**GREAT EASTON AND TILTY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25th APRIL 2019**

**AT GREAT EASTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** John Lewis – David Rowland - Terry Francis – Tristan Martens – Clair Southon – Cecile Down – Julia England

**Clerk:** Wendy Hall

**Residents/Guests:** Robert Pickord, Mark Claxton

1. **Welcome**

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

Paul Kelly, John Freeman, Martin Foley

1. **Declaration of Members Interests**

John Lewis S.S.E, David Rowland S.S.E, 5 Parishes, CAB, Tristan Martens, SSE, Essex Wildlife Trust,

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held 28th March 2019, having been circulated prior to the meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising NOT on the Agenda**

Nothing to Report

1. **Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman began his report by stating that this report is normally given at the A.G.M, however this will be his last meeting but he will remain until the next meeting on 22nd May

(after the elections and appointment of the new Chairman). The P.C worked within the precept of £25,000 and had a good year working in the interests of all the residents.

The Annual Governance Statement was completed, Audit is about to be completed and Code of Conduct adopted and Adoption of Accounts.

We have full Public Liability covered by our 5 year agreement with Zurich Insurance, our website is fully compliant and updated on a regular basis.

Numerous planning applications, have been reviewed with special emphasis on Pickford’s Yard and the application for Maltings Bridge (Broxted Road) which was rejected by U.D.C.

Support was given to LEPC & GDTC regarding the development of Easton Park.

On road safety matters the change to 40 mph outside Maynard House is ongoing, Gallows Green speed restriction is ongoing, there is also an advisory speed limit outside Blamster’s Villas and the footpath between Rebecca Mead and B184 is being constructed after a 3-4 year wait. We have also supported the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Mill End Green.

On playing fields new playground equipment was installed at Burns and an annual inspection on playground equipment on both playing fields was carried out. DUFC use both Burns and Laundry Lane and we are currently negotiating a 10 year lease. There are still ongoing issues at Laundry with a Mr Sedgewick. The bollards have now been installed at Great Easton.

Steve Smith has a 3 year agreement for grass cutting and we have made a donation for bulbs to be planted on grass verges.

We continue to oversee the issues relating to footpaths and also the condition of the river, we also continue with the fight to eradicate hogweed which may need to be professionally cleared.

I have attended STACC/SSE and Parish Council Liaison Committee meetings regarding expansion plans and other activities at Stansted Airport and give my reports to the P.C

The Village Hall continues to receive healthy booking numbers and new chairs are now in place. Boiler problems have been resolved, fire exit door repaired and PAT testing carried out. Our thanks goes to Brian Miller (Caretaker) and Audrey Miller (Booking Clerk). The tree outside has been pruned and a flag pole erected. Salt bags are available at the rear of the Village Hall and the Green Skip is in position each fortnight during the Spring/Summer months.

A number of donations have been made to Air Ambulance, SSE, Children in Need and Campaign for Rural Essex. The two defibrillators are regularly tested in Great Easton and Duton Hill.

Great Easton held another very successful Soap Box Derby and raised a considerable sum for

Charity. The annual Christmas tree was erected and carol singing was conducted on the Village Green, also during the year Great Easton Community Association arranged a party on the green to celebrate the Royal Wedding and the FA Cup final.

Beacon lighting was carried out at both Great Easton and Duton Hill to celebrate the centenary of the end of World War One and a ‘Tommy Figure’ was erected by the War Memorial and a Poppy Wreath was laid on the 11th November.

Our thanks should go to Wendy, her first year as the Parish Council Clerk, who has settled into the job extremely well.

On a personal basis – as you know I am stepping down after just over 14 years, 8 years as Chairman. I would like to thank all those present Councillors and also past Councillors for all your help and support over those years and I wish my successors and future Councillors all the very best for the future and the good health of the Parish.

