

EASTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council held on **Monday 23rd July 2018** at 7.00pm

Present

- Cllr J Moll
- Cllr P Bates
- Cllr H Tomblin
- Cllr D Wheatley
- Cllr L Stokes

- Mrs D Barrett (Clerk/RFO to the Council)

	ACTION
<p>18/115 – To approve the addition of two agenda items. It was Resolved to add additional agenda items,</p> <p>a) To accept the resignation of Cllr Geraghty and to approve the process to recruit a new councillor. – It was Resolved to accept Cllr Geraghty’s resignation and the clerk will inform the elections officer at East Northants Council. The Vice Chairman thanked Cllr Geraghty for his hard work during his time as a councillor.</p> <p>b) To approve the allowance of Spurgeons children’s charity to use the playing field in conjunction with the cricket club on the two dates advertised in August. Details of this are detailed below and attached – It was Resolved to allow Spurgeon’s Children’s use of the playing field on 8th and 21st August 2018.</p>	
<p>18/116 – To receive written applications for the office of Parish Councillor and to Co-Opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancy. An application was received from Mr Lee Stokes for the post of Councillor for Easton on the Hill. The Vice Chairman invited to Mr Stokes to introduce himself and give a short brief. It was then Resolved to Co-Opt Mr Stokes as a councillor for Easton on the Hill. The clerk ensured all the paperwork was signed and Cllr Stokes took his place at the meeting.</p>	Clerk
<p>18/117 – Apologise for absence Apologise from Cllr Baker, Cllr Asher, Cllr Hanson, Cllr Simpson, Cllr O’Grady (No Apology sent)</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve the absence of all Cllrs named above (approved unanimously)</p>	
<p>18/118 – To receive declaration of interest under the Council’s Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. None.</p>	
<p>18/119 – To Receive and Approve for signature The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th June 2018. RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed by the Vice Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.</p>	
<p>18/120 – Matters arising from these minutes only. 18/104 – The Council is now registered with ICO 18/111(d) – The Clerk has now ordered the replacement swing for the play park behind The Close</p>	
<p>18/121 – Public Time - The Vice Chairman thanked the public for attending and asked if anyone had a question.</p> <p>a) Mrs Ward asked to speak and was invited to do so. Mrs Ward wanted to point out that small bags of drugs had been found again at the playing fields. I was agreed that the clerk would report this to the police.</p> <p>b) It was also pointed out that there was an increase in graffiti at the playing field.</p>	

18/122- Clerks Report

Correspondence since the last Meeting

1. I have received two emails from residents about the standard of the grass cutting especially at the playing field and at Spring Close. This matter has been added as an agenda item for discussion.
2. An email was received about the overgrown hedge along the passage between The Close and the Small play park and the broken latch on the play park gate. Both issues have been addressed by Easton Maintenance.
3. A report about the state of the Potholes along Church street – This has been reported to the Street Doctor
4. A report about the overgrown state of The Monkey Run- This has been reported to the Street Doctor.
5. A report from NCALC about the new Winter Maintenance Programme – This may involve the village losing some Grit Bins. I have asked for a full break down of what this mean and will add as an agenda item in September.
6. A report from NCALC that there is a possibility that 2019 Parish and Town elections may be put back until 2020 to fall in line with the first elections of the unitary councils. There are pros and cons of deferring the parish and town council elections. A pro is that it will save parish and town councils money because they would otherwise have to bear the whole cost of the 2019 election on their own. A con is that it means all councils – unitary and parish and town – would have new councillors in 2020, so there could be a lack of democratic continuity if there is a wholesale change of councillors. It is unlikely that any decision will be made before the end of the year, but we may not know for certain until approx. Jan/Feb. As more information is received it will be added as an agenda item.
7. A previous email that was received in March raised concerns about the Potholes along Ketton Drift and this has been added as an agenda item.

