

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday

19 March 2018 at 7.30pm.

Present: M Childs (Chair), S Norman, S Flack, P Clarke, P Baker

In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk), J Finch (SCC), B Hurren (BDC), PC R Sippitt

1. **Apologies for absence** – D Williams, C Britcher – approved.

2. **Councillors' Declarations of Interest** in any item on this Agenda – none

3. **Reports:**

3.1. PC Rob Sippitt of Sudbury SNT attended and advised that there were no serious crime issues for Edwardstone in particular, but there had been several outbuilding burglaries in the area. He asked that residents report anything suspicious online, on 101 or if an emergency on 999. Anyone interested in crime trends for the area can look at the Suffolk Constabulary website www.suffolk.police.uk then put their postcode in "What's happening in your area?". There have been a number of ramraids in the area, particularly targeting Co-op stores. M Childs thanked PC Sippitt for taking the time to attend the meeting.

3.2. J Finch (SCC) was welcomed back after his illness. He had circulated a report covering the inevitable rise in Council tax, the fact that over 97% of students received their preferred Secondary School and the proposals to change home to school travel. Regarding roads, he advised that this year so far double the usual amount of salt and grit had been spread. Due to budget cuts SCC has to concentrate on priority roads which are inevitably A and B roads rather than rural ones. The plan is to resurface or surface dress a quarter of roads in the county this year. More problems are being reported online which is more efficient. Regarding the circulated Self Help Survey he believes some decisions are better made in the villages although the statutory responsibility would remain with SCC, who would be able to provide insurance cover if the PC wished to arrange a work party to carry out any work themselves. The PC resolved to put the issue on the July agenda for further discussion. J Finch said that he would be prepared to provide Locality money to pay for additional grit bins if the PC felt they were necessary. The PC resolved to consider where these would best be situated and discuss further at the July meeting.

3.3. B Hurren (BDC) advised that BDC's share of the Council Tax would increase by 3.25%. The Local Plan consultation attracted more than 13,000 responses so an additional 6 months has been allowed for finalisation. BDC does not have a sufficient 5 year land bank to supply enough houses. Regarding the Boundary Review, he said that his preferred solution had not been approved although the new proposals do keep Boxford, Edwardstone and Groton together, which is important. Milden remains in the District but instead of Kersey and Lindsey, the proposal is to include Monks Eleigh and Brent Eleigh instead. This should not really affect Edwardstone. The Goodlands development proposals have not yet gone to appeal though they may make a new application. The Planning Application for Wells House is still being considered. He has challenged the savings relating to the move to Endeavour House. They are trying to minimise the time Council houses are empty. He has repaired the

PC noticeboard at Mill Green and will let the Clerk have a bill. He confirmed that The Winthrops and other areas have now been swept. He looked at the footpaths with P Baker who confirmed he had advised K Verlander at SCC of a number of issues including footpath signs being down. K Verlander has written to the landowner relating to the tree down at Priory Farm which is blocking the path, asking him to arrange for it to be removed. If this is not done, B Hurren and P Baker will liaise regarding next steps.

4. **Reports and questions from Councillors and members of the public** – none.
5. **The Minutes** of the Meeting of 15 January 2018 were approved and signed, proposed S Norman, seconded P Clarke.
6. **Highway and Footpath Matters**
 - 6.1. Footpath at Priory Green – see 3.3 above.
 - 6.2. Grit supplies – see 3.2 above.
 - 6.3. Suffolk Highways Community Self Help Survey – see 3.2 above.
 - 6.4. Spring Clean Suffolk initiative – P Clarke confirmed that the Millennium Green Trust had managed to borrow some litter picking equipment for their litter pick on 14 April (details to appear in the BRN) and any help would be gratefully received.
 - 6.5. Other Highways and footpath matters – the Clerk will continue to press for repairs to the U8339 from the phone box past the White Horse. S Norman reported that 2 treads had been dug out by rabbits on the steps on the path down towards Boxford which the Clerk will report. The Clerk is to go back to SCC regarding the small bridge behind Borehouse Manor Farm and ask if they will put a handrail in as it is steep and slippery (SCC has previously refused a request to put steps in). The 30mph/National Speed Limit sign on Sherbourne Street north of Dormers has now disappeared and the Clerk will chase again.
7. **Broadband coverage** – The Clerk will write again to the local MPs regarding broadband coverage as no response has been received. A local group has been pressing hard but has yet to make progress.
8. **Planning Matters** – none.
9. **General Data Protection Regulation** – Following the latest update on the Data Protection Regulation the PC noted the Toolkit provided by NALC, and in particular the Action Plan, and resolved to continue to work towards compliance with the Regulation, in conjunction with SALC.
10. **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – The PC resolved to adopt the new drafts of each document provided by the Clerk.
11. **Enhancing public engagement** – no further news.
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 28 February 2018	£2518.20
Business Current Account as at 28 February 2018	<u>£5541.32</u>
Total	<u>£8059.52</u>

Payments received - none

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100831	25.93	Anita Robinson	Clerk's expenses
100832	222.76	BDC	Dog bin emptying
100833	467.66	Anita Robinson	Clerk's salary Jan-Mar 2018

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

12.3. The PC considered donations and s137 payments for 2017-18 and resolved to make the following payments:

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee
100834	300	Edwardstone PCC
100835	375	Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust
100836	350	Edwardstone Parish Hall
100837	150	Boxford Playing Fields
100838	100	East Anglian Air Ambulance

12.4. The PC resolved to increase the Clerk's salary in accordance with her contract from 1 April 2018 from SCP 19 to SCP 20 (£10.099 per hour).

12.5. The Clerk confirmed that R Norman had kindly agreed to carry out the internal audit and she would let him have the papers once ready. She had attended SALC's free training session on the new external audit process and confirmed that the PC could now certify itself exempt from an external audit, so no fee should be incurred, although the Annual Governance and Accountability Return would still have to be completed and displayed.

13. **Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence** – The Clerk advised that there had been no applications for the Clerk's job vacancy. It is being advertised in the BRN and on SALC's website and has been circulated by SALC. She will continue to advertise.
14. **Future Agenda items** – the next meeting is the Annual Meeting so the normal Agenda items will apply.
15. **The Annual Meeting** will take place on 21 May at 7pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date