Little Easton Parish Council

IAN BROWN Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Email: clerk@littleeaston-pc.gov.uk 72 ST. EDMUNDS FIELDS GREAT DUNMOW ESSEX CM6 2AN Tel: 07913 514 589

Minutes of the **MEETING OF LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL** held at the **Memorial Hall** on **WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:00PM**

Councillor	Attendance				
VACANT					
VACANT					
Cllr Ian Sussams	YES				
Cllr Emma Wells	YES				
Cllr Simon Benstead	YES				
Cllr Peter Bright	YES				
Dist Cllr Richard Haynes	NO				
Cnty Cllr Martin Foley	YES				

22 member(s) of the public Clerk – Mr Ian Brown

23/091									
25/091	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE								
	Dist Cllr Richard Haynes – work related								
23/092	WITH REFERENCE TO THIS AGENDA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY DISCLOSABLE								
	PECUNIARY INTERESTS, NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS								
	None declared								
23/093	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 26 JULY 2023								
	RESOLUTION – The minutes were duly approved; Proposed Cllr Peter Bright, Seconded Cllr								
	Emma Wells - unanimous								
23/094	RECEIVE REPRESENTATIONS FROM THOSE SEEKING CO-OPTION AND CONSIDER THEIR								
	APPLICATION								
	Mr Ian Sussams was duly co-opted to the parish council								
23/095	RECEIVE UPDATE ON LOCAL PLAN – CLLR PETER BRIGHT								
	Cllr Peter Bright presented a brief overview including why the Appeal was upheld to allow the								
	application to build up to 1200 homes on Easton Park – full report – APPENDIX A								
23/096	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION								
23/090									
	Members of the public may raise questions about and comment on items on the Agenda OR of								
	import. Session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person with no repetition of a previous								
	question)								
	Planning Aid England – offer impartial legal advice for communities, worth making								
	contact?								
	Once local Planning professional offered impartial legal advice for free								
	Grounds for Appeal need specifying when applying within which has a very short								
	remaining timescale								

	Record of thanks to those working tirelessly on the matter both from within the PC and									
	SEP members									
	The 5yr housing supply figures used throughout the process to support the decision are									
	recognised as being consistently out of date; any counter argument would have to									
	insist that current figures must be used when considering a fresh appeal									
	Costs to mount an appeal would be huge, potentially sufficient to bankrupt the council									
	This council and community will require UDC to agree to mount the appeal to be									
	anywhere close to affording a contribution to that appeal cost									
	Importantly – a call for support from the community to rekindle and join the									
	Neighbourhood Plan working group and join the "Restore Easton Park" group									
22/007										
23/097	RECEIVE THE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS									
Martin laft 10.57	Dist Cllr Richard Haynes – Report see APPENDIX B									
Martin left 19:57	Catu Clir Martin Falau									
	Cnty Clir Martin Foley:-									
	Full written report – APPENDIX B No DAAG is equiling construction locally, these that have such construction within Facey									
	No RAAC in ceiling construction locally, those that have such construction within Essex are all under control									
	 Highways – Manor Rd junction inspected for lining /marking and drainage improvement 									
	/ renewal									
	 Speed monitoring – results indicated low level of speeding but application to go in for 									
	slow down signs and extension of limits consideration; more at Item23/105(i)									
	 Establishment of a Speedwatch group would assist with traffic calming in general plus 									
	additional signage can be considered for implementation once group established; Clir									
	Foley offered Andrea Adams Speed Watch Coordinator as a point of contact									
	Poley offered Andrea Adams speed watch coordinator as a point of contact									
23/098	NOTE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE									
	Report APPENDIX C									
	Late requests for donations from EHAAT, RBL Wreath at £15 and CPRE continued Membership at									
	f36									
	Council approved donation to EHAAT (Essex& Herts Air Ambulance Trust) at £100; RBL wreath									
	total purchase including donation of £50 and CPRE subscription at £36									
	CLERK to ACTION									
23/099	FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT & AGREE PAYMENTS – REVIEWED BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE									
	COUNCIL PRIOR TO THIS MEETING COMMENCING									
	RECOLUTION Approve powerster Droposed Clir Dater Dright, Seconded Clir Simon Depatered									
	RESOLUTION – Approve payments; Proposed Cllr Peter Bright; Seconded Cllr Simon Benstead – unanimous									
	unanimous									
	Finance Statements – APPENDIX D									
	Thance Statements AFFENDIX D									
	23/099(i) - APPOINT AUTHORISER									
	Cllr Simon Benstead									
	23/099(ii) – COUNCILLORS TO NOTE BANK RECONCILIATION									
	RESOLUTION – Bank statement position noted: Proposed Cllr Peter Bright; Seconded Cllr Simon									
	Benstead - unanimous									
	23/099(iii) – COMMENCE BUDGET PLANNING 2024-2025									
	Cllr Peter Bright circulated preliminary budget prior to the meeting, budget to be progressed for									
	ultimate agreement during January 2024									
	23/099(iv) – APPROVE ADDITIONAL SPENDING ON WAR MEMORIAL ENGRAVING OF £180 excl									

