

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 21 November 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present: D Williams (Chair), S Norman, P Clarke, M Gibson, R Jones (Clerk)

Guests: B Hurren (Babergh District Council)

1. **Apologies for absence** – P Baker, T Wood
2. **Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on this Agenda** – None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 26 September 2022** – Approved

4. **Reports from:**

3.1 Suffolk County Council

Councillor James Finch was unable to attend but tabled a report which was noted.

3.2 Babergh District Council

Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following:

Boxford Neighbourhood Plan had been approved by the public with a 31% turnout and 91% voting in favour.

Councillors from one of the main parties had dissented during a District Council meeting with some shouting abuse and walking out. Three Members had since become independent.

The Council was in the process of preparing its budget for the coming year and was conscious of the cost-of-living crisis. The Council was able to save and raise money through energy innovations such as Energy from Waste which produced electricity for some 40,000 homes and Solar Panels which earned more than £450,000 yearly.

Full Council meeting was due to take place on 22 November and one of the main topics for discussion was sewage discharge and river pollution with rivers in Babergh being polluted 288 times in 2022. The Council was asking for an explanation and action from Anglian Water.

Councillor Hurren confirmed that he would be supporting the application from Edwardstone Millennium Green for CIL funding.

5. **Questions from Members of the Public**

5.1 Nick Raymond reported on the work of Edwardstone Almshouses and Other Charities which was formed of 6 initial charities and run by 5 trustees; 2 nominated by the Parish Council, 2 Co-opted and the Parish Vicar.

The purpose of the charity was to provide for those in need in the Parish. To this end one local student was receiving help with university fees, 'Harvest' gifts were given to some older people and other people in need and Christmas cash donations were being made to 6 people or families. People needing help could apply in person or be nominated and this was currently advertised in Box River News. It was felt that increased advertising could potentially reach more people in need and it was agreed to include something on the Council's website. Nick agreed to send some promotional information to the Clerk.

6. **Financial Matters**

6.1 Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment – approved as follows:

Business Savings Account as at 30 September 2022	£2,531.53
Business Current Account (Barclays) as at 30 September 2022	£14,062.11*
Business Current Account (Unity Trust) at 30 September 2022	£5,227.37
Total	<u>£18,614.40</u>

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***Includes Neighbourhood Plan Grant of £9,173.40**

Payments received:

BDC £3,066.50

SCC £159.25

Eon £7.55

Bank Interest £0.78

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100992	£54.00	Geosphere Ltd	Parish Online Subscription (NP)
100993	£370.00	Edwardstone Parish Hall	Hire of Hall (NP)
100994	£1,637.55	Compass Point	Consultant Fees (NP)
300010	£22.80	SALC	Payroll Service June – Sept 22
300011	£65.25	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Oct – Nov 22
300012	£300.00	Edwardstone PCC	Donation Part 2
300013	£350.00	Edwardstone Parish Hall	Donation Part 2
300014	£375.00	Edwardstone Millennium Green Trust	Donation Part 2
300015	£25.00	Hadleigh Royal British Legion	Donation for Remembrance Day Wreath
300016	£150.00	Boxford Playing Fields	Donation Part 2
300017	£698.94	Garden Arbs Ltd	Grass Cutting

6.2 Use of Community Infrastructure Payment

- Edwardstone Millennium Green – Application made to BDC for a CIL grant to replace and upgrade play equipment. Should the application be successful there would be a shortfall of £1,135.00 (based on current costs) and the Millennium Green Committee was asking for a donation from the Parish Council of £1,135.00 to make up the shortfall.

The Council agreed to support the application and make a donation of £1,135.00 to Edwardstone Millennium Green.

- Repairs to Bus Shelter – T Wood had reported by e-mail that he had not received a response to his request for a quote from a local tradesman. It was agreed to continue to pursue quotes before the next meeting.

6.3 Adequacy of the Budget for 2022/23 – The Clerk presented the budget forecast which showed that although there had been some unforeseen expenses such as new defibrillator pads, there were sufficient funds available in the budget as the Council had not anticipated receiving the CIL payment of £3,557.58 which could be used for community benefits.

6.4 Budget 2023/24 – The Clerk presented Budget proposals and precept options for 2023/24. It was agreed that this would be discussed in full at the next meeting.

6.5 Other Financial Matters - None

7. Planning Matters:

7.1. Planning applications received - None

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7.2. Planning decisions received and noted – DC/22/04151 5 Mill Green.
Construction of new rear gable (following demolition of side extension and bay window) and dropped kerb to serve new off-street parking area.
Planning Permission Granted.

7.3 Other urgent planning matters - None

8. Neighbourhood Plan Update – M Gibson reported the following:
71 people had attended the exhibitions and most proposals had been supported. There were some concerns over development leading to the 'joining up' of hamlets and the possible requirement for more 'affordable' housing to meet local need. The Consultant was currently looking at how best to incorporate suggestions into the draft plan including concerns over biodiversity, renewable energy and protection of views. This document should be available to the Steering Group before Christmas.

9. Chairman's & Clerk's Reports and Correspondence - None

10. Climate Change

10.1 Wildfires & Community Emergency Plan

10.2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points

In the absence of P Baker these items were deferred until the next meeting. It was suggested that a separate meeting may need to be held to discuss item 10.1 in detail.

11. Defibrillator Update

The Clerk reported that invoices for the past three years had been received from Community Heartbeat Trust for the use of the Emergency Phone. However, the Council had previously informed CHT that the phone was unusable due to poor signal and had not received any subsequent correspondence until these invoices arrived. In view of this, it had been assumed that the Council was no longer being charged for the phone. Councillors agreed that The Council should not pay for the phone having previously informed CHT of the problem.

P Clark was having difficulties in contacting anybody from CHT regarding fitting a signal booster and reinstating the phone service.

12. Highway & Footpath Matters

12.1 Footpath Cutting – S Norman reported that four cuts had taken place but the Clerk reported that the Council had only been invoiced for three.

12.2 Footpath Leaflet – No update.

12.3 Speed Limits – Although it was agreed that speeding vehicles were an issue on certain roads in the Parish, there was also a sense that it would be difficult to monitor and for action to be taken.

12.4 Mill Green Street Light – Clerk to contact SCC to ascertain who is responsible for the timings and whether the light was a legal requirement.

12.5 BDC Litter & Dog Waste Bin Service – The Clerk reported that BDC had written to the Council regarding requests for new bins. It was agreed that this remain as an item of background interest should any areas of need be highlighted.

12.6 Other Highways and Footpath Matters - None

13. Future Agenda Items – Speed Limits. Mill Green Street Light, Emergency Plan, Electric Vehicle Charging Points.

14. Date of next meeting – Monday 17th January 2023 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

DRAFT