

Little Easton Parish Council

IAN BROWN
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Prior to the meeting opening the Chairman read a statement before herself along with the Vice Chairman left the building

Minutes of the **Little Easton Parish Council Meeting** due to be held at **Memorial Hall** on **WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7:00PM**

Councillor	Attendance
Cllr Sarah Sidgwick (Chair)	NO
Cllr Katy Rodwell (Vice Chair)	NO
Cllr Rebecca Fowell	YES
Cllr Emma Wells	YES
Cllr Simon Benstead	YES
Cllr Peter Bright	YES
Dist Cllr Michael Tayler	YES
Cnty Cllr Martin Foley	NO

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

With the chairman and vice chairman not attending the meeting the first item of business was the appointment of a chairman; Cllr Rebecca Fowell was duly appointed for this meeting.

22/99	NOTE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Cnty Cllr Martin Foley
22/100	DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING None declared
22/101	APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 26 OCTOBER 2022 RESOLUTION – Approve minutes of the meeting of 26 October 2022; Proposed Cllr Emma Wells, seconded Cllr Rebecca Fowell – Unanimous approval
22/102	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Statements of grateful thanks and support for the Clerk and the work they continue to provide the council and the community➤ The council have been under-staffed for such a long time it is heartening to recognise three new Cllrs have now joined the council along with the continued commitment to the duties and responsibilities by Cllr Fowell➤ People with diverse sometimes challenging views are welcome on the council
22/103	RECEIVE THE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS Dist Cllr Michael Tayler –

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wanted to add his expression of grateful thanks and support for the work of the Clerk along with the three new Cllrs now sitting along with Cllr Rebecca Fowell ➤ Local Plan activity is quite at present, next major step will be Reg18 later 2023 ➤ Finances – Thurrock council have a circa £500Million overspend due to a difficult property investment challenge ➤ UDC finances are in a far better position than most other District councils, with a £4Million overspend this financial year, due in part to a lack of receipts and lower interest rates on savings and now the cost of living crisis which impacts the council; the overspend does not include the £2.1Million spend on the Stansted Airport appeal ➤ The overspend position will be worked through and is expected to be resolved come 2028, although that resolution is not to be met through the sale of assets the actuality of the plan has yet to be publicly announced. It will involve minimal redundancies with the expectation that most staff reductions will come about through natural losses; it is recognised that there will be a reduction in some service level provision ➤ UDC is widely praised and fundamentally successful
22/104	NOTE CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE Full report at APPENDIX A
22/105	FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT & AGREE PAYMENTS – APPOINT AUTHORISER RESOLUTION – Approve finance statement and approve payments; Proposed Cllr Emma Wells, Seconded Cllr Simon Benstead – Unanimous approval Cllr Rebecca Fowell to authorise payments Finance statement – APPENDIX B 22/105(i) – ADOPT LGA PAY AWARD AS ADVISED BY NALC via EALC OF £1/HR BACKDATED TO APRIL 22 RESOLUTION – Approve pay award backdated until April 2022; Proposed Cllr Simon Benstead, Seconded Cllr Emma Wells – Unanimous approval CLERK to ACTION 22/105(ii) – AGREE IDENTIFIED PLAY AREA MINOR FAULTS BE REPAIRED AT NEXT QUARTERLY INSPECTION VISIT BY CONTRACTOR RESOLUTION – Approve play area faults be repaired at quarterly visit; Proposed Cllr Simon Benstead, Seconded Cllr Rebecca Fowells – Unanimous approval CLERK to ACTION 22/105(iii) – CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF EARMARKED RESERVES AND REMOVE FROM GENERAL RESERVES RESOLUTION – Approve adoption of earmarked reserves; Proposed Cllr Peter Bright, Seconded Cllr Simon Benstead – Unanimous approval 22/105(iv) – COMMENCE PLANNING FOR BUDGET 2023 INCLUDING THE CREATION OF A THREE YEAR PLAN, NOTE CHANGE IN JANUARY MEETING DATE TO 18th TO ACCOMMODATE PRECEPT FORMAL SUBMISSION DATE REQUIREMENT Cllr Peter Bright circulated a draft budget / spend position with projected future budget(s), members of the council to meet to discuss the budget needs and its impact on the precept request for 2023-24, in preparation for formal submission and adoption at the 18 January 2023 PC meeting
22/106	AGREE WHETHER OR NOT TO REPAIR THE DAMAGED PLANTER - £65 Put on hold pending confirmation from Highways and ELS on the licence position
22/107	RECEIVE UPDATE ON LOCAL PLAN – CLLR PETER BRIGHT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Item to remain on the Agenda ➤ Reg18 delayed until summer 2023 earliest ➤ PC to formulate comment submission to Reg18 process

