

# Little Easton Parish Council

**IAN BROWN**  
**Parish Clerk**  
**& Responsible Financial Officer**  
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**72 ST. EDMUNDS FIELDS**  
**GREAT DUNMOW**  
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Minutes of the **Little Easton Parish Council Meeting** held at **Memorial Hall** on **WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH 2023**  
**AT 7:00PM**

Councillor	Attendance
VACANT	
VACANT	
Cllr Rebecca Fowell	YES
Cllr Emma Wells	YES
Cllr Simon Benstead	YES
Cllr Peter Bright	YES
Dist Cllr Michael Tayler	NO
Cnty Cllr Martin Foley	YES

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

<b>22/163</b>	<b>NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Dist Cllr Michael Tayler – District meeting
<b>22/164</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING</b> None declared
<b>22/165</b>	<b>APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 22 FEBRUARY 2023</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve minutes of the meeting of 22 February 2023; Proposed Cllr Emma Wells, Seconded Cllr Simon Benstead – unanimous approval
<b>22/166</b>	<p align="center"><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</b></p> <p>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)</p> <p>Numerous comments were made concerning the increasing volume, speed, size of vehicles and discourteous driving being witnessed passing through Mill End – synopsis below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mill End, vast increase in volume and speed of traffic and lack of respect for other road users has become a major concern, Cllr Foley confirmed highways speed survey pending funding</li> <li>➤ Speedwatch group might help, previous attempts failed to put group together but possibly there is now more enthusiasm amongst the community to be trained</li> <li>➤ Police requested information from a resident re Mill End but not followed up, contact to be sent to Clerk</li> <li>➤ Accident(s) waiting to happen, pets already killed</li> <li>➤ Crossing the road at Mill End is akin to taking your life into your own hands</li> <li>➤ Suggestion - Speed limits are variable through the village, would a more consistent speed limit assist</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Emergency services have seemingly proven difficult to motivate to become engaged in the problem</li> <li>➤ Request for smiley face VAS and speed calming options such as chicane or humps</li> <li>➤ Signage such as Please Drive Carefully</li> <li>➤ Cnty Cllr Foley offered – 30mph blanket limit not simple to achieve, speed monitoring has been completed in previous years but no reason to not try again. He will call in Highways engineer to asses what can be done. Cautionary note – strong speed reduction methods has created accidents and complaints and comes with more urbanisation markings and signage</li> <li>➤ Potential impact of increased traffic from the development rear of Stag PH</li> <li>➤ Agricultural vehicles contribution due to their size</li> <li>➤ Suggest PC write to local businesses advising the problem and request to ask clientele to respect the community</li> <li>➤ Would a 20s Plenty campaign be possible (note no school in Lt Easton)</li> <li>➤ Pavement surface deterioration at Mill End forces you into the road, a danger to life</li> <li>➤ Location opposite Millfield, pavement in serious need of refurbishment</li> <li>➤ Water run off from Manor Road floods at Duck Street, no surface water drains in place along Manor road – noted Manor Road is a Bridleway</li> <li>➤ Drains blocked along Park Road causes flooding issues for property opposite its junction</li> <li>➤ A grateful thanks for arranging the Grant and road closure for the Coronation Street Party event; organisers next meeting Wed 5 April, 7pm, Stag PH</li> </ul>
<b>22/167</b> <b>Cllr Foley left</b> <b>19:54pm</b>	<p><b>*RECEIVE THE DISTRICT &amp; COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS</b></p> <p>Cnty Cllr Martin Foley –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Booking system under trial for waste recycling sites is vexing residents, causing queues and thus far there has been a 13% reduction in recycling</li> <li>➤ Gt Easton school – their initiative to reduce single use plastic has received an award</li> <li>➤ HRS Dunmow – Received funding for mental health support scheme via Cllr Foley</li> </ul> <p>Combined Annual Report – <b>APPENDIX A</b></p>
<b>22/168</b>	<p><b>*NOTE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The Agenda covers most of the points that might be raised under this section, members have received various correspondence from the bodies across the local government sector that support parish councils.</p> <p>The grass cutting contractor has attempted to cut, collect, mulch the leaves accumulating along the playing-field boundary but as suspected their “roller” type equipment simply clogs up with the leaves and cannot therefore do as hoped. It requires a rotary type mower, probably a ride on.</p>
<b>22/169</b>	<p><b>FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT &amp; AGREE PAYMENTS – APPOINT AUTHORISER</b></p> <p>Fifteen minutes prior to the PC meeting two Cllrs sat with the Clerk to review the current finance statement, Invoices and bank statements</p> <p><b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve finance statements and approve payments; Proposed Cllr Peter Bright , Seconded Cllr Emma Wells– Unanimous approval</p> <p>All Cllrs invited to authorise payments</p> <p>Finance statement – <b>APPENDIX B</b></p>
<b>22/170</b>	<p><b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON PLANS FOR THE CORONATION CELEBRATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ £700 Grant application submitted</li> <li>❖ Confirmed road closure with diversion route awarded</li> <li>❖ Next organising committee meeting 05 April, 7pm, Stag PH</li> <li>❖ PC to assist with event finances, suggested budget range £1000 to £1500 in additional help towards costs, to be formally approved at the next PC meeting</li> </ul>