	RESOLUTION – Approve additional spending of £180 + VAT: Proposed Cllr Simon Benstead; Seconded Cllr Emma Wells – unanimous Contractor to submit invoice to the PC
23/100	CONSIDER PAYMENT TO LITTLE EASTON MANOR AND THE CHURCH FOR PROVISION OF TABLES, CHAIRS AND TRANSPORT FOR THE CORONATION EVENT (C. £150 - £200) – CLERK TO REQUEST INVOICES TO ENABLE PAYMENT TO BE SENT RESOLUTION – Approve donation of £100 to the parish church: Proposed Cllr Peter Bright; Seconded Cllr Simon Benstead - unanimous
23/101	CONSIDER PLANTING OF A TREE TO REPLACE THE FELLED DISEASED CHERRY TREE ALONG WITH ITS POSSIBLE LOCATION Defer item
23/102	PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ANY CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS OR APPEALS AND OUTCOMES OR PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS Nothing further to add to those comments made earlier in the meeting FEEDBACK - Easton Park 1200 Homes Inquiry – CONSIDER REPRESENTATION TO BE SENT TO KEMI BADENOCH MP Considered an inconsequential action
23/103	CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO 1996 MEMORIAL HALL AGREEMENT TO REQUIRE "ONE" MEMBER OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO SIT ON THE COMMITTEE AND NOT TWO – CLLR EMMA WELLS Remove item from agenda
23/104	 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS MEMORIAL HALL – <i>Clir Simon Benstead & Clir Emma Wells</i> Cost of pothole contribution a concern to the MHMC, possibly renters not hiring due to potholes, dog club concerned with holes and would like to contribute, suggested they increase rent rather than contribute to road improvement. UDC no longer collecting bins at MH, now paying private contractor. LECC asked MHMC to pay for toilet window protectors, muted possibly the LECC responsibility. Additional internal works circa £2,000 now on hold. Drains being repaired at £1600 plus VAT. New window blinds decision deferred; spending £3100 on redecoration. MHMC agreed gate operating timing to be upheld. CCTV quotes varied between £400 to £700 but MHMC unsure for need. Bookings – large potential for increasing bookings and income, current annual loss at £3,000 per annum, £30K in the account. Succession question raised but not seen unnecessary to discuss by MHMC as allegedly others in the village will step up. 23/104(i) – CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS FOR SECURITY OF THE HALL GIVEN THAT SO MANY PEOPLE KNOW WHERE THE KEY IS KEPT TO GAIN ACCESS. ALSO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED MONITORING OF THE CAR PARK. Clir Emma Wells to discuss with MHMC PLAY AREA – <i>Clir Peter Bright & Clir Simon Benstead</i>
	 All OK, quarterly independent inspection completed this month GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE – <i>Cllr Peter Bright</i> Interesting Dog show planned PARISH MAINTENANCE INCLUDING WAR MEMORIAL– <i>Cllr Simon Benstead</i> Works commenced Tuesday, preparatory cleaning work completed, returning next week to continue next phase CRICKET CLUB - Cllr Emma Wells met with the Chair of LECC, Agreement not need changing in their mind, concerns over security of tenure as LECC going out for funding to renew Pavilion. PC suggested they ask those funders what security they require. Other matters discussed including widening their membership appeal to both sexes and wider age ranges. Lack of nets along Manor Rd, balls tend not to leave the field at that point and those that do travel along the ground, nevertheless

