

# Edwardstone Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2018 at Edwardstone Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors P Baker (Chair), S Norman, D Williams, C Britcher, P Clarke

**1. Apologies for Absence** - Councillors M Childs and S Flack – approved.

**2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest on any Item on the Agenda**

Councillor Britcher declared an interest in item 8.1.

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

**3.1** Councillor James Finch reported the following:

A review had taken place of the Home First project which looks at providing support services to help people remain in their homes rather than move into care. This was more cost effective and beneficial to the client and was achieved through a multi-agency approach. The project had received an outstanding rating by the Quality Care Commission.

SCC was looking to hear from family carers who received no agency support to identify what works well and any gaps in the service provided. A discussion followed on how best to publicise the available services.

SCC was being challenged to find savings of £25,000,000 in its budget for the coming year. The main priorities for the Council were Adult Care and Children's Services

**3.2** Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following:

The regeneration of the former BDC offices in Hadleigh had received approval with 58 new homes to be built. The listed part of the building was to remain. A customer service was being provided in Hadleigh library to assist those residents unable to get to Ipswich.

There had been problems with the Green Waste Collection service locally due to sickness issues and the use of new lorries which some drivers were not qualified to operate. BDC was taking steps to rectify the problems.

The Council had reported high levels of sickness due to stress since the offices were centralised in Ipswich.

Goodlands Farm housing appeal had been dismissed due to highway safety concerns and the impact a listed building.

Rumours that the local CAB would no longer receive funding from BDC were 'unsubstantiated'.

**4. Questions from Members of the Public**

A local resident raised concerns over SCC proposals to make changes to local school transport by introducing extra buses serving more locations which he felt would lead to higher levels of pollution, not be cost effective, disrupt families and 'made no sense' from any perspective. Councillor Finch(SCC) said that he was campaigning on behalf of residents and would welcome any further input from residents and the Parish Council to take back to SCC. After a long discussion it was agreed that EPC would write to SCC on behalf of residents. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

**Action – D Williams**

**5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed P Baker and seconded by S Norman.

**6. Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Williams reported back from the Boxford Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 25 September. He said that a plan would give control over future planning but would involve a lot of work and needed to be very specific and any plan would need to be passed by a local referendum and inspectors. The Committee agreed to look more closely into what would need to be done. In view of the amount of work involved and knowledge required it was suggested that an advert be placed in Box River News looking for someone to help produce the plan. It was also suggested that a Village

Meeting be held in Spring 2019 at which a representative from BDC could speak to EPC and residents.

## 7. Highway and Footpath Matters

7.1 Footpath Cutting Issues – None

7.2 Grit Bins – No comments

7.3 Other Highways and Footpath Matters

Massive holes in the road adjacent to the White Horse Public House

Footpath 5 – Wire damaged. Sign on floor. Footpath 3 – Hole in footbridge

## 8. Planning Matters

8.1 Planning Applications Received – Tudor Cottage, Mill Green

There were no objections to this application

8.2 Planning Decisions Received

Walnut Tree Cottage withdrawn. Holt, School Green – Tree works consent given

8.3 Other Urgent Planning Matters – It was reported that a window had been installed to the side aspect of Hart House, Sherbourne Street. Nobody present was aware of whether Planning Consent had been sought or given.

## 9. Financial Matters

9.1 Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment and Accounts to Date

The Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment were approved.

The Accounts were checked and approved as shown:

Business Savings Account as at 28 September 2018	£2,521.98
Business Current Account as at 28 September 2018	<u>£7,307.30</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£9,829.28</u></b>

Payments received:

BDC - £2,855.00

Bank Interest - £1.26

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100854	69.99	R J Jones	Purchase of all-in-one printer
100855	61.80	SALC	Clerk's Training 2 & 9 Oct 2018
100856	45.00	SALC	Clerk's Training 30 Oct 2018
100857	31.20	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses
100858	25.00	Royal British Legion	Donation for Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath
100859	19.99	SALC	Purchase of Local Councils Explained book
100860	21.60	SALC	6 months provision of payroll service
Direct Debit	19.49	e-on	Electricity 1/7/18-30/9/18
100861	52.00	Community Heartbeat Trust	Emergency Phone Annual
100862	23.99	R J Jones	Printer Ink
100863	300.00	EPCC	Donation - Church
100864	375.00	Millenium Green Trust	Donation
100865	350.00	Parish Hall	Donation
100866	100.00	Sudbury CAB	Donation

