

Clerk: Kate Rixson
 Address: Great Easton Village Hall, Great Easton, Dunmow, CM6 2HF
 Telephone: 01371 404220
 Email: parish.clerk@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk
 Web: www.greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the Great Easton and Tilty Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 29 February 2024 in Great Easton Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors

Cllr T Martens (Chairman), Cllr D Hahn, Cllr J Heath (from item 02.24.03), Cllr C Hurst, Cllr J England, Cllr P Neale and Cllr J Stevens.

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Six members of the public attended including Cllrs Haynes and Foley and the PCSO M O'Donnell-Smith.

	The Chairman opened the meeting at 7 pm
02.24.01	Apologies for absence Apologies were noted, and the reasons accepted by resolution, from Cllr Benterman.
02.24.02	Declarations of interest None declared
02.24.03	Item 5 of the agenda was dealt with here. Decision to co-opt to fill vacancy in Duton Hill ward Jenny Heath was proposed by Cllr Stevens and Cllr Hahn seconded. The council resolved unanimously to appoint Jenny Heath who signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the council.
02.24.04	Minutes of the meeting on 25 January 2024 The minutes of the council meeting on 25 January 2024 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the chairman.
02.24.05	Public participation session Representations and comments were made concerning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for farm vehicles to use The Endway and issues of damage to the green and verges. • Listed building consent for replacement French doors at The Cart Lodge (see planning at 02.24.15 below) • Police advice on parking in Great Easton
02.24.06	District and County Councillors' reports Cllr Foley provided written reports from his roles on Uttlesford District and Essex County Council. (Available from the clerk.) He had shown a county Highways officer the condition of local roads and escalated some issues to "emergency" status, including the potholes at the Endway junction with the B184. The Local Highways Panel minutes would be published next week. Funding for mental health support for school students had been secured. Cllr Haynes explained Uttlesford's decision to put half of its investment in commercial property on the market. This step was required by government rules. UDC's investments continued to produce good returns. The Local Plan is being revised to take account of comments and is proceeding to a "Regulation 19" final draft. They aim to complete the final draft in July. It will then go out for local consultation (Regulation 19). The Plan would then go to the assessor in December 2024. Cllr Haynes felt this timetable was optimistic and thought the evidence base was still lacking. Household waste collections are largely back to normal after the disruption in late January/early February. The council was buying three new waste trucks. The parish council was advised that a Repairs Notice would not be served in relation to Tilty Mill (a Grade 2*[star] listed building, because if the owner did not comply, the council's next step would involve compulsory

	purchase by the council. Unless the council knew there was a specific buyer to whom they could immediately sell on the building, the council was not prepared to exercise its powers.
02.24.07	<p>Chair's report and receiving reports on progress for items not listed separately on the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Green – Restoration of the damaged area would be undertaken at the expense of the farm business which uses the Endway for access. Arrangements for the work would be agreed with the parish council. • War Memorial – A quotation for repainting at £0.99 per letter had been received (it was not known how many letters needed to be painted). It was noted that the lettering may need to be recut before being restored to the original finish. The Great Easton Community Association kindly offered to pay for the work and had had an indication of the cost. It was noted that the council must obtain further quotes once the scope of the work was clear. The number of letters and the original finish needed to be established. Action: Clerk, Chair, Cllr Neale • Review of draft budget A discussion would take place on 7 March and be reported to the next meeting. • Parking next to Tilty church – contact would be made with the new archdeacon. Action: Chair • Tree surgery – Flooding and bad weather had made it impossible to obtain quotes so far but this was in hand. Action: Clerk, Chair. • Slide at Great Easton playground – no one was willing to complete the welding. The chair agreed to make a final attempt but a decision should be made at the next meeting. Action: Chair • Essex Men's Sheds network – a meeting at Burns Playing Field had been arranged for 22 March 2024.
02.24.08	<p>Clerk's report on items not listed separately on the agenda, and correspondence</p> <p>A written report (annexed to the hard copy of these minutes) had been made available and was taken as read.</p>
02.24.09	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Three people from the community had stepped forward but at least 8 were needed. The possibility of engaging a consultant to manage the project was discussed. It was agreed to consult Locality. Action: Clerk</p>
02.24.10	<p>Parish Council Financial Reports and Decisions</p> <p>A summary and note of the bank balance at 31 January 2024 had been circulated to councillors and was tabled. Bank statements to 31 January 2024 were available to councillors and had been reconciled with the cashbook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income and payments for the year to date (1 April 2023 to 31 January 2024) Total income to 31 January 2023: £49,336.77 (precept, VAT refund, interest) Total outgoings to 31 January 2024: total £47,517.76 plus VAT £3,219.56, total £50,737.32 • Balances: The TSB current account held £26,754.24 and the NS&I account held £3,361.17 as at 31 January 2024, a total of £30,115.41. It was noted that the NS&I account had been closed and the balance plus interest had been transferred to the TSB account (but the above balances did not take that into account as the transfer had taken place during February). • Payments to note and approve A list of payments to note and approve had been circulated and was tabled. All were approved.
02.24.11	<p>To respond to requests and correspondence as reported by the clerk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County council wishing to assess sites for electric vehicle charging facilities – it was agreed that there was no suitable site • Sports England requesting update on facilities for sport at Burns playing field – the website will be amended to reflect the end of organised football on the site. Action: Clerk • Framed portrait of the king available to parish councils free of charge – it was agreed to order this for display in the Village Hall. Action: Clerk
02.24.12	<p>Adoption of schedule of Parish Council assets and approve valuation policy</p> <p>The schedule had been circulated and was tabled. It was approved unanimously.</p>
02.24.13	<p>To review assessment of risk and approve assessment document</p> <p>This had been circulated and was tabled. The council reviewed the assessment and approved the analysis.</p>
02.24.14	<p>To consider grant application from Five Parishes Toddler Group</p> <p>Cllr Heath declared a non-pecuniary interest and took no part in the discussion or vote. A note of the Group's finances had been circulated and was supplemented by information from Cllr Heath. The council unanimously agreed a grant of £650 representing half of the annual outgoings. Action: Clerk</p>

