

Minutes of the meeting of Easton on the Hill Parish Council

held on 13th January 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Easton on the Hill

Present: Cllr Green, Cllr Holwell, Cllr Lawson, Cllr Mountain, Cllr Nicol (Chairman), Cllr Whileman and Cllr Woodman

Clerk: J Rice and members of the public: 1

24/137	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive apologies sent to the Clerk. Apologies were received from Cllr McAllister (ongoing), Cllr Watson and Cllr Bates. Cllr Bradberry was not present but previously said he was poorly.	
24/138	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). There were no declarations of interest made.	
24/139	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 Councillors of one of the Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life. There was one member of the public present who did not speak at this item. The Chairman reminded the Councillors of the principle of integrity.	
24/140	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING To confirm as correct the record of the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 th December 2024, previously circulated. Chairman to sign. The minutes were agreed as a true record, apart from the item 128.1a – the grit bins are not all full but will be checked in due course. They were amended and duly signed by the Chairman. A resident had queried some grit bins and these will be checked out too. Action Cllr Lawson	
24/141	MATTERS ARISING from previous meeting. There were none.	
24/142	GOVERNANCE, TRAINING AND FINANCE	
	142.1	To receive finance report and internal checks until end of December 2024 and resolve any queries, herewith. To note further reduced level of reserves predicted and expenditure to be carefully monitored in last quarter. The clerk went through the financial position. The basic budget is still running at 11% over budget and the project budget is overspent as the playing field budget C/F from last year is not shown. Some notable headings overspent are grass cutting, asset maintenance, offset by hire income. The bank balance at 27.7k has earmarked reserves included of 2.3k and the car park costs of 9k to take off, plus costs to end of year of approx. 8k. With income expected this leaves a predicted general reserves of 13k. The budget for next year includes a build up of 4k. The Clerk advised careful spending within budget to end of year. The internal finance checks are in hand.
	142.2	To note free training on offer and also for elections on 30/1/25 and 12/2/25 10-12 by zoom and eve slot 4/2/25, 7-9pm via zoom and agree attendance. Councillors to advise the Clerk if they require the election training. Action all
	142.3	To receive, note and agree advertising/campaign/actions for local Councillor elections in May 2025. The Chairman advised a "warm up" to residents via FB and What's on the Hill to inform residents and Councillors are urged to talk to prospective candidates. A presentation will be made at the March Annual Parish Meeting to encourage new candidates. Action All/Cllr Nicol
	142.4	To receive and note contract deals for The Briers lighting - expires in January 2025 and agree action/company. The Clerk had circulated a paper and proposal detailing the quotes obtained and it was decided to move the contract to Yu Energy for a better rate and a 2 year contract. Action Clerk
24/143	PLAYING FIELD AND PLAYING FIELD WORKING GROUP (PFWG)	
	143.1	To receive and note completion of car park remediation and installation of a height barrier and receive any feedback of note, including log placement. It was noted that the car park was completed and also the height barrier, for which Cllr Watson was thanked for his work and a donation of materials. It was noted that the cost was £600 cheaper than quoted due to the stone used. It was agreed that The Drift holes will possibly be tackled at a future time. Cllr Woodman raised the issue of difficulties parents were having with getting around the log where it is currently moved to and it was agreed a few Councillors would meet on site to review it and see if a fence could be installed with the leftover posts and rails. Action Cllrs

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	143.2	To receive, note and understand CCTV policies, to follow, and camera signage plus communication to residents and agree installation. It was noted that the camera is still being set up and so the policies will be completed when this is ready and details agreed. At present it was agreed that the Clerk is the administrator and main user and also that residents had had enough notification. The policy on image access and storage/timescales will be restricted as per policy. Action Clerk
	143.3	To note any report from PFWG – no new meeting held. Update to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To receive and note feedback from WPFC on club future and agree action/meeting, herewith. Information from the club contact on the club’s future was received and noted and the club has indicated a desire to continue, with some help from the Parish Council. It was noted that they are keen to promote the club in the village and change the name to Easton, which the Council is open to doing, including a review of charges. Cllr Nicol had started to prepare some running costs but said it is complex as to what should be included in an “all in” hire charge and what is for the Parish Council to support. The principles were agreed that a fair pricing strategy would be developed and Councillors would think about what is reasonable, and that the Clerk would investigate other councils. Action All/Clerk - To note Ketton club hire in January (and possibly more) and agree any changes to arrangements. It was noted that this did not go ahead due to bad weather however the pricing for the future bookings would be £75 per session for pavilion and pitch. - To note regular cleaning of the pavilion/adherence to agreement – further update on situation/action. It was reported that the standard of cleanliness has much improved. It was agreed that a new boot scraper will be purchased to assist in limiting the spread of mud. Action Clerk - To note latest works at pavilion and agree end of works list. It was reported that all the major works have now been completed and thanks were recorded to all those concerned. It was agreed to consider the March annual meeting is held at the pavilion. - To note end of pest control contract and resolve whether to continue. It was noted that the contract ended in mid December however no contact had been received despite requests to address the molehills before this date. Further quotes will be obtained to consider continuation of a service. Action Clerk
	143.4	Health and safety - to note feedback and update on monthly play equipment and pavilion checks and agree any necessary new actions, new audit tbc. It was reported that all previously H and S identified issues have been addressed and a further review will be undertaken soon. The contractor reported the molehills as a problem. It was further reported that the remaining Rospa identified issues are in hand. Action Clerk
24/144	PLANNING COMMITTEE (Cllr Lawson, Cllr Mountain, Cllr McAllister, Cllr Watson and Cllr Woodman)	
	144.1	To note latest feedback from the Planning Committee. Cllr Lawson reported on the two applications (one an appeal) that have been refused recently.
24/145	REPORTS	FROM REPRESENTATIVES
	145.1	Checkers reports/village maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To receive checker reports from Councillors and address any issues raised. Cllr Nicol for December/January and Cllr Watson for February. The month’s checks are in hand. b) To note any new reports of village maintenance. There were none.
	145.2	Village Hall -To note any update from Cllr Green, representative. It was reported that the next meeting is Wednesday 15/1/25 and a report will be given from that.
	145.3	Police Liaison Representative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To receive and note any update, Cllr Whileman. Cllr Whileman reported he’d made contact with local police and a meet up is being arranged. It was stated that no issues or concerns are reported for this parish, however the data is not very specific from Neighbourhood Watch. It was agreed that communications are all important to notify the police of all crime related activity to enable any policing to be forthcoming if it’s necessary. Action Cllr Whileman/all
	145.4	Traffic Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To receive update from working group. Cllr Woodman reported an issue with getting the data off one unit and he will contact the supplier if necessary. Action Cllr Woodman
24/146	ALLOTMENTS	

