The Minutes of Easton Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 3 June 2025 at 7:00 pm
at Village Hall, Easton

Present:	Cllr J Hudson (Vice)	Cllr R Chapman	Cllr D Fulcher
	Cllr M Bowman	Cllr A Main	Cllr D Lewis
	Cllr P McCarter		

Also in Attendance: Sue Marsh (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   Apologises from Cllr M Caton, Cllr M Cordy and Cllr M Jobling were received and accepted
   District and County Councillor, Margaret Dewsbury also sent her apologies

2. **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations**
   None

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2025**
   It was resolved to accept these minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, and they were duly signed by the Vice Chair.

4 **Planning Applications and Determinations:**
   a. To consider a response to any current planning applications:

   i. 2025/1334 – Approval of Condition Detail, Details reserved by the statutory Biodiversity Gain Plan condition and detail for condition 6 of 2025/0186 (a) Water drainage details

   No Comment

   b. To receive a report on plans refused/approved by South Norfolk Council
   None

   c. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan following a meeting with Shaun Vincent of ABZAG Ltd

   The clerk informed council that she has sent several emails to ABZAG Ltd, but had not received a response, she will continue to chase.

5. **Finance**
   a. **Approval of Payments**

The following payments were approved:

Clerk	Salary	£ 583.56
HMRC	PAYE	£ 139.40
Norfolk PTS	Support	£ 330.00
CAS Ltd – Community Centre Insurance		£5,084.46

Payments for approval at the July Meeting:

RLS Computers	New Website	£ 140.00

a. It was agreed to add the clerk as a signatory to both bank accounts, clerk to obtain forms
b. It was agreed to call an extra ordinary meeting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17 June in the village hall to receive the internal auditors' report and to approve the Annual Governance Statement in the 2024-25 Annual Governance Accountability Return (AGAR)

6. Community Centre Project

a. The council is awaiting the VAT report from Steve Parkinson before a meeting can be arranged with both Charity committees. Steve Parkinson has confirmed that the council will have his report within the next 10 days.
b. A meeting has been arranged for 2pm on Monday 14th July at the village hall.

7. District and County Councillor Reports

Margaret Dewsbury reported:

Vapes

The Environmental Protection Regulations 2024 come into effect on June 1st and from that date businesses will not be allowed to sell single use vapes. Trading Standards will be taking enforcement action which could include seizures, fines or in severe cases prison sentences.
In future all compliant vapes must be refillable, replaceable and rechargeable and the businesses will be required to provide a take back service for safe disposal.
In 2023 there were 1,200 battery fires in bin lorries and at waste sites across the UK. This was a 70% increase on the previous year.

Recycling Centres

From the beginning of June all recycling centres will be closed on Wednesdays as this is the quietest day of the week for visits and it is in line with Suffolk recycling centres.
All visits to recycling centres must now be booked on line via www.norfolk.gov.uk/recyclingbookings or by phoning 0344 800 8020 or by visiting the local library.
Over 400,000 bookings have been made since the system began in November last year and although some people raised concernes that this might cause more fly tipping there is no evidence of an increase since then but local councils will continue to monitor this.

Market Towns

Norfolk County Council is working with the New Anglia Growth Hub and the Federation of Small Businesses to support market towns. Local communities will be able to raise awareness of their towns to help attract more visitors through the Pride of Place Scheme. There is also a Go Digital on line retail toolkit to help small businesses identify opportunities to grow.

Gardening Exhibition

A touring exhibition called The Power of Gardening shows how gardening can help people in many ways. It can bring people together, empower communities and help the natural world, as well as providing activities which help people to relax.
The exhibition will be at:

Gressenhall Farm and work museum May 24th – June 8th
Dereham library June 10th – July 12th,
Norwich Millenium library July 15th – 30th Aug
Fakenham library 2nd Sept – 27th September
The exhibitions final day at Gressenhall on June 8th w ill coincide with their Open Farm Sunday which is a free event.

Local Nature Recovery
The County Council is inviting everyone to take part in the public consultation on our Local Nature Recovery Strategy which is one of 48 across the country. contact naturalnorfolk@norfolk.gov.uk The consultation aims to gather feedback on local priorities and actions for restoring and enhancing nature, reversing biodiversity loss and promoting sustainable land use to benefit both people and wildlife.

Verges and grass cutting
Verges - This year it was decided to undertake two weed spraying treatments, the first began on May 19th and the second will be in Aug/Sept depending on the growth of the weeds.
Grass cutting – There will be three cuts in rural areas this year, four in urban areas. The three cuts will be on A and B class roads. The first cuts started on April 7th and the remaining two cuts will be based on growth experienced during the summer.
There will only be two cuts on C and U class roads plus a visability cut where needed.

Home Fire Visits
Between April 2024 – April 2025 the Fire Service carried out 8,164 in person Home Fire Safety Visits. These visits are free and are designed to reduce the risk of fire and improve safety and wellbeing in homes across Norfolk. They identify potential hazards, raise awareness and influence safer behaviour. To check if someone is eligible for a Home Fire safety visit check www.norfolk.gov.uk/firesafetycheck

8. Public Forum
Members of the public raised the following:

A member of the public raised the issue of weeds outside the village hall. A number of it was confirmed that these would be dealt with.

Four members of the public from Woodcock Road approached Cllr Hudson with concerns regarding phase 3 & 4 not complying with the NHP guidelines. The clerk will forward these concerns to District and County Councillor, Margaret Dewsbury.

9. Asset Maintenance
a. It was agreed to accept the quotation for the removal of the trees at College Heights.
b. City Fibre have confirmed that they will reseed the verges, to date this has not been done, Cllr McCarter will speak to the company again.

10. Governance of the Parish Council
It was agreed that the historical minutes of the Parish Council will be boxed up and taken to the Norfolk Records Office to stored.

11. To consider the proposed extension of the 30 mph speed limit on Marlingford and Hall Road

It was agreed to support the extension and request that it was extended to the entire length of the roads, clerk to action.

12. To consider the Broadland and South Norfolk Design Code

It was agreed to support the code

13. To receive an update regarding an expression of interest for a grant from the Nature Conservation Fund

An updated was received from Cllr Main who had been in contact with Easton College. Due to end of year exams, they were not able to offer support until September which was outside the closing date for applications. Cllr Main thanked them for their response and said she would contact them in the future if there were similar project opportunities.

14. To receive an update regarding the installation of a dog bin at Festival Park

Easton Parish Council have not adopted the land where the dog bin had been suggested. The clerk would investigate replacing a missing bin from another area and whether it could be relocated near to Festival Park.

15. To consider writing a letter in support of the Easton Gym Club grant application

It was agreed that the Chairman would write a letter supporting Easton Gym Club's grant application.

16. Items For Next Agenda

- Community Car Donation
- Grapevine Donation

17. Date and Place of the next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 1 July 2025

With no further business, the meeting closed at 7:55 pm.