

**Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council held
on 14th November 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Easton on the Hill**

Present: Cllr Green, Cllr Holwell, Cllr Lawson, Cllr Mountain, Cllr Nicol (Chairman), Cllr Watson. Clerk: J Rice

Members of the public; 3

22/64	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	To receive and note apologies sent to the Clerk. Apologies were received from Cllr Bates, Cllr Firth, Cllr McAllister. Cllr Cherry was not present.	
22/65	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to update their register if necessary. (Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business). Cllr Nicol declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 69.2 due to his Birch Tree Café connections. There were no other declarations of interest made.	
22/66	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting. A max of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda. Chairman to remind the public of the Public Speaking at Council and Committee Meetings policy and remind Councillors of one of the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life. The Chairman reminded the public about the standards for public speaking and also reminded Councillors about the principle of Openness. A member of public spoke about the recent water supply interruption affecting residents, in particular the lack of communication from Anglian Water (AW), their variation in approach to helping residents and his concerns about the fragility of the system. He asked for Parish Council (PC) support in contacting AW and the Chairman confirmed that whilst it is not on the agenda and not an issue for them to fix, he asked for permission to write on behalf of the PC in support of the resident's concerns regarding dependability and clarity of the situation, as there was significant outage affecting many residents.	
22/67	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (previously circulated)	
	To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th October 2022, previously circulated and herewith. Chairman to sign. The minutes were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.	
22/68	MATTERS ARISING from previous meeting. None raised.	
22/69	PLANNING	
	69.1	To receive and note latest minutes and feedback from planning committee meetings. Cllr Lawson gave a verbal update from the Planning Committee meeting just before this meeting. It was noted that the outline application regarding the 44-bed care home was decided by the committee as one of support but with concerns over dangerous access and road crossing points and a strong request for a pelican (at least) crossing.
	69.2	To respond to any applications falling into the remit of the full Parish Council. There were none. It was noted that Councillors and residents can send their own responses as individuals if they wish to the above application by 28/11/22.
22/70	LIGHTING CONTRACT AND SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY	
	70.1	To receive and note update regarding new contract for electricity supply needed from 1/4/23 and decide action/new contract/max. new contract. See budget item below. The Clerk reported that there were still no up to date costings but the latest indications are that the price per unit will rise by 3.6 times and this has been built into the budget for now. The option to switch some lights off at night have been explored but the outlay would be too much to change sensors to timers. It was agreed to get best costs and present them to council and agree a new contract by January at the latest. Action Clerk

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

22/71	PLAYING FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PFMC) Cllr Bates, Cllr Cherry, Cllr Watson and Cllr Woodman, plus Kevin Cox, and Ian Coupe, Cricket Club committee member, CRICKET CLUB AND THE DRIFT	
	71.1	To receive update on PFMC and Caretaker activity, see minutes dated 3/11/22, herewith. To include feedback on Woodland area, old swings, seating, grants/plans for future. See budget item below. Cllr Watson gave an update on the activities as above – the caretaker contract terms are being reviewed, the Woodland area is being progressed, the swings will be removed as they cannot be repaired safely and some work is being done on future grant funding for the overall facilities. Action PFMC, K Cox
	71.2	To note resignation of, and thanks to, D Davenport, ex PFMC (and VPWP) member. This was noted, thanks given and the vacancy to be filled was acknowledged.
	71.3	To note grant application made to Augean for permanent electricity supply to playing field, at reduced request of a 10k grant. Grant application also made to ECB. This was noted and the decision by end of January 2023 noted also.
	71.4	To receive and note request from PFMC for the full council to consider applying for a 100 -110k Public Works Loan Board loan now, payable over 25 years at approx. repayments of approx. £639 pm for purchasing a MUGA. To resolve to investigate further and/or hold a public meeting to discuss. Cllr Watson explained the request from the PFMC to satisfy the long-term vision of a MUGA and pump track as lottery and similar grants are harder to obtain without matched funding. It was agreed that this level of financial commitment should have input from the whole village. It was agreed a consultation will be done to see what demand there is for a MUGA and pump track and willingness for a loan to pay for it, or other options explored. Firm figures and criteria will be explored for the consultation, also how the feedback will be used will need to be decided. Action PFMC
22/72	REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES	
	72.1	Trees and Greens Working Party (Cllr Bates, Cllr Green, Cllr Holwell, Cllr Mountain) a) To note and receive any feedback from TAGWP on application to Member Empowerment Fund (MEF) for tree/bench/plaque/fencing. Cllr Mountain explained the plan for a Rowan tree and a memorial plaque but no more benches were thought needed. Further quotes will be obtained and the MEF grant applied for, including the new fencing and other works. It was reported that the Maples need work and a further quote will be obtained for the next meeting. Action Cllr Holwell/TAG b) To agree to purchase pots (£25) and compost for new trees (£50 max), being cared for by Birch Tree café. This was agreed.
	72.2	Checkers reports/village maintenance a) To receive Spring Close and defib checker reports for September and October. (Cllr Cherry was September checker and Cllr McAllister for October) and agree any actions/expenditure. To arrange replacement checker for November. No forms/checks have been received for September or October. It was reinforced that Councillors need to fulfil this rota requirement or arrange for someone else to carry out the checks. Cllr Holwell agreed to cover November and December Action All/Cllr Holwell b) To agree quote or team to paint green bench. Cllr Mountain agreed to ask D of E students to paint the bench and costs up to £20 agreed.
	72.3	Village Hall. To receive and note update from link Councillor. It was noted that there is a meeting on Monday and that the Village Hall were looking at a new sign for the outside of the building.
	72.4	Vehicle Activation Devices and Traffic Working Group (Cllr Green and Cllr Woodman). a) To note new MVAS received and to be installed. This was noted and that data is already available. It was further noted that the grit bin signs have been done by Cllr Lawson and Cllr Woodman. b) To note rest of grant to be used for repairs to the other device. This was noted and in hand. Action Cllr Woodman
	72.5	Joint Action Group/Police Liaison Representative (PLR) Cllr Mountain. To note meetings suspended at present. To note feedback from any other meetings. It was noted that no meetings have been held.
22/73	COST OF LIVING CRISIS	