22/171	<b>PROVIDE UPDATE ON LOCATION FOR MRS JACKSON MEMORIAL BENCH</b> What 3 Words (W3W) update on positioning coming soon
22/172	<b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON PLANS TO IMPROVE THE PCs COMMUNICATION WITH THE RESIDENTS</b> Initial actions to include Email and engagement via social media platforms
22/173	<b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON LOCAL PLAN – CLLR PETER BRIGHT</b> Attended Scrutiny and leadership meeting – the contents of the 1939 agreement brought to the attention of those assembled which promptly raised concerns as many were unaware of its existence nor its contents. Awaiting feedback now that the document has been made aware to members of the committee.  Deadline for Local Plan Reg18 has been pushed back yet again
22/174	<b>PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ANY CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS OR APPEALS AND OUTCOMES</b>  <b>UTT/23/0424/FUL</b> – circulated to members 24/02/23, extension granted until 30/03 <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Erection of 2 no. detached self / custom build dwellings. <b>LOCATION:</b> Willow Creek Stud Duck Street <b>Comment date 30 March 2023</b> NO OBJECTION  <b>UTT/23/0552/HHF</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Proposed two storey side extension <b>LOCATION:</b> Bushwood House Duck Street <b>Comment date – 07 April 2023</b> NO OBJECTION  <b>UTT/22/2732/FUL</b> <b>PROPOSAL:</b> Construction and change of use from paddock to equestrian menage and construction and change of use from paddock to canter track <b>LOCATION:</b> Easton Glebe Laundry Lane Little Easton <b>APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS</b>  <b>FEEDBACK - Easton Park 1200 Homes Inquiry commenced 05 July held at the repurposed Winfresh site in Little Canfield – Outcome from Inspectorate delayed until mid May</b>
22/175	<b>CONFIRM ELECTION NOMINATION FORMS ACCESSED</b> Members confirmed receipt with some Nomination forms already submitted
22/176	<b>CONFIRM RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW ALONG WITH INSURANCE COVER</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Confirm review of the risk assessment along with insurance cover; Proposed Cllr Peter Bright , Seconded Cllr Rebecca Fowell– Unanimous approval
22/177	<b>AGREE TO ADOPT THE LGA CODE OF CONDUCT</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Approve adoption of the LGA model Code of Conduct issued 2022; Proposed Cllr Emma Wells , Seconded Cllr Simon Benstead – Unanimous approval
22/178	<b>REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – RESPONSIBILITIES MAY CHANGE</b> <b>WAR MEMORIAL</b> – Cllr Emma Wells Preferred contractor asked to firm up on arrangements for the works in readiness to proceed <b>MEMORIAL HALL – TBC</b> <b>PLAY AREA</b> – Cllr Rebecca Fowell Gate, hinge side gap too large, solution suggested timber fillet? Ask contractor, CLERK to ACTION

