

EASTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council held on **Monday 08th May 2017** at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr M Simpson
Cllr S Geraghty
Cllr M Baker
Cllr A O'Grady
Cllr H Tomblin
Cllr D Asher
Cllr S Goodwin
Cllr P Bates
Cllr E Hanson

Mrs D Barrett (Clerk/RFO to the Council)

	ACTION
17/83 – To Elect a Chairman RESOLVED that Cllr M Simpson will remain as Chairman	
17/84 – To Elect a Vice Chairman RESOLVED that Cllr J Moll will remain as Vice Chairman	
17/85 – Apologies for absence Apologies from Cllr J Moll (Holiday), Cllr D Wheatley (Work Commitments) RESOLVED: To approve the absence of Cllr Moll and Cllr Wheatley	
17/86 – To receive declaration of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Cllr Simpson declared a personal interest for agenda item 17/91(b)	
17/87 – To receive and approve for signature The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 th April 2017. Cllr O'Grady asked for two amendments to the minutes, these were actioned and it was Resolved to accept the minutes	
17/88 – Matters arising from these minutes only. 17/69 – (b) Cllr Goodwin and Cllr O'Grady met with Mr and Mrs Mountain and revised planning application was submitted after discussions and have now been agreed. 17/69 – (d) The Clerk has spoken to the dog warden about this issue and they will advise when the next visit to the village will be. 17/70 – (b) – The Clerk checked with NCALC about including Cllrs names in the minutes as Proposer and seconder, it is not a legal requirement but a councils decision. 17/70 – (c) – A letter of greeting and a piece of local stone was sent with the E2E riders 17/74 - The Clerk contacted the highways about moving the current VAS sign situated by the junction of Porters Lane to the entrance of the village close to the junction of Racecourse Road. As yet no reply has been received. 17/77 (c) 2008 Cricket Club Licence - I have been through the minutes of 2008 and the Playing Field Folder. Firstly attached is the Draft Rules for the Playing Field, At the Feb 2008 meeting the following alterations to the rules were suggested	

<p>Rule No 2- Notice Period of Use - The Following (An emergency procedure could be developed if thought necessary) was to be removed.</p> <p>Rule No 6 Indemnification - Councillor Aisthorpe commented that the Cricket Club only had Public Liability Insurance of 2 Million where the Parish Council was asking for £5 million.</p> <p>Rule No 9 Contribution for Use - this was altered to " a voluntary contribution should be made to Easton on the Hill Parish Council"</p> <p>It was suggested that a solicitor look at the rules before adoption.</p> <p>It took until July's meeting for the draft to be presented and it was adopted except Rule 9 which remained the same as the draft. The document was not ratified through a solicitor (their contribution was just in an advisory capacity), so has no legal reference.</p> <p>Attached is a copy of what was then adopted by the council. Attached is what I assume is the last terms and conditions signed between the crick club and PC</p> <p>17/79- Easton Garford Trust regarding the Playschool. A meeting had taken place on 4th May 2017 and the constitution of the Play Group was discussed at length. The Trustees of the playgroup have some money left to maintain the building. The building can be sold as a building or to a third party as a going concern. Valuations are being sort for both options. It is very unlikely that the current trustees can re-open the playschool as they cannot attract Level 3 teachers. A report will be brought to full council as matters develop.</p>	
<p>17/89 – Public Time. The Chairman welcomed the three members of the public who attended. Mrs Debbie Greaves asked to speak and the Chairman invited her to do so. She raised several points as detailed below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bridleway. I believe that it is illegal to drive on a Bridleway. I asked if now was the appropriate time to draw up leases with third parties when the issue of the Bridleway has still not been rectified. This matter is ongoing while legal experts look into the matter. It will become a regular agenda item for discussion so to keep all updated via the minutes. 2. Petition. I read parts of the top of the petition stating that want full and open consultation before the PC goes ahead with leasing the playing field to outside parties. <p>When the petition was handed in the PC they agreed that they must pay attention to the concerns of the parishioners. It was added to the following month's agenda, but during that meeting it was simply stated that our concerns would be answered by the village plan. The village plan does not answer my concerns about our children losing the ability to play freely on the playing field at weekends, nor does it answer my concerns about cars driving on the bridal way and footpath,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. "Our ground". In the draft lease the cc calls it "our ground" it is not their ground and they have no more right to lease the playing field to outside parties than I do. Mrs Greave also stated that according to our Financial Regulations, it was illegal to lease the playing fields. If the Parish council wanted to apply for a change of use public consultation should take place. <p>The Chairman thanked Mrs Greaves for all her comments and concerns. All points will be looked at and addressed as part of the ongoing task of finding the deeds of the playing field and dealing with the issue of the Bridleway. Cllr Goodwin suggested that both matters become a regular agenda item for discussion so to keep all updated via the minutes.</p> <p>Mr Russell Bradbury asked to speak and the Chairman invited him to do so. Mr Bradbury wanted to bring to the councils attention that the VAS on the A43 was not working. The Chairman advised that the batteries had probably gone flat and as soon as Cllr Moll returned he would change them. Mr Bradbury also asked if the Vas could be moved to Westfield again as there was substantial traffic going along the road. The Chairman advised that both VAS would be moved very soon and it was hoped to put one along Ketton Drift so that the full use of the bridleway could be captured in the data provided. Mr Bradbury wanted to report that people using trial bikes were driving fast up and down Westfield's.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Bradbury for all his comments and concerns.</p>	<p>Cllr Moll</p>