	some do leave the field. Future – desire to install water and power in Pavilion, might help attract wider membership.						
23/105	TO NOTE MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:- 23/105(i) – OUTCOME OF SPEED MONITORING AT MILL END; CONFIRM AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE 20s PLENTY SIGNS FOR RESIDENTS TO POST ON THEIR PROPERTY Monitoring implied average speeds were within limits, however, methodology for reporting was questioned. Position for monitoring likewise questioned as recognised as a pinch point. Apply for monitoring to be repeated in different location ask Martin Foley for support. Defer sign purchase send members the links						
	CLERK to ACTION						
	23/105(ii) – CONFIRM CURRENT NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS TO PC NEWSLETTER Current number subscribed according to system – 94						
	23/105(iii) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON BENCH INSTALLATIONS, APPLICATION OF TEAK PROTECTOR AND PICNIC TABLE REFURBISHMENT Due to commence next week						
	23/105(iv) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT GOAL INSTALLATION Finished but needs longer pegs to secure netting in the ground CLERK to ACTION						
	23/105(v) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT BASKETBALL NET Installed, back board needs cleaning						
	23/105(vi) – CONFIRM PLANS TO DEFER THE SOFT PATH LEADING TO THE PLAY AREA UNTIL 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR – CLLR SIMON BENSTEAD Deferred, await kerbing along manor road (quotes required), contractor awarded kerb works to be approached to install soft path to play area						
	23/105(vii) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON INSTALLATION OF FITTING TO ACCOMMODATE THE BEACON AND DURING DECEMBER TO SWAP OUT FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE						
	One quote thus far, another approach to be discussed; work could commence in November. Xmas Tree purchase to be considered (circa £500) plus a power connection for lighting or battery powered as short term fix. Guy-ropes or use of extension leads are not to be considered						
	23/105(viii) – CONSIDER ACTION RE. PLANTERS AND GATEWAYS IN LIGHT OF COMMENTS FROM HIGHWAYS OFFICER STATING THE CURRENT PLANTERS COULD BECOME WEAPONS IF HIT BY A VEHICLE AND SHOULD COUNCIL CONSIDER SWAPPING THEM FOR A MOUND OF PLANTED EARTH? (CONSIDER REMOVING ITEM IF NO ACTION TO BE AGREED) Members to confirm positions relevant to the highway and report to Clerk						
23/106	CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO MEETING DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF COUNCIL YEAR 23-24 AND UPDATE STANDING ORDERS TO REFLECT THAT CHANGE Meeting 25 October confirmed, November to be agreed, possible mid January24 meeting to approve Precept request.						
23/107	ITEMS OF REPORT OR FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA 23/107(i) APPOINT CONTRIBUTOR TO 5P MAGAZINE Cllr Emma Wells to produce input						
23/108	DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S) – 25 October – CLOSE 21:00						

SignedDateDate

APPENDIX A

LEPC address re LEHQ

What is the council doing about the 1,200 houses approved by the SoS two weeks ago?

We can appeal to the High Court but must lodge the appeal no later than 23rd October. Stop Easton Park and LEPC are analysing whether there are grounds for an appeal. We are consulting with other parish councils. The key player is UDC and we are trying to determine whether they plan to appeal. So far, there is no direct word. We continue to ask...