	<b>22/178(i) – RECEIVE UPDATE ON ACQUISITION OF PLAY AREA SIGNAGE</b> Two companies approached re signage, range of pricing, temp signs may be necessary, attached or free standing sign options, council prefer fixed to fence <b>GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE – TBC</b> <b>COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – ALL CLLRS</b> – Coronation event under Item 22/999 <b>HIGHWOODS QUARRY – TBC</b> <b>PARISH MAINTENANCE – Cllr Rebecca Fowell</b> Nothing to add <b>22/178(ii) - AGREE ACTION TO REMEDY BROKEN STILE(S) AT PARISH CHURCH – CURRENT LIKE FOR LIKE RENEWAL QUOTE £155</b> – Report to Highways as they responsible authority, Cllr Peter Bright to report online
<b>22/179</b>	<b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON <i>SPECIFICATION</i> PROPOSALS TO INSTALL PATHWAY FROM MEMORIAL HALL TO PLAY AREA – CLLR SIMON BENSTEAD</b> Deferred
<b>22/180</b>	<b>RECEIVE UPDATE ON <i>SPECIFICATION</i> PROPOSALS TO INSTALL MULTI PURPOSE CONCRETE BASE AT SITE OF BEACON TO ENABLE SWAPPING OUT FOR CHRISTMAS TREE – CLLR SIMON BENSTEAD</b> Deferred
<b>22/181</b>	<b>PROGRESS THE ACQUISITION OF GOV.UK DOMAIN AND ASSOCIATED EMAIL ACCOUNTS – PROPOSED ANNUAL COST £280</b> <b>RESOLUTION</b> – Agree the acquisition of GOV.UK domain and associated email accounts; Proposed Cllr Emma Wells, Seconded Cllr Peter Bright – Unanimous approval  CLERK to ACTION
<b>22/182</b>	<b>ITEMS OF REPORT OR FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA</b> Planters and overall road condition, B184 junction potholes <b>22/182(i) APPOINT CONTRIBUTOR TO 5P MAGAZINE</b> Cllr Rebecca Fowell
<b>22/183</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)</b> – proposed move to 19 April – CLOSE - 20:46pm

Signed.....Date.....

## APPENDIX A

### LITTLE EASTON PC

#### New Booking System at Recycling Centres (ECC)

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/bookings-required-from-monday-at-essex-recycling-centres>

As you know Mike and myself think the new system is a sledgehammer to crack a small nut... a totally crazy idea. They would have done well to speak to Parish Councillors/District Councillors and gone out to proper consultation first.

I am strongly opposing it , as in the trial that has already been done recycling has gone down by 13% already in that area and causing staff to get abuse at Recycling Centres which is not their fault.

#### Youth Support (UDC)

Over the past year we have secured funding for Skatepark and safety gear from UDC ...

### **Libraries (ECC AND UDC)**

You may recall Cllr Tayler and myself amongst other things headed a campaign to keep libraries open. Well we succeeded. We need to keep libraries open by using them...so please if you haven't got a library card go in and get one and use it or we may be faced with closure again one day. ECC are not in a great financial situation and the current administration in County Hall have shown they don't have much time for public libraries. I am concerned they may try and close it again when you look at the state of ECC finances.

### **Great Easton & Thaxted School ECC AND UDC**

I have done a number of school assemblies in the area including two Thaxted with Cllr Tayler and with John Starr. We are delighted to see a well run schools and I was pleased to present the schools with an award for reducing single use plastics. I have also become known for my Knock Knock Jokes in schools but that is another story.

Mental Health Practitioners in Senior Schools – Through a motion I took through County Hall last year we have secured funding for help in this area for secondary schools.

### **Highways (ECC)**

I have taken up hundreds of issues in the last year including potholes and other major issues. The closure of the bridge on B184 brought with it many problems and we were all glad to see it finished. Please report any issues through ECC website.