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

	146.1	To receive update from Allotment Manager, if available. There was no new update due to ill health.	
24/147	TREES AND GREENS WORKING GROUP (INCL NATURE RECOVERY) (Cllr Green, Cllr Mountain, Cllr Holwell and Cllr Bates) TO CLOSE THE MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC FOR REASONS OF COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY FOR ITEM a) The member of public left the room. a) To receive and note grass cutting quotes received and resolve contractor/action. The quotes were opened, compared and discussed and a vote taken on a contractor. TO OPEN UP THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC – no public returned. b) To feedback on decision on contractor for grass cutting for 25/26 onwards. The Clerk expressed a concern that the quotes were not comparable as per the requirement in the financial regulations due to PC equipment being partly used, however the Councillors were still happy with the decision. It was noted the 25/26 budget was sufficient, however caution was expressed over a possible understated quote. It was agreed that a break clause and an annual review would be agreed as part of the contract and all the contractors would be notified of the decision. The Clerk will also confirm the exact details and the insurance situation with the contractor. Action Clerk c) To note new trees/sleeves to be delivered. Cllr Mountain reported on the progress with the grant purchases and is formalising the actions of the nature recovery plan into one document. It was agreed that Jeff Davies’ “expert” plan for the Woodland area will be supported as he describes, and no changes are necessary to be made. It was noted that planting days will be advertised if needing help. Action Cllrs d) To receive any feedback from Trees and Greens Group, including post and rail availability/or next grant. Cllr Holwell reported available posts and rails for replacements and this will be arranged in due course.		
24/148	COMMUNITY SUPPORT/ENGAGEMENT/ISSUES/VILLAGE GROUPS - To suggest and agree any specific items for February’s What’s on the Hill Cllr Nicol agreed he would do an election piece and Clerk to do rest.		
24/149	CLERK CORRESPONDENCE /INFORMATION TO NOTE: a) To note feedback on defib refresher training. A reply from the previous trainer is awaited. b) To note date for April meeting may need changing due to Clerk holiday and suggest 7/4/25. N/A now. c) To note government propose to change to combined authorities, circulated. This was received and noted. d) It was agreed that the Clerk will do an “upholding standards in public life” survey.		
24/150	LAND REGISTRATION To receive and note any update from company registering land eg Pocket Park. It was noted that the Clerk had sent some information but no reply or feedback had yet been received. Cllrs will visit the archives for some more. Action Cllr Woodman and Cllr Lawson		
24/151	ORDERS FOR PAYMENT To agree payments to be made as follows; Payments were agreed as follows;		
	151.1	Clerk reimburse for HP ink plans E printer £4.49 plus one shared with other PCs £8.57.	£13.06
	151.2	Clerk reimburse for Microsoft package October and home office allowance, plus mileage	£5.99, £26, £5.40
	151.3	HMRC employer NI payment and employee tax/NI payment January, less credit of £31.34	£39.80
	151.4	Yu Energy electricity bill as per contract, paid by direct debit, December	£441.54 and £17.92
	151.5	EDF Briers electricity for street lighting, paid by DD, December	£26.73
	151.6	EDF Energy for pavilion usage charged to WPFC by DD	£78.54
	151.7	Village hall hire	£28
	151.8	Clerk salary/hours payable 1/1/25, £1030.02 less tax and NI due - above	£1027.76
	151.9	Multipay card monthly fee and bank charges, monthly DD	£3/£6 to be reviewed
	151.10	Grounds Maintenance Contractor invoice for December 2024, labour and materials	£516.32
	151.11	Mountain Recycling DD	£37.49
	151.12	Leics Gardens for grass cutting invoice for last, extra cut agreed for Spring Close	£160
	151.13	A Hinch contractor for car park materials and boot scraper tbc	£8980 plus vat, approx £134
	151.14	Reimburse J Watson for barrier signage	£63.84
	151.15	Vision ICT Hub on the Hill domain renewal	£30
24/152	RECEIPTS	To note income received; WPFC for hire/utility Nature Recovery grant	£351.98 paid in Dec £390.50 paid Jan, £360.66 due £4184.50 received
24/153	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS It was noted that the date of the next meeting is 10 th February 2025 at 7pm in the pavilion. And the next Planning Committee meeting is to be agreed, dependent on new applications.		

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____