

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 18 July 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: P Baker (Chair), D Williams, P Clarke, M Gibson, T Wood, R Jones (Clerk)

Guests: J Finch (Suffolk County Council), B Hurren (Babergh District Council)

- 1. Apologies for absence – S Norman**
- 2. Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on this Agenda - None**
- 3. Reports from:**

3.1 Suffolk County Council

Councillor James Finch reported the following:

Carers Week – From 7-12 June, SCC and other organisations celebrated the work of all carers in the County through promoting the help that is available, including financial support and practical support such as giving the carer a break by offering respite care to the person being cared for.

Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Proposals: SCC confirmed it would be making a formal objection to the proposed pylon run as it believes there are more suitable ways to transmit electricity through the region that have not been properly explored, such as an undersea network.

Reclaim the Rain – Joint initiative between SCC and Norfolk CC to introduce more efficient water management to help flood prevention and water loss. As Boxford was one of the areas selected to be part of the initiative, Edwardstone and other neighbouring Parishes could benefit.

Extra funding for SEND – SCC had agreed an additional £15.9m in funding towards creating at least 879 specialist places for young people with special educational needs. 500 places had already been taken up with a further 325 due between September 2022 and September 2024.

Missing Sharp Bend Chevron in Sherbourne Street – To be replaced within 6 – 8 weeks.

3.2 Babergh District Council

Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following:

Free Swimming and Football being provided to families during the up-coming school summer holidays.

Local Needs Housing opening ceremony had taken place in Groton on 8th July. The four homes are specifically for local people and although people from Groton would get priority, there is a possibility that an Edwardstone family could benefit on the future.

Elections 2023 – The Council was starting to promote the next local elections which would include the Parish Council.

Planning Application Sand Hill, Boxford – The latest application for 64 homes was being recommended for refusal and would be heard on 27th July.

- 4. Minutes of the Meeting of 23 May 2022 - Approved**
- 5. Defibrillator** – Following correspondence from a concerned parishioner, P Clarke had been in contact with Community Heartbeat Trust who had advised him that the defibrillator was registered with the Ambulance Service. Following discussion, it was agreed that the defibrillator should be made more visible, with illuminated signage, possibly paid for out of the Community Infrastructure Levy money, and that the emergency phone should be restored to use. This had previously been taken out of service due to poor signal but it was agreed to purchase a signal

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booster on a 'sale or return' basis to try to improve this. P Clarke to facilitate this.

6. To consider Planning Matters:

6.1. Planning applications received :

DC/22/03349 Christmas House, Sherbourne Street. Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of all guttering – **The Council raised no objection to this application.**

DC/22/03274 Land West Of, Mill Green. Full Application - Erection of 3No dwellings (alternative scheme to permission granted for 4No dwellings under DC/21/03820) – **The Council resolved to object to this application on the following grounds:**

- The application differs from the previous application for 4 3-bedroomed houses for rent which the Council supported as it would have provided much needed affordable housing for local people. Information from Babergh District Council suggests a high number of families in need of 3-bedroomed accommodation.
- The new application would offer no such benefit for the community and would appear to be a solely 'for profit' development.
- Occupiers of a neighbouring property advised the meeting that, under the terms of the original application they had been granted unobstructed access through the proposed development. The new application removes this access by way of a fence.

6.2. Planning decisions received and noted – Priory Farm, Priory Green.

Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/21/00149 - Condition 4 (Timber Frame and Infill) and Condition 5 (Wall and Roof Build-up) (Part discharge). Condition 15 (Fireplace). Condition 7 (Render).

2 School Corner, School Green. DC/22/01971 - Erection of a two-storey extension and garage (following demolition of existing cartlodge, single storey lean-to, ground floor bathroom and adjoining stores) – Planning Permission Refused

Holt, School Green. DC/22/02663 - Full Planning Application - Change of use from existing redundant Tack Room, Potting Shed & Store area to Holiday-let (re-submission of DC/21/05627) -Planning Permission Granted

6.3 Other urgent planning matters - None

7. Neighbourhood Plan Update – M Gibson reported the following:

Acom consultants had visited the village and were in the process of preparing a design draft. The Steering Group met with Andrea Long on 5th July and looked at the five areas previously identified as the basis for the plan: Housing, Environment, Landscape, Transport, Community. Andrea has produced some policy ideas which were to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting on 27th July. Moving forward, the plan was to hold an exhibition over two days in late September for the public to view the ideas and comment on things such as Landscape, Planning, Sustainability, Heritage, etc.

The question of the ownership of the Parish Hall had arisen and although it was believed to belong to the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, a Land Registry search indicated no ownership. Further investigation was needed as it was possible that the Parish Council could claim ownership of the hall, thereby securing its future as a community asset.

8. Highway & Footpath Matters

8.1 Footpath Cutting – An issue with hedgerow overhanging a footpath near Mill Green was raised. It was agreed that M Gibson would speak to the landowner to resolve this.

8.2 Footpath Leaflet – T Wood reported that good progress was being made and he had met with the new Footpath Group and had provided the group with his draft. This would be proofread and then sent to the relevant SCC officer along with photographs for the working leaflet to be created.

8.3 Other Highways & Footpath Matters - None

9. Chairman's & Clerk's reports and correspondence

9.1 Parish Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme

BDC was offering free trees, hedgerows and wildflowers to local Parishes to help biodiversity. It was proposed that the Millennium Green and an area at the rear of Mill Green flats would make suitable sites.

P Baker to meet with the Millennium Green working party on first Saturday in August to discuss this project.

T Wood to speak to residents of Mill Green.

9.2 NALC Climate Change On-Line Event Report

P Baker had joined an online discussion on climate change on 25th May and provided a report on this with some suggestions on how Edwardstone as a Parish could help combat climate change. These included: 20mph speed limits on certain local roads, provision of a safe cycle shelter at the Millennium Green to encourage people to cycle there, use of land for Allotments. He noted that grants had been available previously for such projects and had joined a specific WhatsApp group to keep abreast of latest developments. It was agreed to include Climate Change as a separate agenda item from now on and to include a small consultation on the subject as part of the Neighbourhood Plan exhibition in September.

10. Bus Shelter – Meeting to be arranged between T Wood, P Baker and B Hurren to assess work needed and possible costs.

11. Financial Matters:

11.1 Statement of Finances & Orders for Payment and Q1 accounts – Approved

11.2 Use of Community Infrastructure Payment – Deferred until the next meeting.

11.3 Other Financial Matters - None

12. To set future Agenda Items - Questions from Members of the Public. Climate Change. Use of CIL payment.

13. Date of next meeting – Monday 26th September 2022 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.