### **UDC COUNCIL - BUDGET 2023/2024**

At a lengthy meeting of Council on 21 February 2023, the 2023/24 UDC Budget was set and an increase

of the UDC share of Council Tax precept of 3% was approved in order to arrive at a balanced budget. EEC share was 3.5%

An achievement at UDC given the huge cuts in central government support with other councils begging to increase further like Croydon, Kent, Surrey and of course Thurrock asking for almost 10% increase.

### **Residents Help Available**

UDC is providing in material terms and other assistance and the comprehensive information drawn together on this very important subject may be referred to here. We know that your Clerk has this information source readily to hand:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/4782/Cost-of-living-support>

See also the next section re Council meeting and the following which gives full details of the newly to be

introduced Cost of Living Support Fund.

[https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s31244/Cost%20of%20Living%20Support%20Fund%20](https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s31244/Cost%20of%20Living%20Support%20Fund%20Policy%20202324.pdf)

[Policy%20202324.pdf](https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s31244/Cost%20of%20Living%20Support%20Fund%20Policy%20202324.pdf)

### **Local Plan**

I want to formally congratulate Andy Dodsley, Peter Bright and Richard Haynes (CPRE) on spectacular presentations at the last LP scrutiny meeting.

We have been waiting 15 years on a plan that will not fail (3 plans failed under last administration – costing tens of millions pounds now) so it needs to be right this time. Flaws were found in previous evidence submitted but should go to next step still by year end.

As I have said before there are at least 20 other councils like this and some seem to be treading water waiting on numbers to come down.

### **REGISTERING TO VOTE – MAY 2023**

An extensive campaign has been taking place, prepared by the Electoral Services Team at UDC, to advise the community of the new Voter ID requirements coming into effect at this Election for the first time.

It will be necessary for voters exercising their vote in person to show some form of photo ID at the voting station and this link sets out the relevant information in detail:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ier>

This further link provides information as to the accepted forms of photo identification and if voters do not already have an accepted form of photo ID, or if they are not sure whether their photo ID still looks like them, they can apply for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC).

We urge residents to check that they have appropriate photo ID and of course take it with them when they attend the Polling Station on the day. Many will have a suitable ID tucked away in their wallet or purse already and it is perhaps just worth listing examples of what are appropriate photo ID documents, namely:

- Passport issued by the UK, any Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, A British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
  - Driving licence issued by the UK, any Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
  - Blue Badge
  - Older Person's Bus Pass
  - Disabled Person's Bus Pass
  - Oyster 60+ Card
  - Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) or a temporary VAC
  - Biometric immigration document
  - Identity card bearing Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
  - National Identity Card issued by an EEA state
- .....

LEPC March 2023 Finance Statement										
Precept		32,364								
							Budget	Net Exp	Diff +/-	
							32,364	18,614	-13,750	
Date	Supplier	Description	Invoice	FPO/Min Ref	Rec	Credit	Debit	VAT	Net	Centre
Opening Balance						57,454.44	0.00		0.00	
10-Mar	Activ Web	Web services	9096	DD	Y		42.00	7.00	35.00	Web
15-Mar	A&J Lighting	Lighting maintenance	37078	DD	Y		24.30	4.05	20.25	Lighting
20-Mar	DRAX Energy Supply	Lighting electricity	3267/3268	DD	Y		43.46	2.07	41.39	Utility
	Broadmead Leisure	Play Area maintenance	2472	FPO			96.00	16.00	80.00	Play Area
	M&B Printers	200 Coronation flyers	16646	FPO			60.00		60.00	Admin
	Employee	Expenses	March Doc	FPO			6.75		6.75	Admin
	Employee	Salary	PAYE	FPO			415.65		415.65	Clerk
28-Mar	Employee	WFH	N/A	S/O	Y		26.00		26.00	Admin
27-Mar	Easton CC	Grass cut contbtn	Inv 007	BGC	Y	380.00				Income
Mar						57,834.44	714.16	29.12	685.04	
Closing Balance						57,120.28				