

Easton Parish Council

APPROVED MINUTES OF EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JUNE 2026 – 7.30pm at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

27/26-27 PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present: Cllrs Ladbroke (Chair), Balcombe, Bennett-King, Edwards, Gibbon and Siddall. **In attendance:** District Cllr Langdon-Morris; and A Staples (Clerk/RFO). **Apologies:** Cllr Banham.

28/26-27 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Seven members of the public attended. The following views relation to item **32/26-27** were expressed:

- Whilst there are measurements taken of the water level in the Deben, there is no measurement of how far the water encroaches onto the flood plain, which is what presents risk to adjacent householders.
- The absence of adequate warning to residents prior to the Storm Babet flooding – what warnings were given were invariably received after the flooding event and when waters were receding.
- The report is predicated on the assumption that there is not likely to be a repeat of the flooding; there is inadequate consideration of the increased likelihood of flooding due to climate change.
- Whilst the report seeks to identify the causes of the flooding, it doesn't adequately identify the risk or re-occurrence.
- There has been little or no attempt made by the report's authors to contact the residents impacted by flooding to consider their accounts of the flooding's causes.
- An absence of consultation between the Flood Team and the Parish Council; there was no contact at all prior to the publishing of the report.
- Kettleburgh Road and Framlingham Road have insufficient drainage to deal with accumulated water; this results water running down into the village and draining into properties. The report's authors fail to take this into account, having assumed water ingress is caused by run-off from saturated fields.
- The run-off from roads, particularly Cemetery Lane, School Lane and Hacheston Lane, exacerbated flooding on The Street.
- Whilst the pipework under The Street (that allows water to run down to the Deben) has since been cleared, but this is of no assistance if the road-gullies are blocked-up, which they invariably are following leaf-fall. These need to be regularly checked and cleared by SCC.
- The water in the Harriers Walk ditch comes from the land around Martley Hall, and drops a considerable amount of silt, causing the Harriers Walk watercourse to block.
- The ditch on Harriers Lane was considered by SCC to be adequate, which is contrary to the views of residents. The issue is exacerbated by the

inappropriate culverting of part of the waterway by a landowner, which SCC should prohibit and enforce.

- SCC has declined to assist with concerns raised about the inappropriate culverting of the waterway, leaving it to neighbours to resolve as a private dispute, which will invariably impact property values.
- The suggestion that drainage maintenance work is done bi-annually is not adequate.

29/26-27 RECEIVE ANY CHANGES TO MEMBERS INTERESTS

No changes received.

30/26-27 RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

No declarations received.

31/26-27 RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Langdon-Morris flagged the response from Town Council's Resilience Working Group to the Framlingham section 19 report. The document is available on the website which could be downloaded and used as a template for any parish council response. On going flood prevention work is taking place in consultation with the Environment Agency, to consider the catchment areas for the local rivers, and find a strategic way to naturally manage water flows by using the countryside to soak up excess thereby preventing run-off flooding. Some attenuation works have been carried out in Parham. It was noted the Easton section 19 report is not especially strategic, with the focus on the village rather than on the problems arising in the wider countryside.

The 'better recycling initiative' was also raised; this has been a significant piece of work for the District Council, and it is acknowledged there have been some teething problems, particularly with food waste collection. There was a recommendation for residents to download the app, which uses geo-location to provide personalised local information to residents on collections.

32/26-27 DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RESPONSE TO SECTION 19 REPORT PUBLISHED BY SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL RE: FLOODING IN EASTON IN OCTOBER 2023 – STORM BABET

The councillors considered the views expressed by the members of the public (above). It was agreed that a response should be made by the Parish Council to SCC about the section 19 report highlighting parishioner's concerns. However, it was acknowledged that there is no specific flooding expertise amongst the parish councillors, and assistance is required. Steven Neave has contacted the parish council and offered to advise the parish council free of charge. The Chair suggested getting in touch with him to see what service was available.

Action: Chair to contact Mr Neave to arrange a meeting.

It was noted that deadline for responding to the section 19 report was 29 June 2026. It was agreed a holding response is required as more time would be required if Mr Neave's services are used.

Action: Clerk to send a holding response to the SCC Flood Team.

Councillors identified factual inaccuracies in the report: it states on Harriers Walk, one property was flooded (page 16), in fact it was three. Also, the report says the flooding on Harriers Walk was due to run off from fields going into the watercourses, without reference to the run-off from Kettleburgh and Framlingham Roads.

Cllr Balcombe suggested SCC's 'flood smart living' online guide (see page 23), be flagged to residents for information.

Cllr Siddall suggested the drawing up of a comprehensive drainage map of the village.

33/26-27

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20 July 2026; 14 September 2026; 16 November 2026; 18 Jan 2027; 15 March 2027 & 17 May 2027 (Annual Meeting).

Close of meeting: 2020

Signed:

Signed copy on file

**Cllr Ladbroke (Chair)
20 July 2026**