

EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 17 January 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None
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 sent his apologies and submitted a report, the contents of which were noted.
 - 3.2 Councillor Bryn Hurren on behalf of BDC was unable to attend and sent his apologies.
4. **Reports and Questions from Councillors and Members of the Public** - None
5. **Minutes of the Meeting of 17th January 2022** – Approved.
6. **Highway & Footpath Matters**
 - 6.1 Footpath Cutting 2022 – Garden Arbs had agreed to continue under the same terms and conditions. The Chairman to draft a revised contract to be signed for the Clerk to send. It was noted that Garden Arbs would need to provide continued evidence of insurance cover before starting any work.
 - 6.2 Footpath Leaflet – No further progress
 - 6.3 Footpath 16 – The Chairman had been in correspondence with representatives of the landowner who was asking about the possibility of installing a Kissing Gate and signage to deter cyclists from using the footpath and causing a potential danger to pedestrians. The Council raised no objection to this suggestion but felt that signage was the initially the best approach. The Chairman to write back with this response.
 - 6.4 Other Highways and Footpath Matters – Councillor's Norman and Wood both raised concerns about damage to steps on footpaths they had been walking. Both to send photographs and details to the Clerk so that the issues can formally be reported to SCC.
7. **Planning Matters:**
 - 5.1 Planning applications received – None
 - 5.2 Planning decisions received and noted - DC/21/05627 - Holt, School Green. Planning Application - Conversion of existing tack room, potting shed & store area to holiday let. – Refused. Councillor Hurren reported that he had taken this case up with the Planning Officers as the reasons for refusing the application seemed to not be in line with the evidence. The applicant was re-applying and the Council agreed to support the new application.
 - 5.3 Other urgent planning matters - None

8. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mike Gibson gave the following update:

Steering group met on 1st December and had almost finalised the questionnaire. This would be completed at the next meeting on 19th January. The plan was for six questions to be asked about local issues such as Housing and the questionnaire would be hand delivered by volunteers to enable Parishioners to ask questions and receive guidance. Questionnaires could be handed back to the volunteer or placed in collection boxes in The White Horse public house or Boxford Post Office. Information to be put on EPC website.

7.1 Footpath Cutting – As the Council was pleased with the work carried out by Garden Arbs, it was agreed to offer them the contract for the coming year.

7.2 Footpath Leaflet – Councillor Wood had provided a draft of the proposed text for discussion shortly before the start of the meeting. It was agreed that Councillors' would study the document outside of the meeting and submit comments.

7.3 Other Highways & Footpath Matters

Sherbourne Street – It was reported that the Broken Sharp Bend Chevron sign, which had been reported several times, had still not been repaired and that a Van had ended up in the ditch at this point in the road. The Clerk to write to Councillor Finch to ask for this matter to be dealt with urgently.

Collapsed drain opposite Christmas House due to vehicles having to leave the road to negotiate past workmen's vans and lorries. Clerk to report this to SCC.

Dormers – Large Pot holes opposite had re-opened.

Bus Shelter – It had been reported that the Bus Shelter needed some renovation work. It was agreed to inspect and discuss at the next meeting.

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

Police and Crime Commissioner Precept Survey – Suffolk PCC was looking to increase the Policing element of Council Tax by £10 per annum to help fund extra staff and improve control room responses. After discussion, it was agreed that Councillors should respond to the survey individually.

10. Financial Matters:

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

Business Savings Account as at 31 December 2021	£2,530.50
Business Current Account as at 31 December 2021	<u>£15,227.82*</u> (£5,381.82)
Total	<u>£17,758.32*</u> (£7,912.32)

*Current Account includes balance of £9,846 towards cost of Neighbourhood Plan which is for this purpose only. Balance minus this amount in brackets.

Payments received:
Bank Interest £0.06

Cheque no	Amount £	Payee	Purpose
100968	£20.00	Edwardstone Parish Hall	Hall Hire NP Meetings 21/10 1/12
100969	£10.00	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Dec 21 – Jan 22

10.2. Budget and Precept 2022/23 – The Budget for 2022/23 was approved and the precept set at £6,133.

10.3. Review of Internal Controls – Deferred until the next meeting

10.4. Banking Arrangements – Clerk had provided the Chairman with information on potential Savings Accounts. As the Chairman was absent, it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

10.5. Other Financial Matters - None

11. Future Agenda Items – Internal Controls, Savings Bus Shelter

12. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 21st March 2022

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.