

Easton Parish Council

APPROVED MINUTES MEETING OF EASTON PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026 – 7.45PM Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

- 130/25-26 PRESENT & APOLOGIES**
Present: Cllrs Ladbrook (Chair), Balcombe, Banham, Bennett-King, Edwards and Siddall. **Apologies:** Cllr Gibbon, (received post-meeting. Absence unapproved). **In attendance:** County Cllr Bryce; A Staples (Clerk).
- 131/25-26 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
Four members of the public attended. One spoke in relation to item **145/25-26**, to express their dissatisfaction with the quality and content of the s.19 flooding report and made a request that a extraordinary parish council meeting be held to discuss the issue in more depth, with greater time allowed for public participation.
- 132/25-26 RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
Cllr Bryce's February 2026 Report and Cllr Langdon-Morris' March 2026 Report are both available on the parish council website. Cllr Bryce gave an oral report covering: an update on the Easton and Letheringham solar applications; the Westerfield quarry application; and the County Council's budget, the majority of which (77%) is spent on children's services and adult social care.
- 133/25-26 RECEIVE ANY CHANGES TO MEMBERS INTERESTS**
None received.
- 134/25-26 RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS**
Cllr Siddall declared an interest in item **143/25-26.1**.
- 135/25-26 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON:**
135/25-26.1 19 January 2026
The minutes were approved and signed.
135/25-26.2 17 February 2026 – extraordinary planning meeting
The minutes were approved and signed.
- 136/25-26 FINANCE MATTERS:**
136/25-26.1 Confirm bank account balances as at 16 March 2026:
Community Acc. £5,364.56 & Business Premium Acc. £7,519.55
The above bank account balances were confirmed.
136/25-26.2 Signing of bank statements received since last meeting:
Community Acc. dated 2 Feb 2026 and 2 Mar 2026
The above bank statements were reviewed and signed.
136/25-26.3 Consider and approve Financial Report dated 16 March 2026
The above financial report was approved and signed.
- 137/25-26 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM ACTIONS OF LAST MEETING:**
137/25-26.1 Domain name / gov.uk email addresses
Deferred to next meeting.

137/25-26.2 Resurfacing tarmac path on village green

It was reported that the Churchwarden has taken quotes for resurfacing the path. These are more expensive than anticipated. However, the PCC are also investigating upgrading the water supply to the Church, which may require works under the path, so it has been suggested any works be postponed until this is clarified. It was agreed to defer this item to a later meeting if necessary.

137/25-26.3 Sizewell Community Fund applications

Deferred to next meeting.

137/25-26.4 Issues with gov.uk website

Clerk reported these issues have been fixed, save for one page that needs further work. To update at next meeting.

138/25-26 TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE INTERNAL CONTROLS REPORT

The Internal Controls Report checklist has been completed by Cllr Bennett-King. No issues were identified. The meeting considered and approved the report.

Action: Clerk to add document to website

139/25-26 CONFIRM COMPLETION OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2024-25 ACTION PLAN

The completion of the 24-25 Internal Audit Action Plan was confirmed.

Action: Clerk to add document to website

140/25-26 CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITORS FOR 2025-26 AND APPROVE LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT

SALC were confirmed as the council's internal auditors for 25-26 and the above letter of engagement was considered and approved. The Clerk confirmed the internal audit has been booked for the week commencing 20 April 2026.

141/25-26 AGREE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VILLAGE TIDY EVENT (25 April 2026 at 10.30am)

Cllr Gibbon has arranged for the provision of litter picking equipment. It was agreed there would be refreshments provided.

Action: Cllr Gibbon to confirm that the village hall has been booked.

Action: Chair to arrange refreshments.

142/25-26 AGREE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (20 April 2026 at 7.30pm)

It was agreed to follow the format of a welcome, Chair's report, then updates from organisations, clubs, committees in the village. In addition to the list of organisations previously invited, it was agreed to add: the Garden Club, the editor of Easton Village News and Hamilton Bloodhound. It was agreed refreshments be provided at the end of the meeting. It was agreed that the Village Hall Management Committee be requested them to supply a copy of their accounts, as per the Village Hall constitution.

Action: Chair to arrange refreshments.

Action: Chair to liaise with VHMC Re: accounts.

Action: Clerk to send out invitation emails.

143/25-26 PLAY AREA:

143/25-26.1 Renewal of lease for play area / playing field

Cllr Siddall reported that solicitors have been instructed by the proposed lessor to draft a new lease and is waiting for a meeting date to confirm instructions. Update at next meeting.

143/25-26.2 Review summary of responses to survey (Cllr Siddall)

Cllr Siddall gave a summary of the responses to the survey.

143/25-26.3 Review of ROSPA report for achievable actions at village tidy-up

Cllr Balcombe is in the process of reviewing the report to identify tasks that could be done during the village cleanup.

144/25-26 HIGHWAYS:

144/25-26.1 Analysis of SID data

Action: Clerk and Cllr Edwards will liaise to agree a visit to download the data.

144/25-26.2 Framlingham Road: location of SID

This has been raised by the Clerk with SCC Highways – response awaited. Update at next meeting.

145/25-26 CONSIDER SCC s.19 STORM BABET FLOOD REPORT FOR EASTON

Councillors expressed concern about a lack of detail in the report, a lack of consultation and the veracity of some of the claims and assumptions made. It was agreed a further meeting be held to discuss the report in detail and hear the views of parishioners.

Action: Clerk to make arrangements for an extraordinary meeting, invite a representative from SCC (preferably Matt Hullis) and copy to Cllr Bryce.

146/25-26 CONSIDER AND APPROVE CEMETERY APPLICATIONS:

Application from DS Memorials Re: Noel Woodard

The above application was considered and approved.

Action: Clerk to notify Stonemason and complete forms.

147/25-26 SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Village newsletter funding to be added to the next agenda.

148/25-26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11 May 2026 (AGM). The Easton Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 20 April 2026 at 7:30pm.

Close of meeting 20:39

Signed

Signed copy on file

Cllr Ladbroke (Chair)

11 May 2026