

EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report 2018/19

Our Role - on the Parish Council is to look after the interests of the village as a whole, to maintain certain services for the benefit of the community, as well as representing the village to outside agencies.

The Parish Councillors - the Parish Council election took place in May 2018. The councillors are Richard Burton, Steve Thomason, Phil Trussell, Clive Wood and myself. We are elected for a period of four years and complete our first year now.

I have been impressed by the commitment of the local councillors – I think we have a very good team of people, who have a genuine concern about the village and a willingness to help in many different ways.

The Roads

We continue to press the County Council to repair pot holes in the roads and they do get repaired in time.

We are concerned about the increasing number of HGVs going through the village. We have asked Mick George to re-route his vehicles accessing the gas pumping station, to use the Spaldwick and Stow Longa route and they have agreed to do this. However there are some very large HGVs which cannot negotiate the double bends on Stonely Road and who have damaged verges, hedges, fences and signposts. We are negotiating with the Highways Agency and the County Council to put up adequate signage to prevent these very large vehicles from entering the village.

Parking outside the Church

The mud in this area has been an ongoing problem for some years. We asked a local contractor to look at remediation and his quote was around £4,000. We have decided to attempt some remedial work ourselves, but we are concerned that because the area is designated a "conservation area", we do not break the law.

Footpaths

The closure order preventing motorised vehicles using Hartham Street (the by-way between our village and Grafham) remained in force for the whole year. Sadly the current state of this restricted by-way is very poor and we will be pressing to keep it closed to motorised traffic again this year. Other local paths are in a reasonable state.

Flood Prevention

The Alconbury and Ellington Drainage Board were made very aware of the complaints about the mess left on the verges after they cleaned out the brook two years ago. This year they were much more careful and the brook is in good shape. Flooding is a real risk to several homes in the village, so it is important that the water can flow through the village quickly.

Grass Cutting

We are grateful to Anthony Abbs for his maintenance of village verges and to Derek Jolly who has cut the grass on the Playing Field.

Planning Matters

We continue to be consulted by the District Council on planning matters and we do our best to look carefully at all planning applications and to represent the views of people in the village as best we can. We only have the power to comment and do not have a "final say" on planning matters – that power is reserved to the District Council.

As a Parish Council we were very concerned about the planning application for two new dwellings on Stonely Road, next to the pumping station and unanimously opposed it. The issue came up at the Planning Panel Meeting, where I spoke to argue the Parish Council's case. It appeared to me that such planning application in normal times would have been turned down on the grounds that it was building outside the built environment, was not infill and was building in the open countryside. The reason it was being approved, was I suspect, that the District Council had not got all its policies in on time and could not defend a refusal. I find the whole situation very disappointing and we are, as a Parish Council, concerned that this permission may set a precedent for other building in the village.

The Easton Defibrillator

Following the theft of the original defibrillator, which has been jointly funded by the Parish Council and the Easton United Charities, Alasdair Graham managed to get money from the A14 Legacy Community Fund and a new machine is now installed in a lockable box on the garage wall of his house in The Lane. The East Anglian Ambulance training team gave some informative training in December to a number of villagers, but even without training it is very easy to use.

The code number C159X will give anyone access to the machine. You can get this code number by dialling 999.

Thanks are due to Alasdair for the time and trouble he has taken in getting the funding, arranging the training and fitting the machine.

Residents

Once again I would like to thank all of those who either individually or in groups make a contribution to the appearance and to the social life of the village.

The Easton Fund and Social Committee have again organised a number of well attended and enjoyable social events. The organisation of these takes time and commitment from many people but they certainly provide great entertainment and promote great community spirit.

The reputation of the Easton "Big Breakfast" has certainly put this village on the map and has attracted large numbers every second month on a Saturday morning. These are great community events and bring people together, both from inside and outside the village. They are greatly enjoyed but do involve much work – thanks to all who work so hard to make them possible.

The Church Council continues to maintain our beautiful Church and to look after the churchyard as well as organising events such as the quiz evening in February.

The Trustees of the Easton United Charities work hard to look after the assets of the Charities and distribute money within the village.

