

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday
21 March 2016 at 7.30pm.

Present: S Norman, M Childs, P Clarke, P Baker, C Britcher

In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk); James Finch (SCC); Bryn Hurren (BDC); Daphne Clark (Parish Hall chair); and one other member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from S Flack (unwell – approved)
2. **Councillors' Declarations of Interest** in any item on this Agenda - none
3. Reports from:
 - 3.1. Suffolk County Council – J Finch had previously circulated his report, which referred to SCC's budget, the Children's Services being rated Good by Ofsted, consultation regarding Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, and the Devolution deal announced in the Budget. P Baker asked whether broadband would reach the far end of the village within 5 months as the website seemed to be suggesting. J Finch said that progress was being made, and his team met with the broadband staff weekly to monitor progress. The Clerk asked if J Finch had seen G Peacock's email of today's date regarding potholes which were repaired last year breaking up again. He had and he is looking at another system which will provide a first time fix.
 - 3.2. Babergh District Council – B Hurren provided information on the setting of BDC's budget, and said that the solar panels on council houses were doing well. He was thanked for repairing the PC notice board in Sherbourne Street. He will attend the inspection of the Rogers Farm Solar Farm site on 22 March. Work is being undertaken to find another site for a mobile phone mast. P Baker asked if consultation could take place before the site was finalised to avoid previous problems. B Hurren will do what he can on this. He was asked to chase up the cutting of the hedge at Mill Green again, and will liaise with Boxford PC regarding the overgrown hedge at the bottom of Sherbourne Street which is obstructing the footpath.
4. **The Minutes** of the Meeting of 18 January 2016 were approved and signed.
5. **Councillor vacancy** – Councillors resolved not to co-opt the previous applicant for the vacancy and it will continue to be advertised.
6. **Highway and Footpath Matters**
 - 6.1. **Potholes** – the Clerk will report a number of potholes that have appeared or re-appeared, and chase up the clearing of the culvert at the bottom of the hill near Temple Bar.
 - 6.2. **Footpath cutting** – information had been received from BDC on the budget for footpath cutting, and they had identified which paths they cut. It was resolved that P Baker would check who was cutting the other paths, and their condition, and the PC would revisit the possibility of paying for additional cutting once this had been done.
 - 6.3. **Other matters** – there was an increasing problem with people riding horses and cycles on the footpaths in all 3 villages. The Clerk will liaise with Groton PC in the first instance regarding the issue.

7. **Reports and questions from Councillors and Members of the Public** – Daphne Clark reported further on the problem in the Disabled Toilet in the Parish Hall where a large crack has appeared. It may be necessary to knock it down and rebuild, in which case the cost will be substantial. She reported that Mrs Fiona Raymond was giving up the Parish Hall booking after many years. Daphne will be the key holder for the time being.

8. **Planning Matters**

- 8.1. Planning application received –B/16/00224 – 1 Mill Green, Edwardstone –erection of 2 storey rear extension. The applicant attended and answered Councillors’ questions. After consideration the PC resolved that it had no objection to the plans.
- 8.2. Proposed solar farm at Rogers Farm – M Childs will attend the inspection on 22 March.
- 8.3. Planning decisions received – none.
- 8.4. Any other urgent Planning Matters – none.

9. **Financial Matters**

9.1. The Statement of Finances & Order for Payments was approved as under and the cheques were signed:

Business Saver Account as at 31 December 2015	£2516.52
Business Current Account as at 29 January 2016	<u>£4494.23</u>
Total	<u>£7010.75</u>

Cheque no	Amount	Payee	Purpose
100772	£222.76	Babergh DC	Litter & Dog Bin emptying
100773	£16.80	SALC	Payroll services 6 months to 31/3/16
100774	£433.39	Anita Robinson	Clerk’s salary Jan-Mar 2016
100775	£21.95	Anita Robinson	Clerk’s expenses Jan-Mar 2016
100776	£259.90	Anita Robinson	Laptop for Parish Council use (using Transparency Fund grant)

9.2. Donations and s137 payments – the PC resolved to make the following donations:

Cheque no	Amount	Payee
100777	£300	Edwardstone PCC
100778	£375	Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust
100779	£350	Edwardstone Village Hall
100780	£100	Boxford Playing Fields

9.3. The accounts to date and bank reconciliation were checked and signed by councillors, and the effectiveness of the internal financial controls was checked and approved.

9.4. Standing orders and financial regulations were checked and approved. It was agreed that these would be looked at again later in the year to take into account very recent changes.

10. **Quotations for defibrillator in the phone box** – The Clerk reported that she had now received the defibrillator. There had been some difficulty regarding the emergency phone. This can be installed but there will be an annual cost to the PC of £52. There is sufficient funding for at least the first year’s fee to be paid from donations received. The PC resolved to have the emergency phone installed. The Clerk had received a voucher for free paint for the phone box. Councillors P

Clarke and P Baker agreed to tidy up and paint the box and the Clerk will then arrange for the defibrillator to be installed, along with the phone once it is received. A training session will be arranged for anyone interested locally – both the Community Heartbeat Trust and Peter Hibben of the local 3PR have offered to do this.

11. **Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence** – no other issues.
12. **Future Agenda items** – Defibrillator, potholes, footpaths, broadband, phone mast
13. **The date of the next meeting** was confirmed as Monday 16 May 2016. The Annual Meeting of the Council will take place at 7pm and the Annual Parish Meeting, to which all residents and members of local groups are invited, will be at 8pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

Chairman

Date