Mrs Ward asked to speak and the Chairman invited her to do so. Mrs Ward want to point out that correspondence from the Cricket Club stated that their address was Easton Cricket Ground and that they do not own the land so therefore it should be Easton Cricket Club. The Clerk will ask the Cricket Club to amend their address

The Chairman thanked Mrs Ward for her comments.

The Chairman thanked all the members of the public for attending the meeting.

Clerk

17/90 – Public Correspondence
 Mr Ward a resident of the Crescent asked if a sign, advising drivers that Ketton Drift is a Bridleway and they would not be insured to take their vehicles along it, could be produced and sited under the Bridleway sign at the entrance to Ketton Drift. As this area is the responsibility of Highway’s the clerk will contact them to see of this was possible.
 Cllr Simpson advised the council that Stapleton’s solicitors had been asked to provide a detail report about the use of the Bridleway, the clerk will chase for a response and report back at the next meeting.
 Cllr Geraghty was asked to contact East Northants Council about the issue and possibly arrange a site visit.

Clerk
 Cllr
 Geraghty

17/91 – To Receive Report from Planning Committee
 a) 17/00744/TCA- Tree 1-Lime tree to reduce south facing branches nearest BT line giving a 1.5 metre clearance; Tree 2-Lime tree to reduce South facing branches nearest BT Line giving a 1.5 metre clearance; Tree 3-Lime tree remove dead wood; Tree 4-Lime tree remove deadwood; Tree 5-Ash tree to reduce by a maximum of 2.5 metres to alleviate tension/compression on large south facing limb over out building. This is due to lack of branch collar/Ridge for substantial support; Tree 6 Cedar tree, remove hanging/snapped branch and crown clean removing all dead wood at 40 West Street Easton on the Hill- The Planning Committee reported No Objection and the Clerk reported this
 b) 17/00613/FUL – Side Extension and alteration to front elevation including relocated front door and new porch at 35 Church Street Easton on the Hill – The Planning committee reported No Objection but with some comments, the Clerk reported this.

17/92 –Finance.
 a) ICC’s report – monthly bank reconciliation and invoices are approved:
 Receipts and Payments to Date

04 April – DC- East Northants Council- Empowerment Fund	£ 350.00
25 April – DC East Northants Council – 1 st Precept	£ 12379.50
Total	£ 12729.50

<u>Chq no.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
102296	Northants CALC- Subscription and Internal Audit fees	£ 571.07
102297	East Northants – Grass Cutting	£ 61.45
102298	Mrs D Barrett – Wages and Expenses	£ 470.49
102299	Came and Company-Annual Insurance	£ 1479.98
	Total of invoices	£ 2582.99

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

(b) - To Receive the Internal Audit Report -Section 3 of the Annual Return has been completed and signed with no comments.