The major determinant factor in favour of development is the lack of a minimum five year housing land supply. Uttlesford's submitted figure to the SoS was fractionally short at 4.89 years. With this lower figure a tilted balance came into play creating a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Unless other factors strongly tip the balance the other way, development is inevitable.

So our main focus is the calculation of that HLS figure and the period it was calculated from. There are other key factors - Heritage, Landscape and Transportation. Of these the judgement that Transportation will not be adversely affected by 1,200 houses is controversial. If a five year HLS can be shown then maybe a combination of these would tip the balance the other way.

There is another related factor. Apart from the negative impact on Little Easton, this development of 1,200 houses might weigh in favour of Landsec's proposal to build a further 10,000 houses in eight years time. We now know that EP is NOT allocated in the draft Local Plan due out by the end of next month. BUT neither is EP recognised yet as a potential open space. Landsec haven't given up.

Overturning a government decision is costly. Even if the High Court accepted our argument it can only ask the SoS to re-determine the decision. The SoS could then re-determine and keep the original decision. So we potentially bounce back and forth between the High Court and the SoS. How much will an appeal cost? I don't yet know, we're waiting for estimates, but I wouldn't want to go in with less than £100k. A drawn-out fight would could cost multiples more. UDC's lost Stansted appeal cost council tax payers £3m.

If LEPC stopped all projects now, performed only mandated work over the next two years, reduced reserves to the barest legal minimum and raised the precept by 50% next year, we would still have only £45k available.

If every one of the 340 voters that live in the parish was prepared to contribute £250 to the appeal we would raise £85k. How many of you here tonight are prepared to pay £250, or more, into an appeal fund? And persuade your neighbours to.

I think we could have grounds for an appeal but analysis continues and the risk of losing is not negligible by any means. We could pay a much smaller sum for an opinion from a professional - say £2-5k. But with no guarantee they would come up with an answer we'd like.

Either way, it's a risk with your money. In our politicised planning system today strong words of disapproval have to be backed up with facts and, importantly, the money to prove those facts.

APPENDIX B

Dist & Cnty Cllr Reports

THE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – UPDATE...Cnty Cllr Martin Foley

The previous administration in Uttlesford DC repeated failure to produce a Local Plan since 2005 has caused considerable problems for our district over the years. We all now hope after considerable effort, that this is the beginning of the end of a route to a successful Local Plan.

My Report has extensive news regarding work on a replacement Local Plan. It is likely that many of forthcoming Reports will also see the Local Plan featured, since when hopefully it is

made, the Local Plan will have a fundamental effect and make a long-lasting contribution to the development, facilities, infrastructure and general make up of our District over the plan period, **being 20 years ie until 2041.**

Local Plans in rural districts like ours are always controversial since so often, they anticipate development in locations which some part of the community or another considers unsuitable or undesirable. Since

effectively the ability to develop land was "nationalised" under the post World War II legislation, the allocation of larger tracts of land for potential development has become of very considerable economic

importance. There is an inevitable and irreconcilable tension between the aspirations of prospective promoters and developers of land on the one hand and the preferences of those on the other hand who

do not wish to see open countryside built upon. However, as we all know and agree, it is essential to have in place an up to date Local Plan, so that an

evaluation of district wide development need can first be made on examination in public by an independent body, namely the Planning Inspectorate. The appropriate "spatial" and other policies can

then be ascertained and described. With all the evidence available, allocations of prospective development sites can then be made. Having a Local Plan being as out of date as the current (2005) plan

is utterly unacceptable – it leads to the ad hoc speculative development that we have experienced in the past. Indeed, good planning practice requires plans once adopted to be reviewed and refreshed every 5 years, a gross omission unfortunately allowed to have arisen in the past.