02.24.15	<p>Planning applications, decisions and progress on planning matters</p> <p>A schedule of the outcome of previous applications had been circulated and was tabled. The following new applications had been made:</p> <p>24/0234/HHF and 24/0235/LB – Calmsden, Gallows Green Road – single-storey rear extension and internal alterations. The council discussed this and had no comments to submit.</p> <p>24/0306/LB – The Cart Lodge, Grange Green, Tilty – replacement of timber French doors. It was noted that the Place Services (conservation/heritage officer) report was not yet available. After discussion it was agreed that the parish council’s view should give due regard to the expert view of Place Services and that therefore the report should be circulated as soon as it was published and councillors’ views provided to the clerk before comments were submitted. Action: Clerk, councillors</p> <p>Appeal ref 3327701 against refusal of UTT/22/0694/FUL – Tudor Cottage, Mill End Green. Application to build one detached house. After consideration the council decided not to submit comments in relation to this appeal against refusal.</p>
02.24.17	<p>Village Hall Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income and payments for the year to date (1 April 2023 to 31 January 2024) Total income to 31 January 2024: £4,366.14– hall hire plus VAT refund and investment income. Total outgoings to 31 January 2024: £7,784.00 plus VAT £478.13, total £8,262.13 • Balances: The TSB current account held £30,968.72 and the Unity Trust Bank account held £1,124.31 as at 31 January 2024, a total of £32,093.03. • Maintenance. A thermostat which could be set and controlled remotely (via phone app) was being installed, to reduce fuel bills, at a cost of about £200 (approved by the trustee committee in December 2023). The boiler would be serviced at the same time. • Funding. A grant application had been made for costs of refurbishment and roof repairs. • Bookings. These remained steady and the council asked for more information on Applause Rural Touring theatre group (which had emailed the clerk) concerning performances in the autumn. <p>Action: Clerk</p>
02.24.18	<p>To receive representatives’ reports (for items not shown separately on the agenda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open spaces including playing fields and play areas - currently affected by very wet weather • Footpaths, road safety and highways – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Local Highways Panel was considering new signage to warn of flooding for Great Easton, as well as the agreed signs for Duton Hill which would be installed shortly. ○ Potholes at the B184 Thaxted Road and The Endway junction had not been properly repaired. Cllr Foley would follow this up. ○ Potholes in the lower road along the River Chelmer were becoming worse and were flooded. Highways should be pressed to repair these. Action: Clerk ○ A passing place in Duton Hill near the bridge was being used for daily parking. The clerk had made enquiries but no information was available except that this was land owned by Essex Highways. • River interests – nothing new to report. • Airport – a report would be made soon. It was noted that SAW was becoming a charitable trust. • Community activities and events — Duton Hill Community Association: Duton Fest, a day of music, was planned for 5 May with a fundraising quiz on 26 April in the Three Horseshoes. The Great Easton Community Association was running an auction of promises on 23 March to fundraise for the Village Playground Fund and Centre Algarve. There would also be a children’s Easter Egg hunt on 29 March, based at the village hall but with hunting around the village, in aid of the playground fund. • Dunmow United Football Club — The club are planning fundraising for a new clubhouse. The ownership of the building will need to be clear and agreed. It was agreed that netting should not be left hanging on the site due to the risk to wildlife. The clerk was asked to write to the club. Action: Clerk • IT, website, social media and communications – Cllr Hahn requested photos of events in the village hall to show the interior, for its new page on the website. Identifiable children should, in particular, not be included in the pictures however. Action: All
02.24.19	<p>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.</p>