(c) - To Approve the Annual Insurance Policy and Cost- It was Resolved to accept the 3 year fixed deal on the insurance

<p>(d) – To Approve the monthly cost of £8.50 payable to the clerk for the laptop insurance. - It was Resolved to pay the Clerk £8.50 for the laptop insurance.</p> <p>(e) - To Approve the quotes for the Various jobs to be carried out by Easton Maintenance. It was Resolved to accept the quote of £383.00 for the work “Replace fence post on The Green Church Street and fence posts at A43 entrance to pocket Park (Spring Close). Replace bench tops (3) on playing field. The replacement of the bench removed from the A43 after it was damaged, will be looked at after the report on all the village benches is produced and presented to full council by Cllr Geraghty and Cllr O’Grady</p>	<p>Cllr Geraghty Cllr O’Grady</p>
<p>1793 -To Receive the monthly update from the PCSO’s. No PCSO was in attendance.</p>	
<p>17/94 – To Review Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct. It was Resolved to accept Standing Orders, Financial Regulation and Code of Conduct. These will be reviewed again in May 2018</p>	
<p>17/95 – To Review Working Parties and adopt new Terms of Reference for Finance and Planning Committee. Cllr O’Grady asked that Cllr Wheatley leave the playing field committee due to a conflict as he is the Chairman of the Cricket Club. As Cllr Wheatley had already requested to leave the committee it was agreed in his absence that this would be the case. Cllr Geraghty will leave the planning and finance committee but will join the playing field committee. Cllr Tomblin will join the playing field committee Cllr O’Grady will join the playing field committee Cllr Bates will join the Finance committee. It was Resolved to accept the Planning and Finance committee Terms of reference. A full list of committees will be sent to all Councillors</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>17/96 – To Review and adopt the Grant Application and Freedom of Information Act. It was Resolved to adopt the Grant Application and Freedom of information Act, these will now be uploaded to the Parish Council Website.</p>	
<p>17/97 – To Review the contract between the Cricket Club and Kings Keys and AK11 Cricket Clubs</p> <p>Cllr O’Grady asked to comment on this matter and raised the points below</p> <p>1/ The playing field is reportedly town land given to the people of the village as a playing field with the PC as a registered land owner. It is classed as a community asset and it is the PC’s duty to manage the field for the good of the people of the village. The Deeds are yet to be found. However, given the fact that all the residents of the village who were around at the time give the same report, one cannot deny that it is accurate, even though the legal documentation confirming this is yet to be located. In 2008, a licence for use of the playing field was legally drafted and approved by a full Parish Council. This document was extremely well written and gives clear guidance and rules to anyone using that playing field. It also highlights the fact that the playing field is the responsibility of the PC and that any use of the playing field has to be sought from and approved by the PC. Let us go back to Autumn 2015 – OneTouch Football had been authorised by the PC to use the playing field but was summarily dismissed given that he had used the playing field one day without prior permission. Added to this was the fact that local residents had complained about increased traffic. As a consequence, he was told forthwith that he was no longer allowed to use the field.</p> <p>The EOTH Cricket Club did the following: 1/ dump a huge pile of rubble at the side of the playing field and was asked by the PC to remove it. This was not done. Even more rubble was recently added to it.</p> <p>2/ the CC were repeatedly reminded that all grass cuttings are to be deposited in the pit and consistently fail to do so, dumping it instead along the verges causing the cuttings to decay into black smelly heaps which attract insects.</p> <p>3/ the CC advised the PC last year that it had hired the playing field to another cricket club. This is illegal. The PC said and did nothing.</p>	

4/ the CC held two parties without licence and without requesting permission from the PC. The PC, having a duty as landowner to the people of the village, did nothing to remind them of their obligation nor did it ensure that the CC had applied for the proper licences prior to the events.

5/ the CC should provide the PC with a copy of their annual liability insurance, every year and, to my knowledge, have failed to do so. The PC has not reminded them or taken appropriate steps to check that they are insured.

6/ the CC has more than doubled the number of its wickets and has completely encroached on the children's football play area (up to the goal post) without consideration for the children of the village and without seeking permission from the PC. This is completely unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

7/ the CC has declared, at the Licensing Authority meeting that

- a- There was no agreement between the PC and the CC. This is not true.
- b- The children had 30% of the playing fields allocated to them. On what basis was this statement made? Does the CC have the right to reallocate parts the playing field?

8/ the CC has concreted a practice area at the bottom end of the playing field. Remains of the concrete were dumped at the side of the playing field, without consideration for the environment, the people of the village, or the owner of the playing field. The PC must write to them and ask that this be removed.