I apologise if the procedures described below are well known to PC members, but as this Report is widely read by members of the community, we hope you will excuse some repetition by me. So, an initial draft Local Plan has now been published last week ready for consideration on 4th October 2023 by the cross-party Local Plan Leadership Group ("LPLG") - of which Cllr Tayler is a voting member. Being a working party appointed by Cabinet, LPLG is to review the draft before referring it to Cabinet, which then passes it to Full Council for a decision to be made as to whether or not to permit the draft to proceed to public consultation (the Regulation 18 Process).

If there is agreement from Full Council on 30 October 2023, this consultation will take place on the draft throughout November and into December.

The draft Plan contains a full suite of proposed policies and policy chapters and has identified provisional housing and employment site allocations, following officers' meetings with a range of stakeholders

(including neighbouring councils, Essex County Council, the NHS and Education providers). There was also a local plan workshop with Parish Council colleagues. There was community consultation on possible draft policies and themes undertaken at the outset of the process through the Community Stakeholder Forum.

The draft Plan seeks to provide for housing in the most sustainable way, that minimizes the need for travel and maximizes opportunities for walking, cycling and using public transport. Thus, new homes are

proposed to be near to jobs, shops, services and facilities. The draft seeks to support existing economic centres (retailers/ businesses/employers), but also seeks to ensure that any new infrastructure (schools/ health care/leisure facilities/open space) benefit as many people as possible, including our existing communities rather than solely new residents.

The Regulation 18 stage is still a relatively early stage within the plan-making process and the draft can be amended following responses to the consultation. Thus, the decision made by Full Council on 30th October2023 will be a decision on whether or not to publish the draft for consultation; not necessarily to support each and every aspect making up the constituent parts of the draft plan. The representations made will be reviewed very carefully and taken into account which will then lead to the Regulation 19 version of the Plan, which is then submitted to the Planning Inspectorate to begin its work.

During the recent workshops, officers explained that some 6,000 homes across the District had been consented since 2021, ie the beginning of the current plan period, some granted by UDC and some by the Planning Inspectorate. This is a considerable number and it means that the housing target for the draft

local is considerably reduced <u>– meaning that no large new so called "Garden Communities</u>" are required across the nor indeed can be justified to meet the Government's "Standard Method".

Further, the latest five year housing land supply figures will now reflect this level of housing delivery, which will assist your planning sub-committee in their representations in response to those planning applications which seek to justify development in the absence of a "five year supply". The precise housing land supply statistics will be published separately – earlier than is normally the case because of the Regulation 18 Local Plan work.

Whilst this results in 6,000 fewer homes that UDC now has need to plan for, being one component of the Housing Target imposed by Central Government of some 14,000 dwellings required to be supplied in total, it has again demonstrated that development does not stop coming when there is no local plan in place.

I am not providing a summary of the principal approaches contained in the draft since it merits a comprehensive reading as it pertains to the entire District – a parish limited approach would not therefore be appropriate in this Report at this stage. Some of the demographics lying behind the Local Plan work are interesting and explain the pressure for

development in the District. Since 2011, the population of Uttlesford has grown at a rate of 14.9%, which is faster than the average for England as a whole, which has grown by 6.6%, being a similar level of growth in adjoining Braintree District while that of East Herts is about 9%. Moreover, the age structure of Uttlesford shows the proportion of people aged 65 and over has increased by 36% since 2011 and 20.2% of the population in Uttlesford were aged 65 and over, compared to England's average of 18.6%. This significant change might be explained by "inward migration" of people coming to the District from North and East London, capitalising on the price difference in housing stock there as compared with that of Uttlesford.

There is a very great deal of information and background contained in the evidence in support of the draft Plan and Residents and others will be able and are very much encouraged by us to comment on this draft and make submissions on it during the six week consultation period, always assuming of course it is first approved for that purpose by Council on 30th October 2023.

I am assured that reminders of what is happening continue to be circulated widely as we hope that as many residents as possible will put forward their comments and representations.

