

GREAT EASTON AND TILTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30pm

ONLINE MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Paul Kelly – Mark Claxton – Tristan Martens – Fiona Down – Julia England – Peter Neale – Nicole Thake

Clerk: Wendy Hall

Residents/Guests: Cllr Martin Foley, Ben Bayliss Davey, John Sandlin, Mike Ferris, Zoe Oakes, Dave Oakes, John Lewis, Leena Bloxham, David Bloxham, Les Locke, David Hahn, Kate Rixson.

1. Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone attending

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Michael Taylor

3. Declaration of Members Interests

Paul Kelly GECA, SSE, Tristan Martens Essex Wildlife, SSE, Mark Claxton GECA, Fiona Down SSE, Tilty Church, Tilty Church Warden, Conservative Party, Stop Easton Park, Peter Neale GECA, Nicole Thake DHCA.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 29th October 2020, having been circulated prior to the meeting were agreed.

5. Matters Arising NOT on the Agenda

Nothing to report.

6. Public Forum

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for attending he asked Kate Rixson if she would like to address the PC regarding the planning application UTT/20/2962/FUL as she is a neighbouring resident, Kate thanked the PC for the invitation to attend, she would like to know the PC views on this application, she feels that the proposal is too large and not in keeping with the local surroundings due to the design and proposed materials that are to be used. A short discussion was held and it was agreed that we should provide comments and support the objections of the surrounding neighbours.

Leena Bloxham addressed the PC with various questions relating to Burns Playing and Dunmow United. These concerned if the Deed of Gift had been located and registered with the Land Registry and why are Dunmow United playing this coming weekend, when still in lockdown – The chairman answered that DUFC will not be returning this weekend and that these and other questions will be dealt with under the specific agenda item concerning DUFC/Burns, which he will move up the agenda.

7. DUFC/Burns Playing Field

The Chairman addressed the meeting and thanked Ben and John from DUFC for attending, he went on to provide the following information. In 1988 Gordon Burns gifted Burns Playing Field to the PC under a formal 'Deed of Gift' which contained covenants that it was to be called Burns Playing Field for the use by the residents of Great Easton and Duton Hill, as a playing field. The Chairman has spent numerous hours going through old minutes and other documentation pertaining to Burns Playing Field and can find no evidence that it was left solely to the Children of Duton Hill, as purported by Mr & Mrs Bloxham. It was also suggested by Mrs Bloxham in a previous email that the current changing rooms were originally supposed to be a village hall. Cllr Martens stated that he had looked into this and that the changing rooms had always been designed as such. There is no evidence to suggest any plans for a village hall at this location and the current brick built changing rooms actually replaced previous wooden iterations. He has reviewed all the previous planning applications to confirm this and also established that the current structure was funded by a grant from the

FA. Cllr Martens also pointed out that the extension to the car park was funded by the PC to alleviate the parking issues in Abbey View caused by football teams and evidence for this can be found in minutes from 2014. The work was completed on 20/11/2015 under his supervision.

The Chairman invited Ben Bayliss Davey, Chairman from DUFC to provide some information relating to the club. He stated that this is their third season at Burns and they have players from Duton Hill, Great Easton, Broxted and some of the other surrounding villages, they are not a commercial organisation, with funding obtained through player subscription and spent entirely on running the club (kit, equipment, leasing pitches etc). In the past year they have reduced their teams from 20 down to 18 with a range of ages, they have approx. 36 volunteers. Zoe Oakes asked if they were a non-profit organisation. Ben replied yes they were and any money left over after costs is put back into the club. David Hahn said that he is all for football but does feel that the club is too big and the village cannot accommodate this infrastructure and does feel for the residents and that information could have been communicated in a different way. Ben advised that they have reduced their teams at Burns there is now only 4 teams that use this site (remainder play at Laundry Lane pitches). Zoe stated that it used to be 1 game a week and this has now increased to 4 games a week back-to-back.

The Chairman asked Ben to clarify if any Councillors have any connection, financial or otherwise, to DUFC in relation to Burns playing field and Laundry Lane – he advised there was no such connection.

Cllr England asked that if football is allowed back how many games are normally scheduled – Ben advised Training on Saturdays and 2 x games on a Sunday with an hour gap between.

The Chairman advised the following – from all of our previous discussions and after speaking with Duton Hill residents, it is clear parking is the core issue and football being played is not in itself a concern, indeed many want this to continue if possible. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, certain solutions initially suggested have been unable to be implemented, by DUFC, such as car sharing, drop and go etc. However, the PC have hopefully found a solution to the parking issue. We have now secured permission from the landowner of the field, just up from the Three Horseshoes in Duton Hill, to use as a car park. This means that football can re-commence from 5th December at the playing field, with this arrangement in place until the end of the season. Additionally, DUFC have agreed to fulfil the following obligations;

- Parking Marshalls to direct help manage parking at Burns and direct surplus cars to the new overflow car park,
- Visiting team to be briefed in advance to park in the new car park and not to arrive until 30 mins before the game, allowing minimum time in the Village.
- Home or Away teams are not to park in Abney View.
- DUFC will communicate times of the matches and work alongside the PC and the local residents in Duton Hill going forward.

Les Locke pointed out the mess and mud often left behind in the roadway – Ben advised that they do litter pick before and after the games, he suggested that they can install something to bang boots into and ensure this is done before leaving the field.

The Chairman apologised that at our last meeting we were unable to report on progress with the new parking area. Cllr Martens stated that he was still in discussion with the landowners at that time regarding use of the field for parking and had only just received that permission in the last few days.