So, One Touch Football do something wrong, they are out. The CC shamelessly disregards anyone else and acts like the king of the castle and the PC has done nothing.

We are all familiar with the Nolan principles, which apply to the conduct of people in public life (Good Councillors Guide, p22)

By letting the CC act in this way, I am very concerned that the PC may be seen to be acting unfairly.

I would strongly recommend to this PC that we redress the situation and start to ensure that the libertine use of the playing field by the Cricket Club be put to a stop and that the Clerk writes to the Chairman of the Cricket Club to address all of the above issues.

As we saw during public time, the people of this village are outraged by the cheek of the CC and this is exacerbated by the silence of the PC. We would not want them to be led to believe that Cllr Wheatley is taking advantage of his position as Parish Councillor to gain preferential treatment. However, the facts are there, currently, to rightfully lead them to believe that this is the case. It is the duty and responsibility of the PC to redress this situation.

I am fully supportive of a Cricket Club that is proactive whilst behaving in a considerate and respectful manner. I will not support a Cricket Club that behaves in a maverick way and disregards everything and everyone.

The EOTH CC draft rental agreement is a non-document and should not have appeared on this Agenda. The CC do not own the playing field and have no legal right to draft such document and it should be rejected forthwith.

The CC also needs to be reminded that it is not allowed to rent the playing field (or cricket ground) to anyone as they are not the legal owners of the land. This is a practice which is illegal and must be stopped.

It is the PC and only the PC that is allowed to rent the playing field. The PC had a licence drafted in 2008 that covers such instances and anyone wanting to hire the playing field needs to do so via the proper channels and their request needs to be approved by a full council.

I propose therefore that this document be rejected.

After much discussion the following proposals were agreed;

1, It was proposed that the Parish Council would enter into a contract with the cricket teams using the cricket facilities and as part of that will discussed the funding issue with Easton on the Hill Cricket Club. It was Resolved to do this.

2. It was proposed to enter into discussions with Easton on the Hill Cricket Club so that an agreement could be agreed to cover the rest of the season. Further discussion would take place before the 2018 season starts. The playing field committee will draft the agreement and arrange a meeting with the cricket club as soon as possible. Approval can be reached via email rather than waiting for the next

<p>meeting. It was Resolved to do this</p> <p>3. It was proposed that a full playing field constitution would be drawn up It was Resolved to do this</p>	
<p>17/98 - To Receive a Report from Cllr Moll on the Vehicle Activation Signs</p> <p>Church Street This is the longest period of data collection to date with speed flashing. The 85-percentile average speed was 24mph and the total vehicle count was 7,144 which equates to 510 per day. This is a reduction from previous data collections which averaged 600-625 per day. The likely explanation is due to the Easter holidays. This device appears to have reduced the average speed of traffic from 26mph when it was first located at the current location (picking traffic leaving the village) to 24mph. The previous data collection recorded 26mph without speed flashing.</p> <p>A43 Main Road The graph below details data extracted from the device on the A43. This shows average movements per day of 6,500, considerably less than the 10,000 recorded when the device was opposite the Exeter Arms. However, the period covers the Easter holidays which might explain the difference. Additionally, the previous location picked up traffic leaving the village from Porters Lane and New Street travelling to the A1 and Stamford. It should be noted that the 85-percentile average speed was 40mph, precisely the speed limit and 2mph faster than the other location opposite the Exeter Arms. One vehicle was recorded travelling 88mph and 76 vehicles were travelling 60mph or higher. 64,869 movements, 40mph 85 percentile average, 6,487 movements per day (period includes Easter holidays)</p> <p>Proposal The Parish Council is asked to consider a proposal that we erect a post along the Ketton Drift leading to the playing fields so we can set a speed limit of 10mph and collect traffic data. Such a post will need to be inserted in a concrete base and the cost is likely to be c. £200. The Clerk will check with the planning department to see if permission is required for the post to be sited This location is very topical and such a move would potentially be well received by residents.</p> <p>Jeremy Moll Parish Councillor</p>	Clerk
<p>17/99 – To allocate the Checkers for June 17 – Checkers will be done on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month</p> <p>Checkers for June 2017 is: Cllr Helen Tomblin</p>	
<p>17/100– Close The meeting closed at (Note: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 19th June 2017 at 7.00pm The Priest House)</p>	

Signed: _____

Date: _____