

# EASTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017** at 7.00pm

Present:

- Cllr M Simpson ( Chairman )
- Cllr M Baker
- Cllr S Goodwin
- Cllr H Tomblin
- Cllr D Asher
- Cllr E Hanson
- Cllr O’Grady
  
- Mrs D Barrett (Clerk/RFO to the Council)

	ACTION
<p><b>17/137 – Apologies for absence</b></p> <p><b>Apologies from Cllr Wheatley (Work Commitments) Cllr J Moll ( Holiday), Cllr S Geraghty ( Holiday) Cllr Bates ( Holiday)</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED: To approve the absence of Cllr Wheatley, Cllr Bates, Cllr Moll and Cllr Geraghty</b></p>	
<p><b>17/138 – To receive declaration of interest under the Council’s Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.</b> Cllr Simpson declared a personal interest under item 17/143(a)</p>	
<p><b>17/139 – To receive and approve for signature The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>17/140 – Matters arising from these minutes only.</b></p> <p>17/127- The clerk has written to the PCSO about what the policy is about attending PC meetings. The Clerk received an update from Daryl Lyon, the local neighbourhood inspector and has invited him to attend a meeting at his convenience</p> <p>17/131 – The amount received from the post office boxes was £86.88 the football nets have been ordered and have arrived. The Chairman of the cricket club will asked if the club members could fit them.</p> <p>17/132- Recruitment of the clerk – will be updated under item 17/148</p> <p>17/105 – Complaint from the Chairman of the Cricket Club, this matter has been sent to the Monitoring Officer who will review and provide a full report which will be brought back to full council.</p>	
<p><b>17/141 – Public Time.</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the members of the Public that had attended. Mrs J Ward asked to speak and the Chairman invited her to do so. Mrs Ward asked if there was the possibility of a football pitch being marked out at the playing field. The cricket club will be asked if they will help with this. Mrs Ward also asked about the grass cutting at both the playing field play area and the play park behind the close as neither had been cut for a while. The clerk will contact ENC to ask them to do the work as a matter of urgency. The Chairman thanked Mrs Ward for her request.</p>	

<p>Mr Bradbury asked to speak and the Chairman invited him to do so. Mr Bradbury asked if there was any update on the ownership of the playing field, he felt that it could have been owned by the church. The Chairman advised that, under playing fields update, he would report on the latest updates. The Chairman thanked Mr Bradbury for his question.</p> <p>Mr Sherwood ask to speak and the Chairman invited him to do so. Mr Sherwood wanted to state that he thought Race Course Road was looking much better after the volunteers had worked on the trees. The Chairman thanked Mr Sherwood for his comments.</p> <p>The matter of fly tipping along Race Course Road was mentioned. The Clerk stated that any incident of fly tipping needs to be reported to Northants County Council.</p>	
<p><b>17/142 – Public Correspondence</b></p> <p>a) Mr Ian Strange from High Street would like somebody to inspect the tree which is situated in Spring Close and is encroaching on to his property – Trees and Greens will look into this</p> <p>b) A report of over grown conifers at 4 Neville Day Close has been received – The Clerk will write to the owner.</p> <p>c) The letter detailed below was received from Mr and Mrs Nixon</p> <p>“The following details cover the near miss I had when crossing the road from 12 Stamford rd to the grass area opposite to get to my vehicle. Having looked right, left &amp; right again I started to cross the road. When I was about 1 metre from the centre of the road I again looked to the right &amp; half way round the corner was an articulated lorry which slammed his brakes on leaving a large cloud of smoke &amp; quite a long skid mark. I would estimate his speed to be approaching 50 mph coming round a sharp bend which has a concealed exit (new road) I measured the distance from my front door to the skid mark. It was 25 yards! If the lorry was doing 50 mph he would have hit me in 2.44 seconds! Now that Geddigton has been bypassed, Collyweston &amp; Easton On The Hill are the only villages on the entire A43 that traffic comes through. If Collyweston can have a 30 mph limit, I fail to understand why Easton cannot have a 30 limit at least from Porter’s Lane going towards Stamford especially as we have a concealed exit on a downhill blind bend. TODAY’S experience of the road was 1 van &amp; 1 articulate lorry both doing 50 mph just in a 5 minute period. The above incident has made both of us consider if we need to move out of Easton because of the danger of speeding traffic which has grown considerable since we arrived in the village.”</p> <p>Elaine &amp; Robin Nixon</p> <p>It was Resolved that a letter would be written to Mr and Mrs Nixon and his letter would be sent onto the police.</p>	<p>Cllr Baker</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Simpson Clerk</p>
<p><b>17/143 – To Receive Report from Planning Committee</b></p> <p>a) 17/01400/FUL-side extension and alteration to front elevation including relocated front door and new porch at 35 Church Street The Planning Committee reported that there was An Objection to this application. The Clerk submitted this to the Planning Department with the committee’s reasons for the objection.</p> <p>b) 17/01411/FUL – Two storey rear extension at 72 Stamford Road Easton on the Hill. The Planning Committee reported that there was An Objection to this application. The Clerk submitted this to the Planning Department with the committee’s reasons for the objection.</p> <p>c) 17/01283/LBC- Due to collapse of the existing roof structure the work is to renew roof structure and roof covering to outside barn the roof covering will be like for like Collyweston tiles at Blue Bell Inn 9 High Street Easton on the Hill. The Planning Committee reported that there was No Objection to this application. The Clerk submitted this to the Planning Department.</p> <p>d) 17/01302/FUL- New Extension with glazed link and new dormer to existing roof at 13 High Street Easton on the Hill. The Planning Committee reported that there was No Objection to this application but had several comments. The Clerk submitted this to the Planning Department with the committee’s comments.</p>	

