

LITTLE EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th October 2014 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: Sue Gilbert (Chairman), Eileen-McKendry Gray (Vice Chairman), Chris Audritt, Doug Wyatt and Jackie Deane (Clerk) 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllrs John Willson, Simon Walsh and Lawrence Smith. 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. **Public Forum** - A Manor Road resident asked if all the residents would be consulted about where the new recreation ground sign should be fixed. He suggested that a letter be sent to each Manor Road resident for them to reply with their comments. It was reported that the pavement in Mill End, towards the B184, has become overgrown.
4. **Planning Appeal APP/C1570/A/14/2213025 by LS Easton Park Investments Ltd** – S Gilbert reported that the site visit had gone well and the long views were also clear, with a stop being made at Bigods Farm. The closing statements will be heard on 24th November at the UDC offices.
5. **Trees felled on Easton Park land** – The Clerk reported that the Forestry Commission would be writing to the landowner or representative to ask for scrub to be re-planted up to the ditches. The UDC landscape officer has been kept informed.
6. **Footpaths** – Eileen McKendry-Gray agreed to be the new representative.
7. **Memorial Hall** – Doug Wyatt and Chris Audritt agreed to be representatives on the hall committee.
8. **Children's Xmas Party** – Eileen McKendry-Gray and Chris and Helen Audritt agreed to organise the party, for children of primary school age and younger. It will be held on either 7th or 14th December and will be advertised by leaflet and on the website.
9. **Councillor vacancy** – a new councillor can be co-opted at the next meeting or as soon as possible, following the resignation of Rob Boulton. Local council elections will take place next May.
10. **Budget review and final consultant and overtime figures** – Additional 18 hours were needed for extra work for the Clerk and Planning Consultant due to including comments on a new access road at the Land Securities planning appeal. These hours were added to the total budget allocations. The Clerk showed that reserves would be used, as previously agreed, and the shortfall can be covered by underspending in other areas. S Gilbert agreed to arrange a fundraising event in February or March to help fund parish council costs in relation to the public inquiry.
11. **Sign on the recreation ground** – The sign will be placed alongside the recreation ground, which is owned by the parish council. There is limited flexibility over the exact position so it was agreed that an update should be put on the website, inviting comments from the public, so that any resident comments can be taken into account.

12. **Request for speed limit reduction** – Doug Wyatt has prepared and submitted an application to the County Council, asking for a lower speed limit to be set in the unrestricted stretch between Duck Street and Mill End.
13. **War memorial garden refurbishment** – Doug Wyatt reported that the work is due to start in the week commencing 10th November.
14. **Representatives reports** – Cllr Walsh's report was circulated prior to the meeting, which gave information on additional school places in the district and for districts to get funding from the county council to clear overgrown footpaths. Chris Audritt will be getting in touch with the Alexia Wilson Trust with a view to being a representative at their meetings. S Gilbert reported that members of the hall committee have carried out the extra tree work mentioned at the last meeting. Nigel Holden will be carrying out some remedial work on the play surfaces and so the area will need to be closed for a short period in November or December. Sue Gilbert has completed the EALC chairman training course and Eileen has one more day to complete. Sue attended the Gardens of Easton Lodge AGM and a thanksgiving service for the Five Parishes.
15. **Clerk's report and correspondence** – UDC is considering our application to designate a new conservation area. A resident has been asked to clear a footpath which passes through the rear of the property. The County Council has been monitoring a silt spillage in the area of a fishing lake near the boundary with Broxted. A waterway has been cleared but silt remains on some of the woodland.
16. **Planning - new application for comment: UTT/14/2674/HHF** – Proposed single storey rear extension, Park Road Cottage, Park Road – councillors raised objections that the extension would block off external access to the rear of the property, overshadow a neighbouring property and the proposed appearance was not in-keeping with the neighbouring listed buildings.
Approvals – **UTT/14/1655/FUL** - partial demolition and rebuilding of a house and annexe at Wisbech, Manor Road. **UTT/14/1389/FUL** – Demolition of a vacant store and erection of a new dwelling adjacent to the Stag Inn, Duck Street.
17. **Finance** – New account opening forms were signed as the original forms had been lost at the bank. Doug Wyatt took the Nationwide form so that details for a new signatory and removal of R Boulton as signatory.
18. **Finance** – Update on external audit – approved with no comments other than a change to precept figures reporting for next year
19. **Finance** – Opening balance £ 23,068.53 which includes recent credit of precept and £ 42.89 refund for insurance discount.
Payments to be agreed – EALC £201 (councillor training), MD Landscapes £156 (grass cutting), Broadmead Leisure £144 (Cable tension on zip-wire), A&J Lighting Solutions £23.10 (street lighting), PKF Littlejohn LLP £120 (external audit), Dunex Designs Ltd £150 (recreation ground sign), A Gordon £1,850 (consultancy fee – partial re-imburement to follow), J Deane £1,322.44, E-ON £21.83
20. **Items for the next agenda** – adoption of updated standing orders (January), budget and precept review, Clerk annual review, risk assessment.
21. **Next meeting** – 26th November, 8pm in the Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 22.05