18/123 – To Receive a report from the Planning Committee for the application

- a) 18/00569/OUT- Erection of a Wedding plus Conference Venue with associated overnight accommodation and hardstanding at land rear of Exeter Arms Stamford Road Easton on the Hill. The Planning Committee reported No Objections but with comments and the clerk submitted this
- b) 18/00973/FUL – Single Storey Side and rear extension and canopy to front elevation at 35 Church Street Easton on the Hill. - The Planning Committee reported No Objections but with comments and the Clerk submitted this
- c) 18/01217/FUL – Conversion of existing garage to kitchen; extension to front elevation to form porch/new entrance door; new office/car port constructed on existing drive. New Roof light to first floor highway at 12 High street Easton on the Hill – The Planning Committee reported No Objections but with comments and the clerk reported this
- d) 18/10218/LBC – Conversion of existing garage to kitchen space, extension to front elevation to form porch/new entrance door. Removal of gypsum plaster finishes to first floor bedroom No4 ceiling to enable insulation and insertion of new roof light to first floor hallway at 12 High Street Easton on the Hill. – The planning Committee reported No Objections but with comments and the clerk reported this
- e) 18/01328/TCA- Reduce height of Pissard's Plum tree (T1) by approx. 2m and reduce lateral branches to balance shape and reduce back from neighbour's side Reduce height of Silver Birch tree (T2) to approx. 10m and reduce lateral branches to balance shape Remove Small Ash tree (T3) by wall, and treat stump using Ecoplugs Raise crown of Ash tree (T4) to approx. 4.5m (removing about 6 low branches) Reduce height of Hawthorn tree (T5) by approx. 2.5m and reduce lateral branches to balance shape at 26A Church Street Easton On The Hill – The Planning committee reported No Objections and the clerk reported this.

18/124 –Finance.

a) ICC's report – monthly bank reconciliation and invoices are approved:

Receipts and Payments to Date

		Total	
<u>Chq no.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
DD	Public Loan – Church Yard	521.18	
102375	Mrs D Barrett – Monthly Wages plus Expenses	491.47	
102376	RoSPA – Annual inspection	159.60	
102377	Stapleton's Solicitors	990.00	
102378	Information Commissioners Membership	40.00	
102379	Leicestershire Gardens – Grass Cutting – May 2018	245.00	
102380	Leicestershire Gardens – Grass Cutting – June 2018	365.00	
102381	Easton Maintenance Services	90.00	
102382	E-On- Repair and Services	1021.47	
	Total of invoices	<u>3923.72</u>	
<p>It was Resolved to accept the ICCs' approval and payments were made under the Local Government Act 1982 and subsequent financial legislation. It was also Resolved that a new ICC checker would be required and a volunteer would be sought at September's meeting.</p> <p>b) To Receive the Internal Audit Report – It was Resolved to accept the Internal Audit Report.</p> <p>c) To approve the quote for replacing the cradle seat at the playing field. 1 x5901-048 Single Tier Rubber Cradle Seat. Total ex VAT £135.63 – It was Resolved to agree the quote for the new swing cradle seat and the clerk will order</p>			
<p>18/125 – To Discuss replacing the Church Yard Gates, review quotes received so far.</p> <p>It was Resolved to move this item to Septembers meeting</p>			
<p>18/126 – To Discuss a possible name for the new road behind Westfield's and Western Ave</p> <p>A couple of suggestions were put forward. a) Centenary way, b) The Briars</p> <p>The Clerk will submit these to the developer</p>			
<p>18/127 – To receive a report from Cllr Moll on the Traffic Calming/Road Safety and Highway Matters.</p> <p>It was reported that the repair of the potholes had been shoddy and ineffectual.</p> <p>It was agreed that the VAS on Westfield's should be move onto the A43 to capture the effects of the solar speed camera and further deter traffic from exceeding the speed limit.</p> <p>The clerk will check the licence for the VAS to see if The Crescent and Western Ave can be included. The licence will also be checked to ensure Porters Lane is included under the current approval.</p>			
<p>18/128 – To receive a report from Trees and Greens</p> <p>Cllr Bates reported that there were several jobs that would need doing to tidy up Spring Close, it was agreed that a request would go out in the autumn to ask for volunteers to form a working group to do all the jobs required. It was also reported that the pond at Spring Close had silted up and that the reeds need removing. The clerk will contact Waterline Solutions to request a quote to do this.</p>			
<p>18/129 – To receive a report from Cllr Tomblin on the issue of the electricity pole in West Street and the meeting with Western Power</p> <p>During the Parish Council meeting on 14 May 2018 it was brought to the attention in public time (Item 18/79 (b) by Mrs Margaret Harrison whether the council had received any updates with respect to the ongoing issue between Western Power and Spire Homes over the sighting of a power box in West Street. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact both parties for an update and that Councillor Tomblin would meet with Western Power to try and resolve matters.</p> <p>Arrangements were made to meet with Western Power (Mr Tomasz Paradowski) together with Mrs Margaret Harrison on Friday 8 June 2018 when an open and frank discussion took place.</p>			