**17/144 –Finance.****a) ICC's report – monthly bank reconciliation and invoices are approved:**

Receipts and Payments to Date

Petty Cash ( Returned to account)	40.00
Charity Money from the Post Office	86.88
VAT Refund	2006.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>2133.02</b>

**Chq no.****Description****Amount**

102314	E-On Missed Payment from Jan 2017	£ 815.14
102315	E-On – Electricity Payment	£ 804.28
102316	Stapleton's – Legal Cost for Services in dealing with the Playing field	£ 690.00
102317	Coeval – New Solar Powered VAS sign for A43	£ 3812.46
102318	D Lattimore – Grass Cutting for 2016	£ 900.00
102319	Northamptonshire County Council- VAS Post	£ 636.98
102320	Mr & Mrs Dhillon – Yearly electricity payment for Defibrillator	£ 25.00
102321	Mrs D Barrett – Monthly Wage plus expenses ( August)	£ 485.71
102322	HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE ( August)	£ 108.80
102323	E-On – Replacement of Lantern with new LED one – Westhaven	£ 420.00
102324	Mrs D Barrett – Monthly Wages plus expenses ( September)	£ 478.99
102325	HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE	£ 108.80
102326	E-On Maintenance Payment	£ 276.19
	Total of invoices	<b>9562.35</b>

It was Resolved to accept the ICCs' approval and payments were made under the Local Government Act 1982 and subsequent financial legislation.

**17/145 – To Receive a report from the Trees and Green Working Party**

- a) Refurbishment of the Polish War Memorial at Spring Close. A Request has been received from The Polish South Coast Charitable Trust to do some refurbishment of the Polish Memorial at Spring Close. The work to be carried out will be replenishment of defects on the monument,
- remove the old slabs,
  - pouring concrete foundation under the slabs and bricks,
  - laying slabs 600mm x 600mm around the monument,
  - placing the bricks on the edges between the posts,
  - installation of a commemorative plaque devoted to Major-General S.F.Sosabowski,
  - installation of information board next to the monument

There is no cost to the council and the work should be completed by early October. It was Resolved to allow the work to go ahead and it was felt that the work should be publicised and the Stamford Mercury will be contacted and invited to come and photograph the refurbished memorial.

- b) Parish Council Land Assets. –The Ownership of hedges around the village as it isn't clear who is responsible for what. It was decided that an ordinance survey map should be used to map out all the relevant areas. The Clerk will send Trees and Greens the details of what Spire Homes looks after.

**17/146 – To receive a Report from The Playing Field Working Party**

- a) **Quotes for Cutting the Playing Field for 2018** – One quote from the current contractor has been received, It was agreed to defer this item until Octobers meeting so further quotes could be arranged.
- b) **Easton on the Hill Playing field Association.** The Chairman had produced two draft documents that would form the working documents for setting up the new Playing Field Association once the issue of the land ownership had been resolved. The Chairman had sort advice from Danny Moody who had pointed him in the direction of the Fields in Trust organisation who would happily look at the legal side of the documents for a donation of £120.00 before being sent to a solicitor for a legal sign off. The documents had been passed to all councillors in the initial stage as it was felt that, as the process was very extensive, it should go through full council. Cllr O'Grady wanted it noted that she was concerned that the documents had not been presented to the Playing Field Committee first. After much discussion it was Resolved that the draft documents would be sent to the Fields in Trust organisation for a legal overview along with a charitable donation of £120.00. 7 councillors voted for and Cllr O'Grady voted against. It was also Resolved that the documents would be reviewed by the Playing Field Committee.

