

**MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT 1800 Hrs ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

Present: Cllr W Day (Vice Chair)  
Councillors: S Gibbins, A Lumsden, A Dent, J Lee

Staff: Mr P Moore (Clerk to Council)

In Attendance: A Resident - Clappersgate

EVPC 23/24/100 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received:

Cllr L Morton  
Cllr R Parker

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be NOTED

EVPC 23/24/101 **Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given be NOTED

EVPC 23/24/102 **Public Participation**  
There were no members of the public registered to speak, but in attendance was a resident of Clappersgate (name redacted) in relation to Item 12 of the Agenda. Therefore, in agreement, Council brought item 12 forward for discussion but will appear in these minutes in Agenda order.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given be NOTED.

EVPC 23/24/103 **Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 09 October 2023**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, and as such were signed by the Chair.

EVPC/23/24/100 **Police Report**

- a. A Police Report was received covering crime statistics and Anti-Social behaviour in the period 08 Oct to 13 Nov.

**Burglary - 0**

**Theft and Handling – 3**

- 10/10/2023 - Easington Academy – Theft from school.
- 11/10/2023 – Theft from local store. Named suspect, ongoing enquiries.
- 02/11/2023 – Theft from local store. Suspect identified and charged.

**Criminal Damage – 3**

- 13/10/2023 – Criminal damage caused to local shop, ongoing enquiries.
- 21/10/2023 – Criminal damage caused at local farm.



- 09/11/2023 – Criminal damage caused at a property near to the village green. No youths identified.

**Anti-social behaviour – 4**

- 11/10/2023 – Seaside Lane - Youths causing ASB, area search no trace.
- 15/10/2023 – Green Seat – Youths causing ASB. Easington NPT have made attempts to try identify these youths, unfortunately none have been identified at this time.
- 23/10/2023 – Merrick House – Youths causing ASB outside the building.
- 11/11/2023 - St Thomas Close - Youth ASB.

**Vehicle Crime – 0**

The next Easington PACT meeting will be held at Easington Welfare Hall on Wed 22 Nov at 1800 hrs. – NOTED

- b. It was noted that there had been issues with the four-way lights that had been installed on Easington crossroads, and that there seemed to be no easily available number to contact Highways in an emergency such as when the lights are not working.
- c. **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk would endeavour to get a number and that the information received be NOTED

EVPC/23/24/101

**Report from Durham County Councillors**

It was NOTED that no report had been received.

**RESOLVED** that a report to be requested for review by Council.

EVPC/23/24/102

**Member Reports – Attendance at Meetings and Events on Behalf of The Paris Council**

- a. Cllr W Day attended Remembrance Day and laid a wreath on behalf of Council.

**RESOLVED** that the information as given be NOTED.

EVPC/23/24/103

**Financial Matters**

- a. Bank Balances at 31/10/23  
**RESOLVED** that the Bank Balances be APPROVED
- b. Income and Expenditure report to 31/10/23  
**RESOLVED** that the report be APPROVED
- c. Bank Transfers to 31/10/23  
**RESOLVED** that the Transfers be APPROVED
- d. Invoices for endorsement of Payment  
**RESOLVED** that the Invoices for payment be APPROVED
- e. Income Received  
**RESOLVED** that the report be APPROVED
- f. Bank reconciliation at 31/10/23  
**RESOLVED** that the report be APPROVED



**RESOLVED** that the Clerk liaise with LGRC with regards to Council previous request for some form of compensation following Interim Clerk costs.

EVPC/23/24/104

**Planning Applications**

a. **Planning Applications** – Believe Housing / Sunderland Road Site Layout.

**RESOLVED** that the information given be NOTED.

b. **Planning Refusals** – None to report

c. **Planning Applications Withdrawn** – None to report

d. **Planning Appeals / Objections** – None to report

e. **Other Planning Matters** – None to report

EVPC/23/24/105

**Parish Council Website Update**

The Clerk gave details of the new website. Access to this had been sent to Councillors for viewing and it is expected that the site may go live in December. Councillor email addresses will also change onto the .gov.uk domain around the same time.

**RESOLVED** that the information as given be NOTED.

EVPC/23/24/106

**Parish Council Office IT Equipment, Support and Ongoing Maintenance Contract** – to establish a Sub Committee.

**RESOLVED** that due to an upcoming line upgrade with an expected improvement of service this was no longer required, and that the Clerk should continue to monitor and report back to Council as required.

