

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held remotely
on Monday 14 September 2020 at 7.30pm.

Present: P Baker (Chair), D Williams, P Clarke, S Norman, M Gibson, T Woods, R Jones (Notes)

Guests: J Finch (Suffolk County Council), B Hurren (Babergh District Council)

1. Apologies for absence - None

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest in any item on this Agenda – S Norman declared an interest in item 7.1 as the property was owned by a family friend.

3. Reports from Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council

3.1. Councillor James Finch reported the following:

New rules introduced on school transport to ensure it is 'covid safe'. Most routes were dedicated school buses and children would not need to socially distance. On routes shared with the general public social distancing would apply and school children were required to sit in marked seats and wear face coverings in certain circumstances. Transport places were still available for children in need or having difficulties getting to school.

Thanks were passed on to schools from Councillor Mary Evans in recognition of the work done to reintegrate children back to school safely.

SCC Highways had completed 1,000 miles of road resurfacing as per its commitment made in 2017. £1,000 grants being made available to small and medium-sized businesses across Suffolk and Norfolk to take on new apprentices aged 16-24.

3.2. Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following:

294 Covid-19 infections and 59 deaths throughout Babergh District.

Over £15,000,000 small business grants given out to help local businesses through the pandemic.

Fly-tipping getting worse across the district. Public being reminded to remain vigilant and report any instances with as much information as possible.

4. Reports and questions from Councillors and Members of the Public - None

5. Minutes of the Meeting of 13 July 2020 - Approved

6. Highway and Footpath matters

6.1. Footpath Cutting – It was agreed that there was no need for an extra cut this year. P Baker and the Clerk were in touch with David Gotts regarding next year's cutting.

6.2. Other Highway and Footpath matters – Priory Cottage to Little Waldingfield. Footpath crosses land that had recently changed hands and did not appear to have been tended. P Baker agreed to monitor this.

Footpath Leaflet – The Clerk had been approached by Nick Bristow, a Footpath Warden in Boxford who was proposing a joint Footpath Leaflet between Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton Parish Councils. The leaflet would detail a particular walk within each Parish and include photographs and local information. Councillors agreed that this sounded like a good idea that could benefit the area and T Woods agreed to look further into the idea.

It was requested that the Litter Bin in the Mill Green open space be added to the regular Dog Waste Bin collection. Clerk to contact BDC.

7. To consider Planning Matters

7.1 Planning applications received - DC/20/03565 Tudor Cottage, Mill Green. Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of 1No one and one half

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storey detached dwelling with new vehicular access, garage/cart lodge.

An occupant of a neighbouring property joined the meeting and made the following submission in opposition to this application:

- Most of the proposed development would lay outside of the village's 'built-up' envelope
- The development would not meet a local need
- The windows would look directly into neighbouring gardens

Taking these comments into account and after discussion, the Council agreed the following comments to be conveyed to BDC:

The Council's position at this stage of the planning process is that it remains neutral albeit with the following comments:

- Whilst the initial plans indicate a 1-1½ storey 3-4 bedroomed property, part of which would be sited outside of the village boundary, there are concerns that this could change as the application progresses, leading to a development out of character with the rest of the village and contrary to the current plans.

- The Council has previously voiced concerns about increasing traffic through the village and through surrounding villages and whilst the building of one new property in isolation would not have a massive impact, the more properties that are built, the greater the impact on the environment and traffic flow.

- The Council believes that the heritage of the village must be maintained, and this should be reflected in any planning decision, particularly when dealing with applications of this nature where a listed building is involved.

It was suggested that the Council should formulate a policy for dealing with Planning Applications and development to ensure consistency and it was agreed to look into the possibility of producing a Parish Statement which would be a condensed version of a Neighbourhood Plan. M Gibson agreed to look into this.

7.2 Planning Decisions Received

DC/20/02884 Sherbourne House Farm, Sherbourne Street - Erection of an agricultural building for use as a moveable free-range chicken unit – Planning Permission granted.

DC/20/02112 Christmas House, Sherbourne Street - Erection of single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing); Renovation works to Bothy; Erection of three bay cart lodge/store (following demolition of existing); Rebuild boundary wall and replace access gates – Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent granted.

7.3 Other urgent Planning Matters - None

8. Financial Matters:

8.1 The Statement of Finances & Orders for Payments were approved as follows:

Business Savings Account as at 31 July 2020	£2,529.85
Business Current Account as at 31 July 2020	<u>£4,692.52</u>
Total	<u>£7,222.37</u>

Payments received: Nil

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
d/d	£40.00	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee
100918	£69.99	R Jones	Clerk's Expenses – Aug – Sept 20

8.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return and Accounting Statements 2019/20 – Approved

8.3 Other financial matters – It was agreed that the Clerk's salary be increased in line with the new National Association of Local Government Pay rates (LC1 7-12) and by one spinal point within the range, with effect from 1st April 2020 as per the Clerk's contract.

9. Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence – None

10. Future Agenda items – Footpath Leaflet. Parish Statement

11. Date of the next meeting - Monday 16 November 2020