<p>c) <b>Update on the Registering of the Playing field</b> – A letter was received from the Solicitors advising the chairman and clerk that Andrew Leech of Richardson’s has contacted them and stated that he is ready to go ahead with the preparation of the Land Registry compliant plan.</p>	
<p><b>17/147 – To Receive an update on recruiting a new Clerk</b>  The Clerk reported that 28 CV’s were received for the post, after an intense paper sift 4 were chosen to attend interviews which take place between 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September 17.  It was Resolved that all the CV’s for those being interviewed would be sent to all councillors.  It was Resolved that the hours of 10 a week would remain and the starting wage would be in line with NCALC recommendations.  The Handover procedure was discussed and the clerk will provide the council with an estimated cost for the number of hours this will take once the new clerk has been chosen.</p>	
<p><b>17/148 – Councillors Comments</b></p> <p><b>a) Clarify the Military Regulations for recording a meeting – Cllr Hanson read the following statement.</b> IAW with QR recordings can be made as long as nothing military is discussed. On a side note, may I request fellow councillors refrain from contacting an individual's management for clarification of regulation’s? The head of the RAF and RAF Coningsby, not the station I am serving at by the way, may have more important issues to attend to and also inferring I had a potential political agenda does not bode well for someone's to date unblemished career. I have been interviewed and the matter is now closed and hope the answer received by Cllr O'Grady will satisfy her enquiry.</p> <p><b>b) Councillors Comments</b>  Following on from the Closed session held at the end of the July meeting, the Chairman agreed to determine the answer to a number of questions in regard of recent Councillor comments and actions. The Chairman has had an email exchange and conversations with Sharn Matthews, the Monitoring Officer in regard of the questions and the responses are summarised below.</p> <p>To recap, comments have been made and actions taken by a Councillor against both the Council and a member of the public; these include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An allegation of improper payment to a Councillor for work completed for the Council</li> <li>• An allegation that Councillors have had meetings in The Blue Bell public house to decide matters outside of Council Meetings</li> <li>• An allegation of illegal actions being carried out by the Council</li> <li>• An assertion that Cllr Harold Gregory has grounds for a grievance in how he was treated</li> <li>• Comments made regarding the actions and behaviour of a member of the public in connection with their involvement with Easton on the Hill Cricket Club</li> <li>• Writing a letter to the employer of a fellow Councillor and commenting on a potential political motive of the fellow Councillor.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Matthews clarified the following:</p> <p>Complaints against Councillors can only be made in the context of potential breaches of the Code of Conduct and all such complaints must be directed to the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Complaints are taken from individuals not organisations. An individual can bring a complaint in their own right (or as a group of individuals). However, all correspondence would be sent to the individual deemed to be raising the complaint.</p> <p>An individual Councillor could propose, and the Council could then resolve as to whether to complain about a Councillor and the grounds for the complaint. The complaint would still be deemed to have come from an individual, the Councillor proposing the complaint but would provide the confidence that more than one Councillor was raising the complaint.</p> <p>In terms of any legal immunity when making a verbal comment or writing about a fellow Councillor or a member when acting as a Councillor, there is a little bit of latitude allowed for comments made with genuine belief in their veracity on terms of public need to know, and comments made in the cut and thrust of debate at council meetings, but in general Councillors are not immune to allegations of slander or libel. This is an area where each case would be judged on its own merits and obviously legal advice should be sought before action is considered by any individual.</p> <p>If it was resolved by Council to call a Councillor to a closed meeting to account for their actions and motives, the Councillor would not be compelled to attend or to answer any questions asked of them. In addition, such action is unlikely to produce anything that a formal complaint would not.</p>	

<p><b>c) Councillors 360</b> It was felt that this matter should be put back until the October meeting when more councillors are in attendance.</p>	
<p><b>17/150 – To allocate the Checkers for October 17 – Checkers will be done on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of the month</b>  Checkers for Oct 2017 is: Cllr Moll</p>	
<p><b>17/151– Close</b> The meeting closed at (Note: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall)</p>	

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_