1. **Public Forum**

Robert Pickford attended the meeting and expressed his thanks to all those that serve on the Parish Council

1. **Village Hall allHa**

Wendy Hall reported that the income from Hall hire was £366.00 and expenses were £175.29 this includes Water £88.66 and Caretaker £87.23

1. **Reports from Representatives**

**Planning**

Nothing to Report

**Planning Applications Determined**

Nothing to Report

**Playing Fields**

The underside of the slide in Great Easton needs to be investigated as a little girl had to have metal removed from under her nail – Paul Tucker from Broadmead Leisure to be contacted.

**Footpaths**

Nothing to report

**River Interest**:

Nothing to report

**Road Safety/Highways**

The footpath at Rebecca Mead is due to be completed on the 26th April

**Airport**

John Lewis read a report from SSE highlighting the following points.

The Communities Secretary finally announced his decision on 20 March. He has declined to call in the

Application for national consideration. His stated reason for not intervening is that “the application

does not involve issues of more than local importance”

Accordingly we have now set in train legal proceedings which will take the form of an application to the High Court for a Judicial Review of the decision of the Communities Secretary not to call in the

Stansted Airport planning application. We believe that the Communities Secretary is both factually

wrong and wrong in law to conclude that the expansion of Stansted to become almost as big as today’s

Gatwick does not involve issues of more than local importance.

As you know SSE already has an outstanding JR application against the Transport Secretary, Chris

Grayling, over his decision of 28 June 2018 to allow the Stansted Airport planning application to be

determined locally by UDC.

We have now asked the Judge for a further stay in the proceedings to enable the current JR application

To be widened to include the Communities Secretary as well as the Transport Secretary.

SSE solicitors have written to UDC stating that it would be inappropriate for the Council to issue a

final decision notice in relation to the planning application whilst these legal challenges are pending.

UDC have been forced to arrange an Extraordinary Council Meeting for Thursday 25th April to

consider whether the final decision on the planning application should be delayed until after the local

elections on 2nd May

The position is that the Final Decision Notice cannot be issued until a section 106 agreement, setting

out the local benefits to be provided by Stansted Airport in return for its planning permission has been

signed and sealed. The Council will not issue a Decision Notice until after the ECM on 25th April.

SSE have been highly critical of the proposed section 106, which would result in Uttlesford residents

and council tax payers being massively short changed compared to the equivalent agreements at other

major UK airports

1. **The Annual Governance Statement 2018/19**

Wendy Hall advised that this had been completed and all Councillors agreed that this was up to date and can be sent to Julia to update the website.

1. **Adoption of Accounts**

Wendy Hall Advised that this had been completed and all Councillors agreed that this was up to date

and can be sent to Julia to update the website.

1. **Clerks Correspondence**

Expenses – 2 x Grass Cut £922.50, 5 Parish Magazine Sub £60.00, Clerk Salary £303.33, EALC Sub

£313.97, Friends of Historic Essex Sub £12.00, Accountancy Fees £180.00, Burns Playing Field Electric £27.36 – Total amount £1819.16

1. **Any Other Business**

There have 6 councillors elected, Tristan stated that 2 would need to be co-opted on Julia England and

a new member Keith Layte will be co-opted on at the next meeting.

The next meeting should be scheduled for 30th May but as the local elections take place on the 2nd May

and Wendy is unable to be here on the 30th it has been suggested we move the meeting to 22nd May,

this was agreed and Tristan asked John if he would open the meeting until a new Chairman has been elected, John has agreed to check his calendar and advise if this would be possible. John Lewis has now confirmed that he is available to Chair the start of the meeting.

Cecile Down asked about the Tilty Notice board, she was advised that it was due to be erected

tomorrow 26/4/19.

John Lewis advised that there have been various letters and emails to Essex County Council regarding

Outstanding payment for the upholstery class, he explained that it was £810.00 per term which is due

before the term start, however this is getting more difficult, it was agreed to send them another email

stating they have 7 days or we may consider terminating there agreement, this was agreed.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm

**Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 22nd May 2019 7.30pm at Great Easton Village Hall, this will be the AGM followed by the normal Parish Council meeting**

**Chairman……………………………………………………Date……………………………………………**