

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday
20 November 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present: M Childs (Chair), S Norman, P Baker, C Britcher, S Flack, P Clarke, D Williams

In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk), B Hurren (BDC)

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from J Finch
2. **Councillors' Declarations of Interest** in any item on this Agenda – none
3. **Reports:**

B Hurren (BDC) confirmed that the move to Endeavour House had completed and the offices in Corks Lane were now closed. BDC and MSDC cabinets have voted to consider a merger once again. The consultation period for the Joint Local Plan has now ended. The proposals for new housing do not affect Edwardstone. The new Boundary Commission recommendations are out for consultation, having taken on board previous criticism. The proposal is to combine Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Kersey, Lindsey and Milden into one ward. B Hurren asked the PC to consider supporting this proposal as it keeps the right group of villages together. He attended the Scrutiny Committee meeting today where the issue of rising homelessness was discussed. The Goodlands second phase went to the planning committee last week and was turned down, although the developers will probably appeal. M Childs asked if there was further news on the Copella site. B Hurren said that it was still ongoing and was proving controversial, though if approved it would bring more jobs to the area. The Clerk said that the noticeboard at Mill Green was unstable and B Hurren agreed to have a look at it to see what can be done.

4. Reports and questions from Councillors and members of the public – none.
5. **Councillor vacancy** – David Williams had put his name forward to be considered for co-option. The PC resolved unanimously to co-opt him, he signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed on to the PC.
6. **The Minutes** of the Meeting of 18 September 2017 were approved and signed.
7. **Highway and Footpath Matters**

C Britcher asked when the U8330 from the phone box past the White Horse was going to be resurfaced after the current works. The Clerk will enquire of SCC. S Norman reported the street name sign for The Winthrops had fallen over. The Clerk will report it to BDC and B Hurren will also report it. S Norman advised that the pavement on both sides of The Winthrops were covered with moss and were slippery. M Childs said that she would deal with the path alongside her boundary and the Clerk will ask SCC to deal with the other. S Norman reported that the National Speed Limit sign north of her property on Sherbourne Street is on the ground. The Clerk will report it. She also said that the footpath sign next to the kissing gate at the entrance to the field near the church is loose and leaning against a tree. The Clerk will report this to SCC. She also said that the short run of footpath from the plank bridge to the farm track at the rear of Borehouse Manor Farm is overgrown and very narrow. The Clerk will ask the farm manager to arrange for it to be cleared. C Britcher reported seeing several cyclists on footpaths recently. S Norman said

that also there are a lot of plastic bottles being dropped in ditches, possibly by cyclists. The Clerk will put a note in the BRN. It is not members of Boxford Bike Club who are causing these problems, but the Clerk will contact them in case they can assist with spreading the word about keeping off the footpaths. C Britcher reported that there is a lot of dog mess on the Millennium Green. P Clarke will refer this to the MG Trust.

8. **Boundary review** - the PC resolved to support the proposals referred to by B Hurren above and the Clerk will deal with this.
9. **Broadband coverage** – the PC was pleased to note that a detailed response has been received from Suffolk Better Broadband to its query regarding outlying areas of the village. The Clerk is to respond and ask them what alternative solutions are proposed for those properties that might be connected to a live cabinet but cannot yet access fibre broadband. (A copy of the email is on the PC website.)
10. **Planning Matters** – none.
11. **Financial Matters**

11.1. 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 31 October 2017	£2517.76
Business Current Account as at 31 October 2017	<u>£7007.20</u>
Total	<u>£9524.96</u>

Payments received

25/9/17	BDC	2 nd half of precept	£2812.50
---------	-----	---------------------------------	----------

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100821	40.21	Anita Robinson	Clerk's expenses including poppy wreath
100822	13.20	SALC	Data Protection training (shared with Groton)
d/d	60	Community Action Suffolk	Annual website hosting fee

11.2. Donations for 2017-18 were considered. The PC resolved to make payments as under. D Williams suggested a donation to Boxford School, which will be considered in March. The Clerk will also obtain a list of local charities for consideration at the same time and D Williams said he would be able to assist with this.

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee
100823	300	Edwardstone PCC
100824	375	Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust
100825	350	Edwardstone Parish Hall
100826	100	Sudbury CAB

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

11.4. The PC considered the draft budget for 2018-19. The tax base information had been received from BDC and in view of the likely increased expenditure on compliance with the Data Protection Bill, the PC agreed in principle to increase the precept from £5625 to £5710. This

is the first increase since 2014 and is an additional £0.52 per year on a Band D property. The PC will reconsider the issue at the January meeting when further information on potential costs of Data Protection compliance may be available. The draft budget was also approved in principle.

11.5. Internal financial controls were reviewed and approved.

11.6. The Asset Register was reviewed and approved.

12. **Chairman's and Clerk's reports and correspondence** – The Clerk advised that she could make an application to the Transparency Fund for £50 to cover the cost of the website for the year and the PC approved this. She explained the potential impact of the Data Protection Bill and SALC's proposals to date to deal with the duty to be imposed on PCs to appoint a Data Protection Officer. Currently the suggestion is that PCs could use a company to provide the service, accessing it in small groups rather than individually in order to keep costs down. It is likely that this will still be expensive and there will be additional work for the Clerk. The PC resolved to consider the matter further at the next meeting when further information may be available. The Clerk advised that SALC were currently advertising for the posts of Chief Executive and Finance Officer.
13. **Future Agenda items** – broadband, data protection
14. **Meeting dates for 2018** were proposed as 15 January, 19 March, 21 May, 16 July, 17 September and 19 November. The Clerk will check with the Parish Hall Committee and confirm. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

Chairman

Date