	➤ The concerns over the threat to Easton Park remain
22/108	RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – CLLR PETER BRIGHT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Process commenced May 2020 ➤ Completion takes circa 3 years ➤ A comprehensive village survey was circulated to the community ➤ Insufficient numbers were able or willing to step up to contribute to the large amount of work required to see the NP through to completion so the process stalled and is now on hold with energy focussed on the Local Plan
22/109	PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON ANY CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS OR APPEALS AND OUTCOMES UTT/22/1508/DOV LOCATION: Sector 4, Woodlands Park, Great Dunmow PROPOSAL: Deed of Variation (DoV) to the Section 106 (S.106) attached to Planning Permission UTT/2507/11/OP to reduce the Affordable Housing requirement to 23.7%, to dispose of the land required for the Affordable Housing to a registered provider for £1 and to pay an off-site contribution of £46,000 towards the provision of Affordable Housing. Planning Committee considering DOV on 23 November Whilst the planning committee meeting date has passed the council wished it recorded the proposed Deed of Variation to dramatically reduce Affordable Housing numbers is reprehensible UTT/22/3162/FUL PROPOSAL: S73A retrospective application for the retention of two wagons used as Air BnB ancillary to existing dwelling LOCATION: Portways Park Road Comment date 23 December 2022 NO OBJECTION – CLERK to ACTION FEEDBACK - Easton Park 1200 Homes Inquiry commenced 05 July at the repurposed Winfresh site in Little Canfield Awaiting outcome of the Inquiry
22/110	CONSIDER ENGAGING A SOLICITOR TO CLARIFY AND CONFIRM THE PC's REPAIRING RESPONSIBILITIES IF ANY FOR THAT LENGTH OF MANOR ROAD THAT RUNS ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF THE PLAYING-FIELD FROM A POINT AT MANOR VIEW TO THE MEMORIAL HALL CAR PARK ENTRANCE Cllr Emma Wells to complete initial review of documentation and advise council of outcome at next meeting
22/111	RECEIVE PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE ACQUISITION OF .GOV DOMAIN NAME AND ASSOCIATED EMAIL ACCOUNTS PLUS INDIVIDUAL CLLR LOGIN TO ONLINE OFFICE FILES AND FOLDERS Sector specific options available in addition to third parties; suggestion that a specification of needs be identified and produced which can be priced and tabled for consideration
22/112	REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – RESPONSIBILITIES MAY CHANGE WAR MEMORIAL – Cllr Emma Wells – Two proposals received awaiting a third; parish maintenance contractor agreement to be circulated to members, consider his completing routine maintenance but not specialist cleaning / repairs MEMORIAL HALL – Cllr Katy Rodwell & Sarah Sidgwick – No report PLAY AREA – Cllr Rebecca Fowell – Play area fencing complete, signage needs replacing; Cllr Rebecca Fowell to pursue suitable alternatives for printing 22/112 (i) – APPROVE PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS AS PER QUARTERLY INSPECTION REPORT – TOTAL £TBC – Agreed at Item 22/105(ii) price indicated £210

	GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE – Cllr Katy Rodwell – No report COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – VACANT – Suggested full council seeks to work with community groups in support of their projects HIGHWOODS QUARRY – Cllr Katy Rodwell – The Clerk presented a brief overview of the recent online meeting arranged by ECC with the Quarry, future meeting dates to be set PARISH MAINTENANCE – Cllr Rebecca Fowell – Bench maintenance on-going
22/113	CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO INSTALL PATHWAY FROM MEMORIAL HALL TO PLAY AREA Cllr Simon Benstead to research options to present to council
22/114	CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO INSTALL MULTI PURPOSE CONCRETE BASE AT SITE OF BEACON TO ENABLE SWAPPING OUT FOR CHRISTMAS TREE Cllr Simon Benstead to research options to present to council
22/115	ITEMS OF REPORT OR FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA 2023 Budget and precept request 22/115(i) APPOINT CONTRIBUTOR TO 5P MAGAZINE Cllr Emma Wells to submit article
22/116	DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S) – 18 JANUARY 2023 – 7pm – CLOSE – 8:53pm

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

APPENDIX A

CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE LEPC

30 NOVEMBER 2022

ECC have announced their comprehensive Wellbeing, Communities and Public Health Business Plan 2022-2025 which has been circulated to members for onward distribution to the community, the link is on the PC website.

The street lighting energy supplier has written to advise this council does not qualify for the Energy Bill Relief Scheme, but the council is on a fixed tariff until 2024, details previously circulated to members.

Contractors were invited and some have reviewed the condition of the war memorial, with quotations to complete necessary works.

The play area fencing project is now completed, a wider gate has been installed to enable better access for double buggies and maintenance equipment, provided by the contractor at no extra cost.

The play area inspection contractor has produced his first quarterly report complete with advised repairs plus costings to complete during his next visit. This is a different procedure from previous years where the quarterly inspections are identifying any remedial repairs to continue compliance throughout the year and not as previously on a once per annum basis.

UDC finance have advised council they have until 20 January latest to submit their formal precept request.

A member of the public requested I clarify their contribution to the October meeting as they felt my interpretation did not entirely reflect that contribution

All other matters are covered by the agenda

APPENDIX B

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