The Chairman pointed out that at the last meeting the question was raised by Zoe and David Oakes regarding what priority was been given by the PC to the residents of Abbey View over the parking issue. He stated that from the outset the PC had engaged with DUFC in seeking solutions, with Abbey View and Duton Hill residents as a priority. The Pandemic lockdown then ensued causing football to halt until the end of the season. When it returned in September and the parking issue again raised its head, the PC suspended DUFC from playing until now, again with the disruption to Abbey view residents in mind. In the meantime, the PC held meetings with the many Duton Hill residents, sought practical solutions to help alleviate

the parking problem and succeeded in securing the additional parking area mentioned this evening. This as well as agreeing with DUFC to prevent parking outside houses in Abbey View leading up to the car park on match/training days. The Chairman suggested that these actions make it obvious that Abbey View residents were prioritised throughout.

Leena Bloxham still feels that her question regarding what has happened to the original sign has not been answered. The Chairman advised that he has spoken to previous Councillors and residents and nobody remembers such a sign. Cllr Claxton advised that if she can establish the wording for the sign, we can look to re-erect it.

Cllr Neale then spoke to Mr Bloxham regarding emails he had sent and questioned him on some assertions made within them. He focussed on derogatory comments made concerning the Chairman and Cllr Martens. This was interrupted by Zoe and David Oakes who stated they were uncomfortable with this conversation. The Chairman suggested we now focus on how the new arrangements on match days work over the ensuing weeks and that we close off on this agenda item for now.

8. Tree Planting Burns Playing Field

Cllr Claxton advised that we are looking to secure a grant to plant some specimen trees along the river's edge, he proposes to seek money for 20 trees and to work with the Community Association to plant in the New Year. Cllr Martens advised that we look to plant natural hedgerow as cost is minimal and can be done on an annual basis in various areas of Burns and Brocks Mead etc.

9. Nomination of the Swan Public House ACV

Cllr Martens advised that the nomination of the Swan Public House is a very straightforward process it can be nominated as it has a value to the local community, this allows UDC to list the building as an Asset of Community Value and can be purchased if the owner decides to sell, he has spoken to Dave Scott, the Licensee, and he has no problem with this. Councillors all agreed. Cllr Down said that this might be a good idea for the Three Horseshoes in Duton Hill. Cllr England said this was tried before but Derek the Owner didn't not want this to happen and strongly objected.

10. Village Hall

Expenses – Anglia Fire £95.64, Caretaker Hours £97.50, Materials £80.30.
The Chairman advised that Keep Fit will resume the week after next under COVID regulations. Cllr Martens asked if the Clerk could compile Income for the last 3 years from the hall to establish the effect COVID has had. The chairman advised that we did receive a £10,000 grant from UDC for the COVID impact.

11. Reports from Representatives

Planning

UTT/20/2833/LB	Kearseys Barn, Wolseys Chase	No Objections
UTT/20/2832/HHF	Kearseys Barn, Wolseys Chase	No Objections
UTT/20/2921/HHF	Easton Hall Cottage, The Endway	No Objections
UTT/20/2922/LB	Easton Hall Cottage, The Endway	No Objections
UTT/20/2934/HHF	Easton Hall Cottage, The Endway	No Objections
UTT/20/2867/HHF	Abbey Cottage	Comments to be made-Fiona to provide to Wendy
UTT/20/2962/FUL	Land East Maltings Bridge	Comments as per discussion in Public Forum.

Annexe at The Folly

Cllr Down advised that she had spoken to UDC and they can be flexible with deadline date and she will be putting something together to submit.

Marshes Planning Application

Still under investigation.

Planning Application Determined

UTT/20/2272/OP

Hyde Farm, Gallows Green

Refused 02/11/20

Playing Fields

Cllr Claxton asked about 'Miss Piggy'. Cllr Neale advised that it was back and Farr Industries are to come back with the cost.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

River Interest:

Cllr Martens advised that river was high but then fell very quickly. Cllr Neale advised there were a couple of trees that he will remove, Cllr Martens said they were being left in as there were still no railings.

Road Safety/Highways

The Chairman advised there was still no further update on the speed limit in Gallows Green and the speed limit sign at the Moat House is in hand and we should hear something soon. Regarding the missing railings at the bridge/ford in Great Easton a strong letter was sent to Highways and the Chairman has since had a meeting with a structural engineer and contractor on site. They should be contacting him in the next day or so for work to be carried out next week. He also mentioned the bridge in Duton Hill to the engineer. Cllr England said she did see a truck there and the Chairman asked for info to be sent over to him regarding this. Cllr Thake said she may be able to get photos.

Cllr England advised that Mr Trembarth was still causing excessive mud on the Tilty road. Cllr Simon Walsh did reply to her original email but nothing has happened, since. Her neighbours have also sent letters as the mud is now causing a problem by blocking drains – she will draft a letter to be put on PC headed paper.

Cllr England asked about the hedge in Duton Hill – Cllr Down has been in contact with the owners - she will chase.

Cllr Martens will arrange a cut to the grass and hedge on field to be used by DUFC.

Airport

The Chairman is still waiting to hear from SSE about personal representations at the upcoming appeal hearing. Cllr Foley advised that PC and members of the public can go online and look at planning the deadline has been extended to 7/12/20

12. Clerks Correspondence.

Expenses were as follows Clerk Salary x 1 £303.33, Grass Cut x 2 £945.56, Email & Website £599.00.

13. Any Other Business

The Chairman advised that the new more official email addresses are being set up and will be sent out along with instructions on how to upload to your own devices, when ready these are to be used for all communication.

Cllr Martens advised that he has sent around a policy that had been amended for us to adopt for the Co-option of a new Councillor. Cllr Claxton advised that this needed to be checked before we adopt it as our own. As some time has passed the Clerk will contact UDC to re-advertise the position.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 28th January 2021 7.30pm location to be determined.

Chairman.....Date.....