

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday
15 January 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present: P Baker (Chair), S Norman, C Britcher, S Flack, P Clarke, D Williams, M Childs(from 7.45pm)

In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk), B Hurren (BDC) and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** - none
2. **Councillors' Declarations of Interest** in any item on this Agenda – none
3. **Reports:** B Hurren (BDC) advised that he had bought the materials to repair the noticeboard at Mill Green and the work will be done as soon as possible. There is no further news on Goodlands. Konings have been asked to amend their planning application for the former Copella site. The BDC move to Endeavour House is now well over budget and there are other controversial issues at BDC.
4. **Reports and questions from Councillors and members of the public** – none.
5. **The Minutes** of the Meeting of 20 November 2017 were approved and signed.
6. **Highway and Footpath Matters** – The deteriorating condition of the U8339 from the phone box past the White Horse was noted. The Clerk will report this once again, copying in B Hurren. The National Speed Limit sign north of S Norman's property on Sherbourne Street has still not been repaired and the Clerk will chase this up. The footpath sign next to the kissing gate at the entrance to the field near the church has also not been repaired and again the Clerk will chase this up.
7. **Broadband coverage** – no response has been received from the Clerk's correspondence with Suffolk Better Broadband and she will chase this up. An email had been received from G Peacock advising that the SBB website is now saying that the estimated time for connecting outlying areas has been amended to read an unhelpful 2018 to 2021. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to James Cartlidge MP and Matthew Hancock MP (Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) asking them to push for connection for the whole parish.
8. **Planning Matters** – DC/17/05932 Land Adjacent Well House, Round Maple, Edwardstone CO10 5PR – erection of 2 x 2 bed dwellings – the majority of the PC was in support of this application, though concerns were expressed about the potential setting of a precedent and the size of the proposed properties. It was resolved that the PC would advise BDC that it was in support of the application.
9. **General Data Protection Regulation** – SALC have advised that despite some contradictory advice, the position is that the Clerk cannot be appointed as the Data Protection Officer. It was resolved that the PC would continue to express an interest in the services offered by The DPO Centre Ltd, probably at the lowest level offered.
10. **Enhancing public engagement** – Following discussion of various potential methods, it was resolved that the PC would take up D Williams' offer to draft a questionnaire to be circulated to all households in the parish. He will then circulate to Parish Councillors and B Hurren for their comments.
11. **Emergency Telephone** – the Council resolved to sign the ongoing agreement for the Community Heartbeat Trust 999 Emergency phone which is in the phone box with the defibrillator. P Baker

signed the document.

12. Financial Matters

12.1. The Statement of Finances & Order for Payments was approved as under and the cheques were signed. The accounts to date were checked and approved.

Business Savings Account as at 31 December 2017	£2518.20
Business Current Account as at 31 December 2017	£6118.79
Total	£8636.99

Payments received

4/12/17	Barclays Bank	Interest	£0.44
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Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100827	19.06	Anita Robinson	Clerk's expenses
100828	467.66	Anita Robinson	Clerk's salary 1/10/17-31/12/17
100829	21.60	SALC	6 months payroll service
100830	52.00	Community Heartbeat Trust	Emergency phone annual cost
d/d	17.15	E-on	Electricity 1/10/17-31/12/17

12.2. Local charities – D Williams had obtained from the Charities Commission details of some local charities and will provide further details for consideration either at the next meeting or in the next financial year.

12.3. The adequacy of the budget for 2017-18 was considered and approved.

12.4. The PC considered and approved the draft budget for 2018-19. The PC resolved to increase the precept from £5625 to £5710. This is the first increase since 2014 and is an additional £0.52 per year on a Band D property. The Precept document was signed by 3 Councillors.

12.5. The Financial Risk Assessment was carried out with no issues arising.

13. **Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence** – The Clerk advised that she had been unable to access the website to deal with D Williams' Register of Interests but will contact BDC and get this done. She has booked herself onto free Audit training at SALC's offices to deal with the new audit regime. Her travel costs can be shared with Groton PC. It was resolved that the Annual Meeting would be on 21 May at 7pm followed by the APM the same evening at 7.30pm. The Clerk advised that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations need to be updated and she will try to get this done before the next meeting if time allows. She also advised that she would be leaving her role as Clerk this year, once the PC has obtained a replacement but with the end of November as a longstop. She will advertise the vacancy with SALC and in the BRN.
14. **Future Agenda items** – broadband, data protection, public engagement
15. **The date of the next meeting** was confirmed as 19 March. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Chairman

Date