

# EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 22 November 2021 at 7.30pm.

**Present: P Baker, S Norman, M Gibson, T Wood, P Clarke, R Jones (Notes)**

**Guests: J Finch, B Hurren**

**1. Apologies for Absence – D Williams**

**2. Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on this Agenda – None**

**3. Reports from Suffolk County Council and Babergh District Council**

3.1 Councillor James Finch on behalf of SCC reported the following:

Covid 19 – SCC had expressed concern over the increasing number of cases in the district which were some of the worst in the country. Extra vaccines were being made available including at 'pop up' vaccination centres. Although the infection rate in the immediate area was low, it was recommended that people conduct at least two Rapid Flow Tests per week.

New Pylons and Cables – A group of local MPs had been set up to try to protect the area from increased installation of pylons and cables proposed under the Government's Offshore Network Transmission Review.

Suffolk Bus Services – SCC was set to bid for £50m from the Government's Bus Back Better national bus strategy fund to help improve bus services across the County, particularly in rural areas.

Lorry Route Plan – A review was taking place to look at the impact of lorry routes in the County. Review was running from 22 October – 17 December and Parish Councils were being asked to comment. Review to be completed by Spring 2022.

Review of Suffolk Special Educational Needs and Disability Services – Report from Lincolnshire CC published on 20<sup>th</sup> September made nine recommendations which SCC had used to draft an action plan for improvement.

Recycling Centres – Improved booking system now in place which included automatic number plate recognition to reduce the need for staff to conduct vehicle checks.

3.2 Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following on behalf of BDC:

Covid 19 – BDC quite severely affected and services quite stretched, particularly in refuse collection.

Tree for Life – Families with new-born babies can apply to have a tree planted at a place of their choosing. Current application window closes in mid-January 2022.

Car Parking – Introduction of new charges had been put on hold.

Planning – All new build properties would be required to have a charging point installed for electric vehicles.

Groton Local Needs Housing – All four homes now occupied by local people.

Three families from Groton and one from Boxford.

Locality Budget – Application made to provide a small amount of funding for the Millennium Green .

**4. Minutes of the Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Approved.**

**5. Planning Matters:**

5.1 Planning applications received – DC/21/05627 - Holt, School Green.

Planning Application - Conversion of existing tack room, potting shed & store area to holiday let. – No Objection

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APP/D3505/W/21/3275718 - Land to The South Of, Daking Avenue, Boxford. Appeal against refusal - Planning Application. Erection of 6no dwellings, ancillary outbuildings, vehicular access and associated works (Including access to Primrose Wood) – The Council's position remained unchanged from the original application and it continued to back Boxford PC's objection to this application. It was also noted that the applicant had previously agreed to open up access as part of a separate application but this had not been done.

5.2 Planning decisions received and noted - DC/21/04540 Tudor Cottage, Mill Green. Planning permission granted for construction of outdoor swimming pool and installation of air source heat pump/plant cupboard.

5.3 Other urgent planning matters - None

## **6. Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Mike Gibson gave the following update:

Two new members had joined the Steering group which had met twice recently, once with the consultant, Andrea Long and were looking at the first stage of the process which would include a consultation with parishioners. Looking at the most effective way to conduct the consultation. Possibility of using the Box River News and including an insert for Edwardstone only.

Next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> December to finalise consultation and questionnaire.

## **7. Highway & Footpath Matters**

7.1 Footpath Cutting – Garden Arbs had submitted an invoice for four cuts which was one more than they were contracted for. It was agreed that the Council should have been consulted before a fourth cut was carried out and therefore, payment would only be made for the agreed three cuts with a 50% payment made for the fourth cut as a gesture of goodwill. The Clerk to write to Garden Arbs outlining this decision.

7.2 Footpath Leaflet – Councillor Wood had sent a draft proposal to Nick Bristow but had not heard back. Councillor Wood to provide some information for the Council's website in lieu of the finished leaflet.

7.3 Other Highways & Footpath Matters

Footpath 16 – Now opened through Priory Farm but unofficial path not blocked off and still being used. Chairman to meet with Claire Dickson from SCC, the owner of Priory Cottage and Charles Loyd of Strutt and Parker, who is managing the Priory Farm estate, to resolve this issue.

Footpath 3 – Chicken wire now replaced following an accident involving a member of the public.

## **8. Chairman's & Clerk's reports and correspondence – Letters received from Sudbury CAB and Headway Suffolk asking for financial donations.**

It was agreed that that they did not meet the Council's new criteria for donations, because neither had demonstrated sufficient benefit to the Parish, as required by the Council's new Donations Policy.

## **9. Financial Matters:**

9.1. Statement of Finances & Orders for Payment were approved and the cheques signed as follows:

Business Savings Account as of 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	£2,530.44
Business Current Account as of 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	£16,497.11* (£6,597.11)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,027.55* (£9,127.55)</b>

\*Current Account includes grant of £9,900 towards cost of Neighbourhood Plan which is for this purpose only. Balance minus this amount in brackets.

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100953	£22.80	SALC	Payroll service Apr – Sept 21
100954	£10.00	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Oct - Nov 21
100955	£10.00	Edwardstone Parish Hall	Hall Hire NP meeting 1 Sept
100956	£54.00	Geoxphere Ltd	Parish Online Subscription (NP)
100957	£300.00	Edwardstone PCC	Donation
100958	£25.00	Royal British Legion	Donation – Poppy Wreath
100959	£375.00	Millennium Green Trust	Donation
100960	£350.00	Edwardstone Parish Hall	Donation
100961	£100.00	East Anglia Air Ambulance	Donation
100962	£150.00	Boxford Playing Fields	Donation
100963	£681.45	Garden Arbs Ltd	Footpath Cutting 2021

9.2. Budget 2021/22 – The adequacy of the Budget was approved. Clerk to write to S Britcher to thank him for his continued maintenance of the War Memorial.

9.3. Donations and s137 Payments were agreed as follows:  
Edwardstone PCC - £600 payable in two parts  
Millennium Green Trust - £750 payable in two parts  
Edwardstone Parish Hall - £700 payable in two parts  
East Anglia Air Ambulance - £100  
Boxford Playing Fields - £150

9.4. Budget for 2022/23 – deferred to next meeting

9.5. Review of Internal Controls – Although everything seemed to be in place, due to time constraints, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting in order to give it due consideration.

9.6. Banking Arrangements – Application made to Unity Trust for new Current Account with a few forms left to be signed. Clerk looking into different options for deposit/savings account.

9.7. Other Financial Matters - None

**10. Future Agenda Items** – Internal Controls, Banking

**11. Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022