We would encourage all residents to sign up for updates at <u>www.uttlesford.gov.uk/local-plan-news</u> and also to follow the timetable which is available at <u>www.uttlesford.gov.uk/local-plan-timetable</u>. A set of Local Plan FAQ's has been prepared also which are very useful as well as readable in plain English and they are to be found at <u>https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/4923/Local-Plan-FAQs</u>. Updates are also provided by means of social media. The main page on the UDC web site referring to the Local Plan is worth bookmarking since it contains references, to be added to in coming weeks, to the detailed technical evidence which have been used in arriving at the draft Regulation 18 policies. In summary, the anticipated Timetable/Path Ahead would be:

- Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) October December 2023
- Submission Plan (Regulation 19) Summer 2024
- Submission to Secretary of State Winter 2024
- Examination 2025
- Adoption Early 2026

The following are the draft plan materials for review by LPLG on 4th October 2023, before coming to Cabinet and then to Full Council which gives you the opportunity of early review, in anticipation of the formal consultation period commencing:

https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s33027/Draft%20Uttlesford%20Local%20Plan%2020

21%20-%202041%20Regulation%2018%20Consultation.pdf

https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s33028/Appendices%201%20-

%2016%20Except%202%20-%204.pdf

https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s33029/Appendices%202%20-

%204%20Site%20Developement%20Templates.pdf

APPENDIX C

CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE - LITTLE EASTON PC

27 September 2023

APOLOGIES – Dist Cllr Richard Haynes

Ringcraft the dog training group that hire the Hall has requested permission to use the playing-field in addition to the hall. – Council approved use providing the area is staked out and warning tape wrapped around the area to assist clear up after use

The second tranche of the Precept has been received. I am advised to remind council that it is not the council's job to accumulate funds but to spend them wisely for the benefit of their community.

Three late donation requests – EHAAT, approved £100; CPRE, subscription agreed £36, RBL, wreath purchase plus donation agreed at £50

Therefore it remains for me to advise that members have received various communications throughout the month from those bodies and organisations that support this sector and all other matters are indeed covered by the agenda.

APPENDIX D

LEPC SEPTEM	BER 2023 Finance St	tatement									
Precept	28,500							Budget	Net Exp	Diff +/-	
								43,135	18,586	-24,549	
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/DD	Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net	
Opening Balance							55,645.32	0.00		0.00	
01-Sep	A&J Lighting	Annualised maintenance		DD		Y		33.30	5.55	27.75	Lighting
07-Sep	MH Goals Ltd	Goal set+ posts	16525	FPO		Y		724.53	120.76	603.78	PM
12-Sep	Activ Web	Web services	10276	DD		Y		42.00	7.00	35.00	Web
19-Sep	DRAX Energy	Lighting Electricity	3574 / 5165	DD		Y		48.11	2.29	45.82	Utility
20-Sep	ICO	Subscription	ZA278595	DD		Y		35.00		35.00	Subs
21-Sep	UDC	Precept Prt 2	N/A	BGC		Y	14,250.00				Precept
	V Evans	Auditor	Inv09100020	FPO				131.40		131.40	Audit
	MD Landscapes	Grass cutting	1296	FPO				168.00	28.00	140.00	Grass
	RBL	Wreath	EDN05	FPO							Admin
	S Smith	Various works	Inv 21 - 23	FPO				635.00		635.00	PM
	Cyan - IB	Teak protector x 6	R16217	FPO				170.00	28.33	141.67	PM
	HP - IB	Instant Ink / 6	36021	FPO				2.75	0.46	2.29	Stationer
	Broadmead Leisure Ltd	Play Area inspection Qrt	2583	FPO				96.00	16.00	80.00	Play Area
	CPRE	Subscription	59556	FPO				36.00		36.00	Subs
	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO				390.65		390.65	Clerk
	Employee	WFH allowance & Travel	N/A	S/O-FPO				30.50		30.50	Admin
	Unity Bank	Qrtly charge	Stat No 013	DD				18.00		18.00	Admin
Sept							69,895.32	2,561.24	208.39	2,352.86	
Opening Balance							67,334.08	0.00		0.00	