9.3 Donations and s137 Payments for 2018/19 – Donations approved as follows:

<b>November 2018</b>	
Edwardstone PCC	£300
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	£375
Edwardstone Parish Hall	£350
Sudbury CAB	£100
Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath	£25
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1150</b>
<b>March 2019</b>	
Edwardstone PCC	£300
Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	£375
Edwardstone Village Hall	£350
Boxford Playing Fields	£150
East Anglian Air Ambulance	£100
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1275</b>

9.4 Budget 219/20 – The proposed Budget was provisionally approved

9.5 Internal Controls - Reviewed and agreed

9.6 Any other Financial Matters - None

**10. Chairman's and Clerk's Reports and Correspondence - None**

**11. Future Agenda Items**

Neighbourhood Plan, Footpath Signs, Grit Bins

**12. Meeting Dates 2019**

Monday 21 January 2019

Monday 18 March 2019

Monday 20 May 2019 - AGM

Monday 15 July 2019

Monday 16 September 2019

Monday 18 November 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

## Appendix A

# EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

23 Glanville Road • Hadleigh • IP7 5SQ  
Telephone 01473 828246 • Email [edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com](mailto:edwardstoneclerk@outlook.com)

Councillors Gordon Jones and James Finch  
Essex County Council

3 December 2018

Dear Councillors Jones and Finch,

### Changes to School Transport Provision

As expressed to Councillor Finch at the most recent meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council (“Edwardstone PC”), Edwardstone Parish Council has significant concerns about the proposed changes to school transport provision and the impact they will have on those we represent. Whilst we appreciate that Suffolk County Council finds itself in financial difficulties, we are concerned that the proposed changes which will:

- have the potential to cause significant disruption to families;
- inevitably have an adverse environmental impact; and
- significantly worsen congestion in already congested areas.

Whilst bringing these adverse effects, we are not convinced these changes will achieve material (or potentially any) financial savings.

Edwardstone lies almost equidistant (depending on how one measures it) between Thomas Gainsborough School (“TGS”), Ormiston Sudbury Academy (“OSA”) and Hadleigh High School (“HHS”). However, Edwardstone children (most likely attending Boxford CEVC Primary School (“Boxford School”)) have, for many years now, primarily moved on to TGS. The impact of the proposed changes is that, based on the somewhat dubious measurement methods employed in making a determination, free school transport to TGS will no longer be available to all Edwardstone residents, with some residents entitled to transport only to OSA or HHS. This raises several obvious problems:

- OSA and HHS do not recognise Boxford School as a “feeder” school (unlike TGS) and have done no transition work with Boxford School pupils.
- There is no guarantee that Boxford School pupils will be able to obtain a place at the school to which they have a free transport entitlement.
- Families with one (or more children) already at TGS but with a child moving up from Boxford School face possible division.
- It would appear that rather than one route, three buses will now be necessary to service a small village.

These problems are compounded as we understand that the proposed travel services seem to be badly organised and potentially impractical (as explained to Councillor Finch at our recent meeting).

Many parents, faced with an illogical, inadequate and badly planned free school transport system, will choose (or, rather, be compelled) to drive their children to school. This will cause disruption to the lives of those families but also significant additional congestion and pollution – the traffic situation in Sudbury in particular is already untenable. Note that we understand that TGS, which will likely face the greatest increase in traffic, struggles with current volumes of drop-offs and collections.

In light of the above concerns we ask that you take immediate steps to ensure the competent and sensitive implementation of any changes to school transport provision. In particular, please ensure the following:

- The educational choices of parents are respected.
- Family disruption (the separation of siblings, in particular) is minimised.
- Additional traffic congestion generated by additional bus and car journeys is minimised
- The environmental impact of additional bus and car journeys is minimised.
- The cost of the provision of additional, unnecessary, bus services, is avoided.

It is submitted that all of the above may in fact be best achieved in our area (and possibly others) by simply leaving the current transport provision unchanged.

If you require further information on any of the points raised above we would be glad to arrange contact with those directly affected.

Your sincerely

*Richard Jones*

Richard Jones  
Clerk to the Council