

- 5.1 **Comprehensive Spending Review** - Average cuts will be 7.25% per year for the next four years in the funding to local councils but these will be front-loaded to 14% in Year 1. Savings are being made by joint working with Waveney District plus a wide-ranging package of cuts is being considered which will impact on the level of services offered and the number of people employed. It is not yet known where these cuts will be but good news is that Council Tax will almost certainly be frozen next year.
- 5.2 **LDF Status** - Government has confirmed that it will officially abolish regional housing targets through its new Localism Bill which should become law next year, well before our Core Strategy is finally in use. By law, Suffolk Coastal has to set out how many new homes should be provided in the district between now and 2027. A new draft Core Strategy is now under consultation. The Site Specific allocations exercise will be delayed until later in 2011.
- 5.3 **Sizewell** - Government confirmed Sizewell as a suitable site for a new nuclear power station and Suffolk Coastal's new Sizewell task group has held its first meeting. Potential impact of the development will be addressed.
- 6 **POLICE REPORT** None
- 7 **FINANCE**
- 7.1 Clerk presented the statement for the period November – January which was unanimously agreed. Proposed Cllr Kerr, seconded Cllr Smith.
- 7.2 On considering the Actual v Budget figures, Clerk was reminded to speak with SCDC regarding the costs for the bye election. Clerk
- 7.3 Clerk had received calls from two people offering to be internal auditor and it was agreed to ask Ric Ackland-Snow to take on the task. Charles Pollock was thanked for his offer and Clerk will speak to him personally. Clerk
- 7.4 The budget produced in December was unanimously agreed, proposed Cllr Owen, seconded Cllr Coney. Clerk to precept for £6437.50. Clerk was also asked to write an article explaining the budget for residents. Clerk
- 7.5 **S137** - Councillors agreed to donate £25 each to Disability Advice Service, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and Citizens Advice Bureau. Council has received an anonymous gift of £100 to enable the other four applicants to have a donation of £25 each also. Clerk
- 8 **CLERK'S REPORT**
- 8.1 **Bottle Bank** - This has still not been removed. Clerk has reminded SCDC and also spoken directly with the company to ask for its removal. When this happens, Clerk to put up a notice advising of the nearest recycling centres.
- 8.2 **Cemetery** - Clerk has taken advice from SALC on how to proceed with discussions to negotiate purchase of the land to ensure that neither party has an unfair advantage. To this end the following resolution was proposed by Cllr Smith and unanimously accepted.

Easton Parish Council resolves to exclude the press and public in accordance with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960 s1 (2) from the

Cemetery and School Lane passing place items on future agendas.

- 8.3 **Duke of Edinburgh Award** - Thanks to Cameron Blackwood-Pugh for completing three months litter picking in the village in order to achieve the community work section of his award.
- 8.4 **Parish Plan** - Jane Pollock, Brian Boon, Alan & Bernadette Eklid and Michael Coney have all shown an interest in helping to update the Parish Plan. Clerk to put another article in the magazine for more volunteers. Clerk
- 8.5 **Emergency Plan** - The sub-committee have made various amendments to the emergency plan. When Clerk has contacted various people regarding places of safety and willingness to give practical help, etc., the updated plan will be circulated. Clerk
- 9 **DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY**
- 9.1 Clerk was asked to respond with the following comments: Clerk
- The Housing Policy has improved as it is more flexible. Allocation is now a local decision. Allows for comment when future needs arise. This can also be looked at alongside employment.
 - Transport is an area of concern and It is important to move with some urgency on the area of the Orwell Bridge, Seven Hills and Copdock.
 - Council has some reservations regarding the traffic issues surrounding the proposed development at Adastral Park.
 - Care needs to be taken to ensure current settlements are retained and the services are adequately maintained.
 - Population demographics should be taken into consideration post the 2011 census.
 - Progress needs to be made with the potential Northern Bypass as this could also take some of the pressure off the A12 especially in light of the proposed new Sizewell site..
 - When new housing sites are considered the impact on local services and infrastructure must be properly addressed including the need for secondary education.
- 10 **PLANNING DECISIONS**
- 10.1 Planning permissions have been granted for 4 Pound Cottages, 1 Home Farm Cottages and Baytree Cottage.
- 11 **RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES**
- 11.1 Cllr Coney reported on a meeting he had attended regarding the future of residential care homes in the district and circulated an information document. Following discussion Clerk was asked to write supporting the option to close a number of homes and transfer the remaining homes to the independent sector. This would be the least distressing for the residents. Clerk was also asked to register Council's support to keep Lehmann House and Mills Meadow. Clerk
- 12 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY**
- 12.1 Information to be distributed week commencing 24th January. Clerk to provide a list of properties. Cllrs Owen, Coney and Smith to deliver JO/MC/TS

13 **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

13.1 Cllr McEvoy updated Council on the refurbishment works. Of the £60K grant for pre-school, £45K will be spent on refurbishment and £15K on equipment. With other grants and monies in the bank and the excellent help of volunteers, the work should come in on time. Pre-school have been given a 10 year lease and a new service agreement has been signed to ensure hall clearance, etc., is adhered to. Congratulations and thanks were given to Cllr McEvoy for her work in project managing the process.

14 **CORRESPONDENCE**

14.1 **Abolition of Standards Regime** - Government is to wipe away all requirements regarding standards (probably in 2012) except that Members continue to declare personal interests and do not use their position improperly; Failure in respect of this will be a criminal offence. Councils will be able to choose whether to retain any form of Code of Conduct. After discussion Easton Parish Council agreed to continue to use the current regulations.

14.2 **Election 2011** - The election will take place on May 5th. Clerk is attending a briefing on 19th January and will advise Councillors and residents of the procedures following this.

15 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

15.1 Items arising from minutes, footpath to Harriers Walk, kerbing of footpath between Kennels and play area.

15.2 Clerk was asked to report potholes and damaged roadsign. She was also asked to contact Eileen Coe, Clerk to Framlingham Town Council to ask if there are any areas where we might work together.

Clerk

16 **NEXT MEETING**

Monday 7th March at 7.15 pm
Clerk to advise on dates for APM and AGM following election briefing.

Meeting closed at 10.05 pm

.....
Chairman

.....
Date