

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held remotely on Monday 15 March 2021 at 7.30pm.

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

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

1. Apologies for absence – T Wood

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest - None

3. Reports from Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council:

3.1. Councillor James Finch on behalf of SCC reported the following:

Covid19 – Excellent news that there had been no new infections recorded in the area between 2 – 9 March and more rapid flow testing centres had opened in Suffolk for people who can't work from home and have no symptoms. Three new sites had opened in Sudbury, Nayland and Hadleigh. Budget costs were increasing by 7.4% mainly due to change in working practices caused by the pandemic. Although the Council had received £82m from central Government since March 2020, it was having to use reserves of £14m to cope with the increased costs.

The Council had also received £6.2m more than expected from central government towards its Highways budget and had allocated the money to drainage, roads and right of ways budgets. Although this seemed like a large sum of money, this was to cover the whole of Suffolk.

The Council had confirmed its support for the Freeport East project at Felixstowe which would bring more job opportunities to the region if approved by central Government.

Fostering and Adoption was still going well but the scheme was looking to recruit at least sixty new families.

3.2. Councillor Bryn Hurren on behalf of Babergh District Council sent his apologies for not attending and provided a report that was read and noted.

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

5. Minutes of the Meeting of 18 January 2021 – approved. The Chairman confirmed that he had checked the Council's insurance cover and it was adequate.

6. To consider Highway and Footpath matters

6.1 Footpath Cutting – The Chairman reported that three local people had expressed an interest but two had not wished to pursue their interest. This left David Gotts as potentially the last interested party. The Chairman and the Clerk were currently corresponding with him.

6.2 Footpath Leaflet – Councillor Wood was still waiting to speak with Daphne Clarke regarding the historical point of interest.

6.3 Other Highway and Footpath matters – Councillor Norman reported that the footbridge previously mentioned had been repaired and thanked SCC for this but there was now another footbridge which was dangerous because the steps had worn out. Councillor Finch asked for this to be reported to him directly with location details.

Two waymarker posts had rotted away and needed replacing. The Chairman to report these to Councillor Finch.

Several potholes had formed near the Parish Hall and although they had been previously reported, they were getting worse.

Potholes had re-opened on Round Maple towards Hilly Farm.

Sharp Bend sign in Sherbourne Street still not repaired.

Other Potholes and rubble dumped on Footpath in Groton.

The Clerk to follow-up all of these reports.

7. To consider Planning Matters:

7.1. Planning applications received – Planning applications received - DC/21/00411 Edwardstone Lodge, Sherbourne Street Planning Application - Conversion of existing two storey outbuilding to residential annexe and single storey outbuilding to swimming pool changing area.

This application had been discussed previously outside of the meeting and no objections were raised.

7.2 Planning decisions received - DC/20/02113 Christmas House, Sherbourne Street Discharge of Conditions Condition 3 (Facing and Roofing Materials), Condition 4 (Boundary Wall), Condition 5 (Fenestration and Doors), Condition 6 (Walls of Bothy), Condition 7 (Rooflights), Condition 8 (Eaves), Condition 9 (False Floor) and Condition 10 (Vehicular and Pedestrian Gates)

7.3 Neighbourhood Plan - Councillor Gibson reported that he had received twelve responses to the letter he had distributed, all of them positive. He had received quotes and prospectus from two local consultants, Compass Point and Places4People. Although the cost for each consultant was very similar, after discussion with the Chairman, Compass Point was being proposed to carry out the work as its approach seemed more 'hands-on', whereas Places4People seemed to be there more as a guide or 'critical friend'. Councillor Gibson also proposed the use of an online 'mapping tool' called Parish Online which would help with the project.

After discussion the following proposals were considered and agreed:

- **That the Council continues to pursue the development of the Plan;**
- **That the Plan should cover the area of Edwardstone Parish;**
- **The Council uses the consultancy support of Compass Point Planning;**
- **The Council proceeds with an application for funding support;**
- **The Council subscribes to Parish Online as required once the process has started**

The next step was for the initial application to be registered with Babergh DC. Councillor Gibson and the Clerk to discuss this outside of the meeting.

8. Financial Matters:

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

Business Savings Account as at 26 February 2021	£2,530.26
Business Current Account as at 26 February 2021	<u>£4,981.84</u>
Total	<u>£7,512.10</u>

Payments received: Nil

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100933	£14.00	M Gibson	Printing of Neighbourhood Plan letter
100934	£22.80	SALC	6 months payroll Oct 20 – Mar 21
100935	£10.00	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Feb – Mar 21
100936	£150.00	Boxford Playing Fields	Donation
100937	£350.00	Edwardstone Parish Hall	Donation
100938	£300.00	Edwardstone PCC	Donation
100939	£375.00	Millenium Green Trust	Donation

8.2. Charitable Donations 2020/2 phase 2 – Agreed as shown above

8.3. Any other financial matters – None

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

10. To set future Agenda items – Neighbourhood Plan. Footpath Leaflet

11. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 15th March 2021 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12pm