EVPC/23/24/107

**Clappersgate Car Parking**

Council heard details from a resident of Clappersgate of a particular parking problem which had caused damage to the grassed area on the south side of the road, and is starting to cause damage to the tarmac of the road verge itself. The damage has been caused by repeated parking and moving off from a grassed area in wet conditions, and will only get worse over the winter if allowed to continue. In addition, any vehicle parked there (just off the 90 degree bend in the road) also reduces the turning space available to other road users in what is a two-way section of road, and therefore may represent a hazard to road users and pedestrians.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will investigate who the triangle of land belongs to, and if Clappersgate is an adopted road.

EVPC/23/24/108

**Road Traffic (Speeding)**

Council received information from Cllr R Parker who, like all Councillors, is very concerned about the incidence of speeding taking place on the four roads that lead into and out of the village. (Sunderland Road, Seaside Lane, Thorpe Road and Stockton Road). In response to several accidents

and near-misses, liaison with DCC and Durham Constabulary had resulted in additional camera vans being placed around the village during the summer months. This had resulted in a number of prosecutions and on a positive note, increased awareness among residents of the dangers of speeding.

The DCC Easington Village Traffic Management Report (EVTMR 2022) gives details of possible traffic mitigation measures, including costs, but disappointingly does not include a summary statement nor any statement of intent, and therefore is nothing more than the results of a survey with no suggestion of developing a feasible traffic management plan from its contents. Council agreed that while the camera vans had been successful in reducing speeding, their regular locations are now well known and that they might be better served by moving location. In addition, other speed mitigation measures should be employed such as flashing lights, road bumps and chicanes.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to DCC to find out who wrote the EVTMR 2022 in order to open a discussion as to what measures can be taken going forward, and to see if camera vans can be increased and moved to other locations.

EVPC/23/24/109

### **Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023**

The Local Government Services Pay Agreement had been published on 01 November 2023 and the pay award (uprated by 3.88%) was to be back-dated to 01 April 2023, and employers are encouraged to implement this as soon as possible. The Clerk had been in contact with DCC Payroll Services and this has been actioned for the November payroll for EVPC staff.

It should be noted that this includes back pay for employees who have left employment since 01 April 2023 (One person). It is further noted that this long-running pay award was not budgeted for when the 2023/24 budget was calculated, and as such is an unexpected expenditure to Council.

**RESOLVED** that the information as given be NOTED.

EVPC/23/24/110

### **Report From Clerk** – a verbal update on items not covered elsewhere.

- 1. Precept 2024 – 25** The tax base for 24/25 will be set on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. EVPC do not receive anything through the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS). Those councils that do will be reduced by 50% over 3 years.  
EVPC Current tax base is: 874.9 Households  
2024 / 25 increase to: 924.4 Households (increase of 49.5)  
Currently Band D properties are £180.00 per year X 49.5 households = £8910 increase.

Therefore, it is recommended that there is no need to increase precept 2024/25. The spreadsheet giving details will be sent to all Councillors by email.

This item will be brought to Council in December 2023 and EVPC must respond to DCC by 19 January 2024

2. **Budget 2024** This will be prepared in the next month or so and will be presented to Council December or January.
3. **Public Sector Deposit Fund** Council agreed to deposit £50K in July. The first deposit will be made this week. Paperwork to be completed Wed 15 November.
4. **Interim Internal Audit** An interim audit of the EVPC accounts was completed today (Mon 13 Nov 23) by Gordon Fletcher. A report is to follow but feedback indicated no significant issues other than some minor housekeeping.
5. **Events Management Sub Committee** Met last week. Some further investigation work to be done on price comparison. Will report to Council in New Year.

It was **RESOLVED**: that the information as received be NOTED.

EVPC/23/24/111

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 1800 Hrs in the Burn Room, Seaton Holme.

**RESOLVED**: that the information given be NOTED

EVPC/23/24/112

**Exclusion of the Press and Public** – In accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

None required

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

Chairman ..... *W.S. Dy.*

Date ..... *11/12/23*

Distribution / Publication:

All Easington Village Parish Councillors  
EVPC Website  
DCC Councillor Surtees  
DCC Councillor Boyes