

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 18 May 2015
at Edwardstone Parish Hall at 7pm

Present: J Robinson, S Norman, P Clarke, M Childs (from 7.35pm)

In attendance: J Finch (SCC); B Hurren (BDC); A Robinson (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1. Election of Chairman of the Council

S Norman took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She confirmed that she would be standing down as Chairman and nominated J Robinson as Chair, with P Clarke seconding. J Robinson said that in the absence of anyone else willing to stand as Chairman, he was happy to do so. However, he had some concern that as he was married to the Clerk this was not ideal, but the job had to be done by someone. In view of his business commitments he is rarely in the village during daylight hours so will have to delegate certain matters to other members of the Council, and he did not want to overburden the Clerk over and above her contracted hours. Under those conditions he was willing to take on the role and he was elected unanimously.

2. Election of Vice Chairman of the Council

This item was held over until the arrival of M Childs who had been unavoidably detained. S Norman nominated M Childs to be Vice Chairman, seconded by J Robinson and M Childs accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected.

3. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Shirley Flack (holiday) and Clare Britcher (unwell) – approved.

4. To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest in any item on this Agenda

J Robinson said that regarding the White Horse Inn's application for a Certificate for Lawful Use which would be discussed under 6.4 below, he did not have a financial interest but was a partner in Mill Green Brewery adjacent to the pub. He would not declare an interest, would take part in the discussion but should it come to a vote, would abstain.

5. To approve Minutes of the Meeting of 16 March 2015

These were approved, proposed S Norman, seconded J Robinson, and signed.

6. To consider Planning Matters

6.1. B/15/00440 Borehouse Manor Farm

Notification under Part 3 T&CP (Gen Permitted Dev) (Amendment and Conseq Provs) (England) Order 2014 – Prior approval under Class MB(a) conversion & change of use from Agricultural Building to Dwellinghouse (C3), and prior approval under Class MB(b)

The Council discussed this application and resolved to offer no objections. B Hurren said that not all such applications are passed, dependent on the quality of the original building.

6.2. To consider the letter dated 1/4/15 relating to the proposed installation of 20m high lattice tower mobile phone mast at Sherbourne House Farm

The Council discussed this application and resolved to respond with the Council's full support.

6.3. To note planning decisions received

The Clerk reported that planning approval had been granted for the development at Goodlands Farm, Swan Street, Boxford.

6.4. Any other urgent planning matters – White Horse Inn

B/15/00496 White Horse Inn, Mill Green, Edwardstone

Application for Certificate of Lawfulness of an Existing Use – Use of land for campsite accommodation.

The Council discussed the application. Councillors and neighbours present confirmed that the site had been used for camping since 1987, using the whole site and at a similar intensity to present use. The Council resolved to send a letter in support of the application in these terms.

7. Financial Matters

7.1. To consider and approve the Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment

The Council's financial position was reported as follows:

Business Savings Account as at 30 April 2015	£2515.56
Business Current Account as at 30 April 2015	<u>£4338.29</u>
Total	<u>£6853.85</u>

Approved, proposed J Robinson, seconded P Clarke; the following cheques were signed once J Rodger-Brown had clarified his invoice following the meeting:

Cheque no	Amount	Payee	Purpose
754	£24.88	Anita Robinson	Clerk's expenses 1/3/15-12/5/15
755	£162	SALC	Subscription for 2015/16
756	£292.89	Zurich Municipal	Annual insurance premium
757	£150	J Rodger-Brown	Footpath cutting and war memorial maintenance 2014

7.2. To approve the end of year accounts

Approved, proposed P Clarke, seconded S Norman

7.3. To receive and approve the internal audit report

Approved, proposed P Clarke, seconded S Norman

7.4. To approve the Annual Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2015 for submission to the external auditor

Approved, proposed S Norman, seconded P Clarke

7.5. To consider renewal of Insurance from 1.6.15

Renewed and cheque signed under 7.1 above.

7.6. To consider adoption of the General Power of Competence

The Council resolved that it met the criteria for use of the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011.

8. Highway and Footpath Matters

8.1. To consider the issue of potholes

Garry Peacock had kindly provided an updated report showing that a large number of potholes had been repaired. However, the quality of some repairs was better than others. J Finch formally thanked G Peacock for his very detailed reports. The Clerk is to report the state of the road near Hilly Farm again and provide J Finch with details of the poor repair in Slabbs Lane.

8.2. To report on and consider other Highway and Footpath matters

Footpath maintenance – a member of the public complained about the state of the footpath from Tinywent Corner down towards the church. It is very overgrown and very difficult to walk. S Norman explained that when SCC reduced the amount of footpath cutting it was prepared to do, the Parish Council identified the most commonly used paths for cutting, and arranges for a few others to be cut by its own contractor. Other paths are kept clear by landowners and volunteers. J Finch said that this was a very important issue and he wanted to give more power and finance to the PC to arrange for cutting of the most useful paths. After some discussion the PC resolved to advertise in the BRN asking for comments and suggestions, and to put the issue on the agenda for the July meeting for in depth discussion. Thanks were expressed to those volunteers who cut paths close to them. P Clarke agreed to speak to a resident about an overhanging hedge and the Clerk is to write to another resident in a similar vein.

9. To consider the adoption of the Telephone Kiosk

J Robinson will do his best to move this on before the next meeting.

10. Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence

There were no comments on the correspondence received save that J Finch explained the purpose of the Rural Coffee Caravan project was to try to ensure that people living in rural communities were not isolated and suffering from loneliness and inability to get out of the house. The Clerk advised that she would prepare the accounts solely on spreadsheets now and would not continue to use the cashbook.

11. To receive reports and questions from Councillors and members of the public

The issue of footpath cutting was discussed and is reported under item 8.2 above. J Robinson confirmed that there was a vacancy on the Parish Council and this will be advertised and Councillors were encouraged to talk to residents to try to find someone who would be interested in standing. B Hurren confirmed that he had looked at the notice board in Sherbourne Street, and it appears that a vehicle may have hit it. He agreed to replace the broken leg and will invoice the Council.

12. To set future Agenda items

Telephone kiosk, potholes, footpaths.

13. Date of next meeting

20 July 2015.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Chairman

Date