

Easton Parish Council

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2026 – 7.45PM Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

50/26-27

PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present: Cllrs Ladbroke (Chair), Balcombe, Banham, Bennett-King, Gibbon and Siddall.

Apologies: Cllr Edwards, (absence approved)

In attendance: County Cllr Bryce; A Staples (Clerk/RFO)

51/26-27

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Eight members of the public attended. An agenda item was suggested for a future meeting: parking in the vicinity of the pull-out near the Village Hall.

51/26-27.1 Comments regarding proposed Grade 1 re-listing of serpentine walls

Members of the public present made comments, including:

- Whether, given the timing of this proposal, it might be perceived to be prompted in response to the pending Deben Solar planning application.
- What statutory power the council would use to discuss this issue? The council does not have a general power of competence and therefore must rely on a specific statutory authority.
- The power to take this forward fall on the landowners concerned; there is no role for the parish council.
- Deeds stipulate landowners must look after and maintain the wall. With Grade 1 listing, the enforcement of conditions may become more onerous.
- Repair and maintenance of the wall could become more expensive from an obligation to use specialist contractors.
- The wall currently has five separate listings are a result of it being divided in the 1950's. The Martley Hall section is Grade 2 listed and falls outside the Conservation Area. The other four sections, in addition to being Grade 2 listed: fall inside the Conservation Area; are listed as Heritage Assets in the Neighbourhood Plan; and covered by the NPPF.

52/26-27

RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Copies or written reports received from District and County Cllrs are available on the Parish Council website. County Cllr Bryce gave an oral report covering the following: the local government reorganisation review has been paused for further review by the Government; a renewal of the contentious northern bypass proposal; and the Westerfield Quarry, for which there is to be an economic impact assessment before the proposal comes back to committee in October.

- 53/26-27 RECEIVE ANY CHANGES TO MEMBERS INTERESTS**
No changes received.
- 54/26-27 RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS**
Declaration received from Cllr Siddall in relation to items **59/26-27.1**.
- 55/26-27 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS held on 20 July 2026**
The minutes were approved and signed.
- 56/26-27 FINANCE MATTERS:**
56/26-27.1 Confirm bank account balances (on 7 September 2026 - Community Acc. £6,419.74 & Business Premium Acc. £7,560.72)
 The above bank account balances were confirmed.
56/26-27.2 Signing of bank statements received since last meeting (Community Acc. issued on 31/07/2026 & 01/09/2026)
 The above bank statements were signed.
56/26-27.3 Consider and approve Financial Report dated 7 September 2026
 The Financial Report was considered, approved and signed.
56/26-27.4 Consider and approve insurance renewal and premium (£545.87)
 The renewal paperwork received from Business Services at CAS Ltd was considered and approved. Payment of the premium was authorised.
56/26-27.5 Consider the insurance situation of the Cemetery: need for a risk assessment
 The correspondence with EPCs insurers regarding cover of the cemetery was noted. It was regular risk assessment should be instigated annually.
Action: Clerk to arrange for risk assessment with Cllr Bennett-King.
- 57/26-27 CONSIDER AND APPROVE CEMETERY SCHEDULE OF FEES**
 The schedule of fees was last reviewed in 2014. The fees schedule for Wickham Market Cemetery was noted by way of comparison. It was agreed to defer to decision to the next meeting and endeavour to obtain information about fee rates in comparable village cemeteries locally.
Action: Cllr Bennett-King to obtain further information on comparable cemetery fees.
- 58/26-27 TO DISCUSS (BUT NOT PASS A RESOLUTION ON) PROPOSAL TO SEEK GRADE 1 RE-LISTING OF SERPENTINE WALLS**
 This item was taken early concurrently with item **51/26-27.1**. It was agreed to defer item indefinitely pending advice on whether EPC has standing to pursue this matter further.
- 59/26-27 PLAY AREA:**
59/26-27.1 Update on playground lease
 A working group comprising of the Chair, Cllr Balcombe and Cllr Banham met to discuss the draft lease and identified concerns that would need to be addressed before the lease could be signed. Cllr Siddall said she has spoken

to the solicitors instructed by her family (the landowner & intended lessor) about the issues raised at the last meeting. She agreed a break clause after five years would be too soon. She also reported the solicitor had explained that a licence would not give the parish council adequate security and there were no missing annexes to be attached, so reference to them would be removed from the next draft.

Action: Clerk to draft letter to solicitor.

59/26-27.2 Discuss parishioner's concerns regarding condition of play equipment

The Chair received correspondence from a parishioner raising concerns about broken play equipment in the village play area. Cllr Balcombe has subsequently inspected and repaired the damage. Cllr Siddal said closing the play area was under consideration by her family, (the landowners). As there is no current lease in place, public liability risks could arguably fall on the landowner, with those risks heightened by the current condition of the play equipment. Cllr Balcombe requested not closing until the ROSPA report is considered, (report expected this week).

60/26-27 APPROVE VILLAGE TIDY- UP ARRANGEMENTS – Sunday 18th October
Cllr Gibbon has registered the litter-pick, will collect the equipment from ESC and has arranged for the rubbish to be collected from the car park. The event has been advertised in the parish magazine.

61/26-27 PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS:
61/26-27.1 DC/26/2623/EIA; Land north of Kettleburgh Road, Easton and land south of The Street, Letheringham, Suffolk; EIA Screening - For the installation and operation of a solar development and battery energy storage system with associated equipment and necessary infrastructure.

It was noted that ESC has already determined this matter and decided to require an EIR. It was agreed a brief response be drafted by Cllr Banham to record the council's views about the application and the pre-emptive decision.

61/26-27.2 DC/26/2910/TPO; The Agents House, The Street, Easton, IP13 0ED; 1no. Yew (T1 on plan) - overall crown reduction by up to 2 metres and crown lift by 3 metres

Application noted, no observations.

62/26-27 SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
Who maintains the public noticeboard (Cllr Gibbon). Car parking by the pull-in close to the Village Hall causing safety road safety concerns (parishioner).

63/26-27 DATES OF MEETINGS
16 November 2026; 18 Jan 2027; 15 March 2027 & 17 May 2027 (Annual Meeting).

Close of meeting: 20:44