

**EDWARDSTONE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 8pm on Monday 16 May 2016**  
**at Edwardstone Parish Hall**

**In the Chair:** M Childs

**Present:** P Clarke, S Flack, P Baker, J Finch (SCC), B Hurren (BDC), A Robinson (Clerk), D Clark, L Clark

- 1. Welcome** – M Childs welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting of 18 May 2015 were approved, proposed P Clarke, seconded M Childs, and signed.
- 3. Report from Suffolk County Council** – J Finch gave his report, which is attached to these Minutes. P Baker said that he was pleased to note that J Finch was pushing for improved broadband for outlying parts of the village.
- 4. Report from Babergh District Council** – B Hurren thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to the Annual Parish Meeting. He said that there had been an increase in Council Tax. BDC had been successful in collecting 99% of domestic tax and 98.5% of business tax. He was pleased to report that businesses seem to be doing well, with record tourism in the area, which was becoming well known for good food. Small businesses were starting up in the countryside. BDC and MSDC have a good stock of council houses despite the right to buy, and solar panels have been installed where possible providing a good income. He advised that there was a good chance of a mobile phone mast in Boxford, with James Cartlidge pushing hard in support. Bryn has attended all Council meetings and is still on the Scrutiny Committee and the Suffolk Standards Board. He is a representative on Ipswich CAB and is enjoying that role. He is Chair of Pin Mill Bay Management Company and of the Quay Theatre. He said that he is always available if he is needed. He handed the Clerk a copy of BDC's report of Highlights and Achievements for 2015/16 which is attached to these Minutes.
- 5. Report from Suffolk Constabulary** – the police were not in attendance but the Clerk read the May 2016 Safer Neighbourhood Team Report downloaded from the Suffolk Constabulary website and attached to these Minutes.
- 6. Reports on Edwardstone Organisations**
  - Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust**

P Clarke said that the play equipment had been upgraded and work parties have carried out the usual maintenance and grass cutting.
  - Edwardstone Parish Hall Management Committee**

D Clark provided a copy of the Parish Hall Annual Accounts which are attached to these Minutes. The main problem at the moment is the severe cracking to the walls of the disabled toilet. She will be seeing a structural engineer shortly and will then speak to BDC again. The repair or replacement costs will be substantial and she will be unable to obtain grant funding for this work. The accounts for the previous year show that they only just balanced, due to having the hall painted and the 5 yearly check carried out on the wiring. The Parish Hall Committee would like to keep the local hire rate as low as possible. She thanked the PC for the grant funding received, without which the charges would have to go up by around one third, and J Finch and B Hurren for their support over

the years. The Committee would like to improve the kitchen but until the issue with the disabled toilet is resolved they cannot commit funds elsewhere. A Suffolk Digital Cinema showing was held before Christmas which was not well supported but enjoyed by those who did attend.

**Edwardstone Charities**

L Clark provided a statement of the accounts which are attached to these Minutes. They have a good financial balance so if anyone locally wishes to apply for a grant they are encouraged to do so. Examples of grants given are to help those going to University, buy books or musical instruments, hospital visits, funerals and to support organisations outside of Edwardstone but which are used by people who live in the village.

**Financial Report** – The Clerk provided a financial report covering the Parish Council’s financial position and this is attached to these Minutes.

**Chairman’s Report**

M Childs thanked everyone for coming.

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

Chairman

Date