they would, in parallel, submit a new application with one access alongside High Wood and the other off the new NW Dunmow bypass road. To address previous environmental objections, additional surveys have been carried out. A public information meeting would display details of the new proposals. It was agreed that the village should be consulted again and a working group be set up and meet as required to prepare comments, for agreement at a full council meeting. Chris Audritt and Lawrence Smith agreed to attend working group meetings, with notes to be taken by the Clerk.
7. **Memorial Hall and Cricket Club** – A proposal to delegate the management of the village playing field to the trustees of the Memorial Hall was discussed. The Clerk had consulted with the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) prior to the meeting and advised that any changes to the current arrangements should be done through a negotiated lease and that the Council should employ a solicitor. EALC information is that management of the playing field would include responsibility for the play equipment, insurance and risk assessments and so the first question would be whether or not the Council wished to delegate in this way. It was agreed that representatives of the Memorial Hall Committee should be invited to speak at a Parish Council meeting when the current agreement with the Cub is being reviewed.
8. **Budget and Precept** – It was resolved to keep the Precept unchanged, with a total requirement for £15,500 resulting in a precept request of £14,503. As agreed at the previous meeting, S Gilbert signed the form prior to the meeting and the Clerk signed it at this meeting.
9. **Playground and tree works on the recreation ground** – It was agreed that a tree should be removed from the play area, to allow more light in, and this should be done as part of other agreed works, at an additional cost of up to £500. A price has been requested for the removal of a second tree. A cost of up to £300 was agreed for repairs to the fence enclosing the play area.
10. **Community Infrastructure Levy** – There was a discussion on correspondence made available to the Council, between Wimbish Parish Council and the District Council. There were no strong feelings to join other councils in asking that the scheme be taken up earlier than is currently planned.
11. **Gravel Pit Representative** – It was agreed that Rob Boulton would take on the responsibility for the Council and Janina Jones would be free to attend as a resident, if she wished to do so.
12. **Representatives' reports** – R Board was unable to attend the Emergency Planning training but intends to go to the follow-up session on 14<sup>th</sup> February and a UDC workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> February. S Gilbert circulated her reports prior to the meeting. She had visited the recreation ground to comment on the need for the removal of 2 trees and their roots and her recommendation for grass maintenance. She thanked R Board for his help with the tree planting and explained that mulching would be completed in late Feb/March. She had been contacted by the landowner of Rectory and Long Ponds and his concerns over water levels have been passed on to County Council, in relation to the quarry

monitoring. J Willson attended a meeting of the Memorial Hall Committee. He reported that Committee members would like to participate in an agreement giving them authority over the recreation ground, to help them when dealing with conflicts over hall and playing field bookings.

13. **Clerk's report and correspondence:** UDC Consultation on Housing Strategy and Additional Allocation Sites for the LDF – No comment was made on this aspect of the consultation.

Training information and advice on meetings procedure has been received from EALC. UK Power Networks are due attend and restore power to a street light in Park Road. The Clerk reported on a meeting held at the UDC offices, explaining the role of SASIG and updating in the recent findings of the airport commission. It was stated that any future application for maximum use of the runway would be decided as Major Infrastructure application and would not be determined locally by the District Council. Correspondence has been received from a Manor Road resident with further concerns about road safety. An initial response has been sent and the comments have been circulated to councillors.

14. **Planning - Applications for comment:** **UTT/13/3219/FUL** – Proposed altered vehicular access - Adjacent to Bowater Bridge Cottage, Dunmow Road – no objection  
**UTT/13/3469/FUL** - Demolition of vacant store and erection of 1 No. dwelling with associated garaging and landscaping - Land Adj The Stag Inn, Duck Street - No objection. The Parish Council does, however, have concerns about a net loss of customer parking to the public house and any impact that might have on Duck Street. Comments made prior to the meeting on Woodlands Park Sector 4 as follows:  
**UTT/13/3368/FUL** - Removal of condition 11 (The plans and particulars submitted shall achieve a "code for sustainable homes" rating of "level 4") and condition 12 (Onsite renewable or low-level carbon energy technologies to provide 10% of the annual energy needs) of planning permission UTT/2507/11/OP – No Comment. It was agreed at the meeting to submit an objection to ensure that the homes are built to the highest environmental standards. **UTT/13/3439/FUL** - Removal of condition 19 (the plans and particulars submitted shall include a scheme for the provision of a youth shelter to be installed on open space of the development) from planning permission UTT/2507/11/OP – Support . **UTT/13/3393/FUL** - Removal of condition 4 (further details of the youth shelter required ... before the occupation of the 30th open market housing unit) from planning permission UTT/13/1663/DFO - Support
15. **Finance** – Account balance on 01.01.14 was £21,104.05.  
Payments agreed: J Deane £471.46, E-ON £22.55, Stop Stansted Expansion £10, SNH Garden Services £207, A&J Lighting Solutions (including call-out charge) £90.30
16. **Items for the next agenda** – R Willson offered to progress work on the website and it should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
17. **Next meeting** – Wednesday, 12th March 2014 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall  
Meeting closed at 10.20pm