

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 20 March 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

Guests: B Hurren (Babergh District Council), J Morgan (Parishioner), Louise Smyth (Parishioner)

1. **Apologies for absence** – D Williams
2. **Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on this Agenda** – None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 16 January 2023** – Approved
4. **Reports from:**
 - 3.1 Suffolk County Council -
Councillor James Finch was unable to attend and sent his apologies
 - 3.2 Babergh District Council
Councillor Bryn Hurren reported the following:
District Council budget had been set resulting in a 2.9% Council Tax increase across Babergh. He pointed out that, BDC only received 8.5% of the income from Council Tax with Suffolk CC receiving 80%, Police 10.5% and balance to Parish Councils. BDC needed income of £20m to break even and only 50% of this was raised from Council Tax with the rest coming from various sources such as solar panels and investments.
He reminded those present of the requirement for voters in the forthcoming local elections to show some form of identification, details of which were on a list published by the Government.
5. **Questions from Members of the Public** – Damaged fence opposite Rose Cottage, Mill Green was reported. The Clerk confirmed that this had been photographed reported to SCC.
6. **Election 2023** – Councillor's wishing to stand in the forthcoming election were reminded that the closing date for nominations was 4th April. Councillor's Norman and Clarke confirmed that they would not be standing, however, both guests, Jeremy Morgan and Louise Smyth, confirmed that they would be standing for election.
7. **Planning Matters** - None
8. **Neighbourhood Plan Update** – M Gibson reported the following:
Draft plan had been circulated to the steering group. The plan was mainly focused on domestic planning but was also incorporating non-domestic planning for things such as Dog Kennels. Further finance of circa £8,000 should be available from April and the steering group was looking to involve outside agencies such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust to ensure environmental issues were incorporated into the final plan.
9. **Chairman's & Clerk's Reports and Correspondence** - None
10. **Climate Change** –
 - 11.1 Wildfires & Community Emergency Plan - The Chairman confirmed that he
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had spoken to Chairs of neighbouring Councils and a meeting had been arranged for 18th April at 7.30pm in Edwardstone Parish Hall

11.2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points – The Chairman confirmed that the Edwardstone White Horse was happy to have a charging point installed and the matter was being put on the hands of Babergh DC

11. Financial Matters

11.1 Statement of Finances and Orders for Payment and Q3 accounts– approved as follows:

Business Savings Account as at 28 February 2023	£2,532.94
Business Current Account (Barclays) as at 28 February 2023	£11,206.56*
Business Current Account (Unity Trust) at 28 February 2023	£1,937.63

Total **£15,677.13**

***Includes Neighbourhood Plan Grant of £7,111.85**

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
d/d	£8.65	E-on	Electricity Jan 23
300021	£22.80	SALC	6 months payroll Oct 22- Mar 23
300022	£10.00	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses
300023	569.44	R J Jones	Clerk's Salary
300024	£68.00	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Salary
300025	£170.00	Box Media	Printing and Insert for BRN advert
d/d	£7.59	E-on	Electricity Feb 23
100996	£1,980.00	Compass Point	Consultants Fees NP

11.2 Use of Community Infrastructure Payment

- Repairs to Bus Shelter – It was agreed to award the contract for this work to BARTSWO Ltd
- Replacement of Sherbourne Street Noticeboard – It was agreed to award the contract for this work to B Hurren

11.3 Other Financial Matters – None

12. Defibrillator Update - None

13. Highway & Footpath Matters

13.1 Footpath Cutting - None

13.2 Footpath Leaflet – SCC preparing draft leaflet

13.3 Any Other Highways & Footpath Matters – Various signs were reported as being broken. The Chairman to send the Clerk details for reporting.

14. To set future Agenda Items – Climate Change, Possible Co-Option of Councillors

15. Brief Review of Action Points – Election nominations (all), Footpath Signs (P Baker, Clerk)

16. Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Meeting and AGM Monday 15 May 2023 at 7.30pm

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Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DRAFT