<p>Mrs Harrison and Mrs Tomblin were advised by Mr Paradowski that there were no intentions of moving the electricity pole as there was no money to do so and as far as his records/file show no actions have been put in place to purchase land for the relocation of the electricity power box. In our opinion Mr Paradoswki was not fully aware of the situation and seemed to think it was a health and safety issue.</p> <p>As Mrs Harrison quite rightly pointed out her late husband was advised that this was a temporary measure and that a plot of land was in the process of being purchased from Spire Homes for its relocation.</p> <p>Mrs Harrison is quite rightly upset and angry that Western Power have lied to us and would like to know who was responsible further up the chain of command. Someone should be held responsible for the blatant lies that have been told both to the Parish Council and Mrs Harrison.</p> <p>Therefore, despite assurances from both Western Power and the Housing Association there are no plans in the foreseeable future to relocate the pole and therefore the matter is, as far as Western Power is concerned, closed.</p> <p>It was Resolved that the clerk will write to the CEO of Western Power to express the disgust and disappointment the council and residents feel.</p>	Clerk
<p>18/130 – Playing field Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To receive and review the RoSPA Report- The report has been distributed and the two main areas of concern, the swings, has already been addressed. The clerk will provide Easton Maintenance a list of less urgent jobs and ask them to provide a quote to do the work. b) To discuss the complaints received about the quality of the grass cutting- Several complaints have been received about the state of the grass cutting. The length of the cut at the playing field has been a particular concern along with the amount of cuttings. Cllr Bates pointed out that as the first cut didn't happen until May the grass was very long and therefore there was an excessive amount of grass left. It was agreed that Cllr Bates would contact a local farmer to ask him to remove the loose grass, the clerk will then contact the grass cutter and ask that the field is cut to a lower level and the cuttings removed. c) To discuss offer from the cricket club to cut the playing field- This item is no longer required. d) To confirm point of contact for the grass cutting contractor- It was Resolved that all contact with the grass cutting contractor is via the clerk. e) To confirm key holder status for the playing field. It was Resolved that the padlock key's will be held by the Cricket club (required in case an emergency vehicle is required), the clerk (Cllr Bates acting as the deputy in the clerks absence) and the chairman. f) To discuss the issues of Pot Holes along Ketton Drift and how to deal with the problem. The pot holes this year are a combinations of increased traffic by all aspects of the community, an extremely harsh winter and a very wet spring. The clerk and Cllr Tomblin will approach building developers active in the village and ask if they could provide some hard core to fill the holes. Once the issue of the usage of Keeton drift is resolved a more sustainable solution will be required. 	Clerk
<p>18/131 – To respond to the consultation on local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire</p> <p>The consultation period had finished and questionnaires' had been completed by some councillors.</p>	
<p>18/132 – To request a volunteer to be the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee. To implement the need to include reports from external meetings at Parish Council Meetings</p> <p>It was Resolved to move this item to Septembers meeting</p>	
<p>18/133 – Checkers for August – Volunteer needed.</p> <p>Cllr Bates volunteered</p>	
<p>18/134 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>To approve the exclusion of Press and Public from the meeting for the following items of Business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the</p>	

<p>sensitive and/or confidential business to be transacted in accordance with s1(1) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 .</p> <p>To discuss the clerks post.</p> <p>As the clerk has withdrawn her offer to remain as the clerk after the temporary six month contract the item was not required.</p>	
<p>18/135 – The meeting closed at 8.00 pm . The next meeting will be on Monday 10th September 2018 at 7.00pm in The Village Hall.</p>	

Signed: _____

Date:
