

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council at Edwardstone Parish Hall on
Monday 20 July 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present: J Robinson, S Norman, C Britcher, M Childs

In attendance: J Finch (Suffolk County Council); B Hurren (Babergh District Council); A Robinson (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence – received from S Flack and P Clarke; approved.
2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest in any item on this Agenda – J Robinson declared a pecuniary interest in item 10.1.
3. Minutes of the Meeting of 18 May 2015 were approved and signed, proposed S Norman, seconded M Childs.
4. Co-option to fill the Councillor vacancy - this item was dealt with at the end of the meeting.
5. Reports - SCC - J Finch had provided his report prior to the meeting, covering the AGM of SCC at which he was appointed to the Cabinet dealing with highways and transport, an update on Suffolk Community Transport, new tenancies to rural businesses and visits to the local community by the SCC leader, Colin Noble, who will be in Sudbury on 26 September between 10am and 2pm. J Finch reported that his key focus was to challenge Kier MG with regard to fulfilment of their contract. S Norman asked about the problems being caused in Daking Avenue by contractors' lorries. B Hurren has already spoken to them and will provide J Finch with contact details to chase up on this. Although verges have finally been cut, some road signs are obscured and the Clerk will report these via the SCC website.

BDC – B Hurren confirmed that he would try to fix the noticeboard in Sherbourne Street shortly. He advised that the application for a mobile phone mast in Sherbourne Street had been made and the Council should receive full details this week. Neither B Hurren nor J Finch had received any complaints regarding the proposals to date. B Hurren has arranged trips to the Quay Theatre for local residents who are unable to get out easily, using the school minibus. He has another trip arranged in early September.

6. Public forum to discuss footpath cutting – after the issue was raised at the Annual Parish Meeting, the Council had put a notice in the Box River News asking for comments. Only one email had been received. The writer was of the view that all footpaths should be maintained as a priority. S Norman explained that the cutting schedule had been agreed a few years ago with SCC who were unable to finance cutting all paths. In addition the Parish Council paid J Rodger-Brown to cut the path behind Moat View as far as the pond, and for the first part of the path beside Moat Barn. Local farmers and landowners cut some of the other paths. A member of the public suggested that some paths could be cut by volunteer work

parties, and that rather than the same paths being cut all the time, they could be alternated. J Rodger-Brown said that due to the amount of dog mess he was not prepared to cut the paths any more.

7. Highway & Footpath Matters

7.1 Footpath cutting - J Finch said that it would be possible for the Parish Council to have control of their part of SCC's grass cutting budget. The Clerk will contact SCC for further information and to obtain up to date grass cutting schedules and map, in order to consider whether it would be worth getting the existing SCC contractors to cut additional paths. The Council will also consider liaising with local farmers as to which paths they are able to cut.

7.2 Other Highway & Footpath Matters - . The Clerk will put another notice in the BRN regarding dog mess, and also regarding the use of footpaths by horse riders. Overhanging hedges in the village were reported and the Clerk will report one to SCC and write to the absentee owners of the other once contact details are obtained.

8. Reports and questions from Councillors and Members of the Public - there were no further issues.

9. To accept email as an acceptable form of communication – agreed.

10. Planning Matters –

10.1 Planning application received – White Horse Inn, Mill Green, Edwardstone – B/15/00709/FUL – Retention and use of 2 holiday chalets for a temporary period of 5 years – J Robinson explained the position to B Hurren at his request but did not take part in the discussion due to his interest in the matter. The Council agreed to fully support the application.

10.2 Planning decisions received – Borehouse Manor Farm – application withdrawn

10.3 Any other urgent Planning Matters – B Hurren had advised that the application for the phone mast in Sherbourne Street had now been made, but it had not yet been received by the Parish Council. The next meeting of the Council will take place after the deadline for responses. The Clerk will circulate the details once received but unless anything had changed significantly, the Council resolved that it was still in full support of the application, as it had been following the discussion of the pre-application proposals at the May meeting.

11. Financial Matters

The Statement of Finances & Orders for Payments as under was approved by the Council, proposed by C Britcher, seconded by S Norman and the cheques were signed.

Business Saver Account as at 30 June 2015	£2515.90
Business Current Account as at 30 June 2015	<u>£3708.52</u>

Total

£6224.42

Cheque no	Amount	Payee	Purpose
758	£18.96	Anita Robinson	Clerk's expenses 13/5/15-10/7/15
759	£344.82	Anita Robinson	Clerk's salary 1/4/15-30/6/15
760	£68.60	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's salary 1/4/15-30/6/15
761	£87.50	Babergh District Council	Uncontested election expenses May 2015

12. Retention and use of the telephone kiosk – J Robinson had prepared a report which he will circulate after the meeting. After discussion, he proposed that the box be adopted and an Automated External Defibrillator installed, together with an emergency phone, once funding had been raised. The Council resolved to do so and to set up a Working Party to put this in hand. J Robinson will arrange this and will invite the expert to attend the next Council meeting to provide further information.

13. Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence – there were no comments.

14. Future Agenda Items – footpaths, overgrown hedges, phone kiosk

15. The next meeting is on 21 September 2015.

16. After the public had left, the Council interviewed the 2 members of the public who had asked to be considered for co-option to the Councillor vacancy. After consideration the Council resolved to appoint Mr Philip Baker to the Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm.

Chairman

Date