

# EDWARDSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Edwardstone Parish Council held at Edwardstone Parish Hall on Monday 17 July 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present: P Baker, M Gibson, T Wood, D Williams, L Smyth, J Morgan, R Jones (Clerk)

Guests: B Hurren (Babergh DC)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – R Norman, J Finch (Suffolk CC)
2. **Co-Option of Councillors** – R Norman and D Williams were Co-opted to the Council
3. **Councillors' Declarations of Interests in any item on this Agenda** - None
4. **Minutes of the Meeting of 15 May 2023** – Approved.

## 5. Report from Suffolk County Council

Councillor James Finch reported the following:

**Ukrainian Refugees** - £2,000 one-off support grants to assist with finding private rented accommodation being given to refugees who had been living in the County for a minimum of 2 months and been registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme.

**Future of Library Services** – Was discussed at the next SCC Cabinet meeting on 11 July as the current contract was due to end on 31 July. The Council was keen to procure a new contract and was proud that no libraries had recently been closed in the County. A 10-month extension of the current contract had been recommended to enable a public consultation to take place.

**Suffolk Fire Service** – Plans announced to open a new fire control centre in Suffolk by 2024 to bring the service back into sole control of the County. Service was currently being shared with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough but had run into financial and technical difficulties.

**Recycling** – As part of a new campaign *#shakeitout*, Residents were being urged to ensure they do not contaminate recycling waste by making sure plastic bags were emptied and not put into recycling waste.

**Fostering and Adoption** – Councillor Finch presented a story of a successful young man who had been fostered and shared his experiences. Online Foster Care Recruitment events were still being held on the first Wednesday of every month and Adoption events on the first Thursday. Interest could be registered by e-mailing [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk) or calling 01473 264800.

## 6. Questions from Members of the Public – None

## 7. Financial Matters

7.1 Statement of Finances & Orders for Payment and Q1 accounts were approved as follows:

Business Savings Account as at 30 June 2023	£2,541.37
Business Current Account (Barclays) as at 30 June 2023	£57.20
Business Current Account (Unity Trust) at 30 June 2023	£4,428.73
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£7,027.30</u></b>

Payments received:  
Bank Interest £5.29

<b>Cheque no</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
300051	£603.50	R J Jones	Clerk's Salary Apr-Jun 23
300052	£98.40	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's Salary
300036	£81.99	R J Jones	Clerk's Expenses Jun – Jul 23
d/d	£10.44	Npower	Electricity May 23
d/d	£11.18	Npower	Electricity Apr 23

7.2 Purchase of New Laptop – The Clerk reported that due to ongoing operational problems with the Council's Laptop Computer, he had sought advice from a local Computer Repair Man who had advised that the hard drive was failing and the device could not cope with the latest technology. In view of this, approval was being sought to purchase a replacement laptop. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk source and purchase a new Laptop.

**The Council approved the purchase of a new Laptop Computer up to the value of £400.00.**

**Action – R Jones**

7.3 Bus Shelter Update – As the repair work had now been completed it was agreed that Councillor Wood make further contact with the local Air Cadets to carry out the painting as previously discussed. Approval was given for a donation of £100.00 to be made to the group.

**Action – T Wood**

7.4 Other Financial Matters – As Richard Norman, the previous auditor was now a member of the Council, the Clerk would need to employ a new auditor to carry out the annual internal audit.

**Action – R Jones**

Banking – Councillors Baker, Wood and Gibson to meet with the Clerk on 25<sup>th</sup> July to complete change of mandate forms.

## **8. To consider Planning Matters:**

8.1. Planning applications received - DC/23/03089 Edwardstone Lodge, Sherbourne Street Application for Listed Building Consent - Alterations to outbuilding including insertion of new first floor painted timber casement window into new structural opening within brickwork flank wall approved under DC/21/00412. Replacement of modern glazed window & adjoining vertically boarded timber door. – No Objection

DC/23/01474 Sommet, Mill Green Householder Application - Erection of two storey side extension, insertion of rooflight and construction of 11No solar panels to front elevation and detached cartlodge (following demolition of attached garage). – No Objection

8.2 Planning Decisions received – None

8.3 Other Planning Matters – None

**9. Neighbourhood Plan Update** – Councillor's Baker and Gibson had met with MP James Cartlidge and had raised concerns over the lack of clarity from the Government on whether funding would continue. At things stood, it was still not clear if funding to continue the project would be forthcoming.

## **10. Chairman's & Clerk's reports and correspondence**

### **20's Plenty Campaign**

The Chairman presented a report on a webinar he had attended, with representatives of other Parish Councils, presented by the 20s Plenty Campaign. The Campaign were seeking PC support to put pressure on Suffolk County Council to adopt a 20mph speed limit on all roads where people live, work, shop, play or learn. The Chairman said that the response from most of the other PCs who attended had been positive. Whilst Councillors' agreed that speeding was an issue on certain roads in Edwardstone, they were not convinced that a 20mph speed limit would make a significant difference. The Council decided not to support the 20's Plenty for Suffolk campaign, but to remain open to concerns being raised about speeding.

## **11. Climate Change –**

11.1 Report from the joint meeting on Wildfires and Community Emergency Plan - The Chairman reported that five local Parish Council's were now involved and had met again on 11<sup>th</sup> July. The next step would be to agree a joint plan although it was possible that the plan could be divided into smaller or individual plans with the proviso that resources would be shared across the parishes.

11.2 Electric Vehicle Charging Points – No update. Deferred until next meeting

**12. Defibrillator Update –** The Clerk had received communication that an inspection was due. This information to be passed to Councillor Morgan.

**Action – R Jones**

## **13. Highway & Footpath Matters**

13.1 Footpath Cutting – In view of the admin and time involved in setting up an annual contract, the Clerk was proposing the adoption of a multi(3)-year contract and had found evidence that this had been adopted by other Parish Councils. It was agreed that the Clerk present a report to the next meeting to enable a three-year grass cutting contract to be adopted from 2024.

13.2 Footpath Leaflet – Still awaiting feedback on the draft from SCC representative.

13.3 Other Highways & Footpath Matters – Litter bin missing at War Memorial. Councillor Norman to advise the Clerk of measurements. Broken Dog Waste bin on Millenium Green. Clerk to source replacements.

**Action – R Norman. R Jones**

**14. Future Agenda Items –**Defibrillator, Footpath Cutting Contract

**15. Date of next meeting – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November2023 at 7.00pm**

Meeting closed at 10.30pm

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