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	73.1	To receive and note feedback from warm space event. To consider a donation from grant money towards resources, application to follow. To consider if any further actions necessary. It was noted that 17 people attended the first event, with different needs, all serving a purpose. It was agreed to donate £150 to the events and E Hanson has been sent a grant form.	
22/74	ALLOTMENTS		
	74.1	To receive (verbal) update from Allotment Manager, P Bates. To note reports chased with Longhurst Group on Damson tree, sign on green area The Crescent, bus shelter. P Bates was not present. It was noted that the trees are hopefully in hand by Longhurst Gp but communication is slow.	
22/75	FINGER POST SIGNS		
	75.1	To receive and note update on the new signposts following feedback from NNC. To resolve to purchase and install new post (£450 supply and fit by Eon or £200 fit only) and new signs (£210) It was agreed that the Councillors involved will decide the best and most appropriate way to progress this, as regulations require, up to an approved amount of £1000 with the expectation of it costing much less. Action Cllr Nicol, Cllr Woodman, Clerk	
22/76	GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND TRAINING		
	76.1	To receive and note latest finance position/report, herewith, and Councillor internal checks feedback to end of October and resolve any queries, herewith. The monthly report was noted and there were no questions.	
	76.2	To receive and note draft budget proposal and notes and proposed precept for 23/24 from finance working group/clerk and discuss content and put forward any queries and amendments, herewith. Cllr Nicol went through the draft budget and precept proposal for 23/24. It was noted that there are higher cost pressures next year due to a national staff pay increases, proposed caretaker contract increases (offset by hire income) and streetlighting costs increasing by nearly 4k. Project budget costs are £2500 for the Parish Council (£1250 less than last year) and £5500 for the Playing Field projects, (£2250 higher than last year). The playing field also has £3250 budget earmarked unspent from this year. There is still a 2k build up of general reserves (1k less than last year) included for unexpected expenditure, especially important in these uncertain times and although reserves levels are satisfactory, a bigger buffer is considered sensible. This means an increase of 10.4% in precept to £38847, in line with inflation and equates to 0.66p pm for Band D households. It was noted that residents should see the improvements already made and continuing throughout the village. The budget was agreed, with the added note that if the lighting costs vary significantly from that predicted, the budget will be adjusted either way. Action Clerk	
	76.3	To note sign up to the NALC/SLCC Civility + Respect Pledge and certificate received and displayed. This was noted. Action Cllr Lawson	
	76.4	To receive, note and agree training sessions available/wanting to attend and feedback from recent training attended. To note free place voucher on any Councillor Development Framework course. Climate Conference 22/11/22 from 9.30-12.30 zoom Cllr Nicol gave feedback from the electric charging points course.	
22/77	CLERK CORRESPONDENCE /INFORMATION TO NOTE: a) Electoral register request form to be completed if required, prev circulated. This was noted. b) Reminder from NNC about Register of Interests forms and updates to forms. This was noted. c) Availability of Community grants from NHW £100-£500 for crime prevention, NHW work, loneliness, deadline 30/11/22. It was agreed to send this to E Hanson for the winter warmer events. Action Clerk		
22/78	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT		
	To agree payments to be made/made as follows. Payments were agreed as follows:		
	78.1	Reimburse Clerk for monthly HP ink plans. E printer £4.49 pm and £12.06	£16.55
	78.2	HMRC employer/ee payment for November	£15.70
	78.3	Clerk mileage for October	£33.30
	78.4	PDF simpli – pdf file merging, converting, editing £3.95 pm reimburse Clerk October and M/Soft sub	£3.95 and £5.99
	78.5	SSE Electricity bill as per contract	£111.77
	78.6	Leics Gardens grass cutting as per contract for 6th and 28 th Sept	£570

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	78.7	Room hire, village hall	£38
	78.8	ICT hosting of website and emails	£447.60
	78.9	Invoice from Caretaker for October and November	£100 and as per invoice
	78.10	Reimburse Cllr Woodman for MVAS clips	£7.69
	78.11	Reimburse Clerk for dog fouling signs	£5.78
	78.12	Clerk salary £843.70 plus £26 home office less HMRC tax £2.80 payable 30/11/22	£866.90
	78.13	Agreed at the meeting, signs, pots, compost	£75 plus tbc
	78.14	Cllr Nicol reimburse for mower repairs	£33.01
	78.15	CJ Wildcare insect hotel from Woodland grant	£311.99
22/79	RECEIPTS	To note income received; Hire of playing field from WPFC for October £200 donation to Mar memorial cash paid in £500 donation to PF seating MVM £300 donation to PF seating VAT reclaim paid 14/10	£180 due £200 £500 £300 £6652.83
22/80	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS It was noted that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 12 th December 2022 at 7pm. Next PFMC meeting is 1/2/23 at 6pm. Next Planning Committee meeting is 6pm on 12/12/22. See website and notice board for details. www.eastononthehill-pc.gov.uk		

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____