

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 16 January 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: P Baker (Chair), S Norman, P Clarke, M Gibson, T Wood, R Jones (Clerk)

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

1. **Apologies for absence** – D Williams
2. **Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on this Agenda** – None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 21 November 2022** – Approved
4. **Reports from:**

3.1 Suffolk County Council

Councillor James Finch reported the following:

Devolution Deal – Suffolk awarded Government funding worth £500 million towards Investment, Housing, Education, Transport and The Environment by way of devolved powers, giving Suffolk leaders and residents more choice in how money is spent. As part of the deal a new Leader, directly elected by residents will be appointed in May 2024 to oversee the changes.

Budget 2023/24 – 75% of the whole budget to be split between Adult Care Services and Children's Services as these services had seen a huge increase in demand.

Following consultation with residents a number of other services would receive increased funding including Special Educational Needs, Tree Management and Citizens Advice.

Ukrainian Refugees – Still looking for help to accommodate refugees including those who had been with host families for 6-months and needed to move on.

Cassius Elderly Care Technology – The Council's digital care technology had won a national award at the Health Tech Digital Awards 2022 and the Council was looking at ways to 'branch out' the service to more people.

2022/23 Road Gritting – Residents being reminded to contact SCC if more salt was needed following the icy spell in December 2022.

Suffolk Archives – An online gallery had been created commemorating the life of Queen Elizabeth II's visits to Suffolk and the Curator's were asking for residents or groups to provide materials recording how the death of Her Majesty was marked.

3.2 Babergh District Council

Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following:

Parish Council Liaison Group Meetings – Face to face meetings were starting again on 1 February in East Bergholt and 7 February in Stowmarket. Among the subjects for discussion were Council Budget, Joint Local Plan and the forthcoming Elections. There would also be an opportunity to speak with District Council Officers.

Budget 2023/24 – Budget was not yet set at the Council was waiting for other organisations such as Parish and Town Councils to set their budgets although the aim was to keep any increase below 2%.

Council Vehicles – Eight new state of the art refuse collection vehicles had been purchased at a cost of £250,00 each. These would operate alongside vehicles that had been retained from the Council's existing fleet.

Council Tax – The Council had agreed to levy zero Council Tax on families suffering severe financial hardship as there was no chance of ever recovering arrears and adding to people's financial burden.

Locality Budget – Money was being given to the Millennium Green to help fund new benches.

Housing Development – The proposed development of 64 houses in Boxford which had previously been refused was now going to appeal. The Council would be

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opposing the appeal.

5. Questions from Members of the Public – None

6. Financial Matters

6.1 Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment and Q3 accounts– approved as follows:

Business Savings Account as at 31 December 2022	£2,532.94
Business Current Account (Barclays) as at 31 December 2022	£11,224.08*
Business Current Account (Unity Trust) at 31 December 2022	£2,669.37
Total	<u>£16,426.39</u>

***Includes Neighbourhood Plan Grant of £7,111.85**

Payments received:
Bank Interest £1.41

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
300018	£569.44	R J Jones	Clerk's Salary Oct – Dec 22
300019	£10.00	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Dec 22– Jan 23
300020	£68.00	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Salary
100995	£20.00	Edwardstone Parish Hall	Hall Hire x 2 N Plan meetings

6.2 Use of Community Infrastructure Payment

- Repairs to Bus Shelter – Two quotes had been received. T Wood to chase up previous contact to try to secure third quote.
- Replacement of Sherbourne Street Noticeboard – Only one quote received so far. Clerk to look on Local Government website to find possible interested tradesmen.

6.3 Adequacy of the Budget for 2022/23 – The Clerk presented the budget forecast which was approved as adequate. It was noted that certain items would be paid for from the Community Infrastructure Levy payment.

6.4 Budget 2023/24 – The Clerk presented Budget proposals and precept options for 2023/24. Precept option C which would mean a small increase to residents was agreed in view of the costs to the Council of the forthcoming election. The Budget for 2023/24 was approved.

6.5 Bank Account Signatories – M Gibson and T wood agreed to become additional signatories. The Clerk to liaise with both to expedite this.

6.6 Other Financial Matters - None

7. Planning Matters:

7.1. Planning applications received - DC/23/00059 5 Mill Green
Full Planning Application - Erection of 1no. dwelling
The Council considered this application and raised no objections.

7.2. Planning decisions received and noted – None

7.3 Other urgent planning matters – A possible application for the erection of a cartlodge at a property in the Parish was mentioned. The Clerk confirmed that no consultation had been received.

8. Neighbourhood Plan Update – M Gibson reported the following:

The Steering Group had been refining 12 draft policies and met on 10 January to review these and had subsequently fed back comments to the consultant. The plan was to move this stage forward in the next month and hold further consultation in March before submission to BDC. There were slight concerns that the Government had yet to confirm whether funding would continue in the next financial year.

9. Chairman's & Clerk's Reports and Correspondence - None

10. Climate Change

10.1 Wildfires & Community Emergency Plan – P Baker presented this item looking at how the Parish was prepared for emergencies following the wildfires in July 2022. He had spoken to BDC Emergency Officer and Suffolk Fire and Rescue who had both offered to attend a future EPC meeting. It was agreed that P Baker and T Wood would pursue this matter.

Action – P Baker and T Wood

10.2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points – P Baker presented this item looking at the possibility of having an Electric Car Charging Point in the Parish. Plug-in-Suffolk was offering the chance for parishes to apply and it was agreed that the car park at the White Horse pub may be a suitable place and could also provide extra income to the business.

Action - P Baker to speak to White Horse owner.

11. Defibrillator Update – P Clark had been unable to contact Community Heartbeat Trust. It was suggested that he contact British Telecom to arrange for the phone line to be reconnected on an 'Emergency Calls Only' basis. It was also mentioned that prior to covid lockdown arrangements were being put in place for Boxford 3PR to provide Defibrillator and Basic Life Support training. It was agreed that the Clerk would revisit this.

Action P Clarke to contact BT and R Jones to contact Boxford 3PR

12. Highway & Footpath Matters

12.1 Footpath Cutting –. It was agreed to continue with Garden Arbs for 2023.

12.2 Footpath Leaflet – T Wood reported that the draft was still with the SCC representative.

12.3 Other Highways and Footpath Matters - None

13. Future Agenda Items – Mill Green Street Light, Emergency Plan, Electric Vehicle Charging Points, Defibrillator Training.

14. Date of next meeting – Monday 20 March 2023 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.