

**Edwardstone Parish Council: Minutes of the Meeting on 18 September 2023**  
**Present: P Baker, M Gibson, T Wood, D Williams, L Smyth, J Morgan, R Jones**  
**(Clerk) B Hurren (Babergh DC)**  
**Apologies for Absence: R Norman, J Finch (Suffolk CC)**

- 1. Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on this Agenda - None**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting of 17 July 2023 – Approved.** The Clerk confirmed the purchase of a new laptop and replacement litter bin (War Memorial) and Dog Waste bin (Millenium Green).

**3. Report from Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council**

4.1 Councillor James Finch (SCC) was unable to attend but sent a report which was read and noted.

4.2 Councillor Bryn Hurren (BDC) reported the following:

Budget 2024/25 – Becoming more difficult to balance the books for local authorities as show by the situation Birmingham City Council finds itself in. Luckily BDC invests its money well and would remain solvent in the short term at least. The Council had made good use of the Government's 'Borrow to Invest' scheme and had made £2.5m from the use of solar panels. There was £16m in CIL money available of which £750,000 was for Parish Councils. £30,000 had been allocated to Boxford Playing Fields to upgrade changing and toilet facilities to enable a higher level of football to be played there and to encourage the formation of a Ladies team.

Grant Funding - BDC also had a pot of money available for small local businesses and community groups through Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

There was some sad news as the new Leader of the Council Dave Busby had been taken seriously ill and had been temporarily replaced by John Wood.

Tourism - A tourist strategy for the district was being formulated as tourism had taken over from agriculture as the primary source of income for the district.

Housing – There was a major shortage of the 'right type' of accommodation in the district due to the number of larger properties that had been built over recent years. More smaller properties were needed to enable people to downsize and free up lager homes for families in need.

**4. Questions from Members of the Public – None**

**5. Financial Matters**

6.1 Statement of Finances & Orders for Payment and Q1 accounts were approved as follows:

Business Current Account (Unity Trust) at 31 August 2023	£14,081.73*
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£14,081.73*</u></b>

\*includes £8,027.00 Neighbourhood Plan Grant

Payments received:

\*Groundworks UK £8,027.00

<b>Cheque no</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
	£630.97	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Sept 23
	£131.76	Babergh DC	Election Recharges
	£20.00	Edwardstone Parish Hall	NP Hire of Hall x 2

*Richard Jones Clerk to the Council 23 Glanville Road Hadleigh IP7 5SQ*

[edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com](mailto:edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com)

01473 828246

	£956.25	Compass Point	NP Consultants Fees
--	---------	---------------	---------------------

## 6. Planning Matters:

6.1. Planning applications received – None

6.2. Planning Decisions received – DC/23/01474 - Sommet, Mill Green Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension, insertion of rooflight and construction of 11No solar panels to front elevation and detached cartlodge (following demolition of attached garage). – Planning Permission Granted

7.3 Other Planning Matters – None

**7. Suffolk Wildlife Biodiversity Assessment** – To help formulate the environmental part of the Neighbourhood Plan, Councillors were asked to approve a biodiversity assessment to be carried out by Suffolk Wildlife Trust at a cost of £1,040.00 to be paid out of the CIL grant received from Babergh DC. As this work was a 'specialist service' the Council was not required to put the work put to tender, as defined in clause 11.1. ii. of the Council's Financial Regulations. **Councillors approved a biodiversity assessment to be carried out by Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

**Action – P Baker to agree a date with SWT**

**8. Chairman's & Clerk's reports and correspondence** – None

## 9. Climate Change

11.1 Wildfires and Community Emergency Plan - Next meeting to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

11.2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Still waiting for confirmation from Suffolk CC but it was looking positive.

**10. Defibrillator Update** – Councillor Morgan was carrying out monthly inspections and suggested that signs be put up around the Parish to make people aware of the Defibrillator. It was suggested that the White Horse pub would be a suitable site for a sign and an article should be placed in Box River News.

**Action – J Morgan to source signs**

## 11. Highway & Footpath Matters

13.1 Footpath Cutting – The Clerk presented a report asking Councillors to approve the offering of a 3-year footpath cutting contract to the Council's current contractor, Garden Arbs. Contract to be subject to satisfactory performance, provision of up-to-date public liability insurance and payment rate per metre as per Suffolk CC contract rates.

**Councillors agreed to offer a 3-year footpath cutting contract to Garden Arbs**

**Action – R Jones to contact Garden Arbs. P Baker/D Williams to draft revised contract**

13.2 Footpath Leaflet – Still awaiting feedback on the draft from SCC representative. Clerk to contact Councillor Finch at Suffolk CC to chase up.

**Action – R Jones**

**12. Bus Shelter Update** – As Councillor Wood had not received a response from the Air Cadets, it was agreed to invite some local young people to help as part of a community project to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Councillor Wood to source paint and materials.

**Action – T Wood**

**13. Future Agenda Items –**

**14. Date of next meeting – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00pm**

DRAFT