Anthea Beer is a very able and competent Parish Clerk, dealing most efficiently with correspondence, communications and the organisation of our council meetings. Brian Davis is the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and again keeps us well informed about crime and policing concerns in the area. Jenny Hyde types and maintains the excellent monthly newsletter, which is delivered by the Brand family

My particular thanks go to many individual who help to make the village look attractive by picking up litter dropped by passing motorists. Sadly there is much litter on the verges going up to the old railway bridge. We have bought some litter pickers and we are now looking for volunteers!

So to all the organisations and individuals who are involved in the village I say "Thank You" and I know that the whole village community appreciates all the work you do. The efforts you make continue to make Easton a very attractive village in which to live!

Mike Baker

March 2019

EASTON FUND AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – MARCH 2019

The Easton Social Committee held 3 events in 2018, assisted with a 4th and, in conjunction with the PCC, prepared 6 Big Breakfasts.

On **7th April** Committee Members assisted Susie Bavington with a concert in aid of the Multi Organ Transplant Support Charity. It was a great success and raised over £800 for the Charity.

On **27th May** the Committee assisted Beth and Brian Davis at an Open Garden at Brook House raising funds for the British Trust of Ornithology. The weather was wonderful and the team used our new AV equipment in the Church to give a presentation on Flycatchers. .

On **12th August** we had an Afternoon Tea at Belmont which raised over £1500 for 3 Charities with links to our village being Addenbrooke's Children's Cancer Ward, Lymphoma Research and Myotonic Dystrophy Research. £500 was donated to each Charity.

On **13th October** we had our first Easton Pudding Club in the Church with a choice of 2 main courses and the compulsory consumption of 7 different puddings. The event was very well attended and the puddings were delicious.

Our final event of the year took place on **9th December**; Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. Many thanks to Peter Gould for making the Mulled Wine.

We presently have the sum of £1,208.82 in the bank which is a bit down on our usual figure but still healthy. We have recently paid £900.00 towards the AV equipment which was quite a large payment for our Committee.

2018 saw the preparation and service of 6 Big Breakfasts. The profit was approximately £1,160.00 which is handed to the PCC and is a contribution towards the £2,000 annual insurance bill for the Church. The Big Breakfast takes place on the second Saturday of every month with the next one being on **11th May**. I would like to thank everyone involved for their considerable efforts.

This year we have a number of events planned including a Family Fun Day with bouncy castle and BBQ in June; a Family Fortunes Evening with supper in the Church, and an All Hallows Ghost Walk around the village with spooky stories and a supper afterwards also in the Church. Our social calendar will finish with the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies social on the second Sunday in December. An Events Calendar will be circulated soon. .

I should like to thank all Committee Members for their efforts during the past year but especially our Treasurer, Karen Nesbitt-Farren for her meticulous managing of our finances and our Secretary Simon Malivoire who took over after Ed Sloper's retirement. Simon is doing a brilliant job and I am so glad he accepted the post. I would like to record my thanks to Ed for all his hard work while he was secretary and I do hope that he is now taking things easy. All the Committee do a fantastic job and I am very grateful for their help and support. I would also like to thank the village generally for supporting our events.

The Social Committee stands at 11 but we are always delighted to welcome new Members. Please contact Simon, Karen or me if you would like to join us.

Kathy Yates Chairman

21st March 2019

EASTON UNITED CHARITIES
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR: YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

I am pleased to submit my report to Easton Parish Council AGM on behalf of the Trustees of Easton United Charities and attach draft accounts to 31 December, 2018; due to timings, accounts will be approved by Trustees on Weds 1-May, 2019. Having taken over from George Harlow in April, 2018, may I extend the Trustees' thanks for his years' of work. Also, I margin 2017 comparison figures for clarity.

Income

Land rents comprise the main income, together with asset investment income through Black Rock. Rent is down at £3,002.50 (£3,709.87, 2017 and £2,861.60, 2016) partly due to timings where we continue to employ Bletsoes to deal with rent reviews and collections. Please note; we are to meet shortly with Bletsoes to review rents and also ensure all are 'up to date'. Wayleaves and Rights income (£172.75) is now shown separately as these sums are not strictly rental.

Expenditure

Expenditure covers the usual disbursements, predominantly young persons from birth to finalising their education, gifts for illness and hospital stays. Maintenance of £275.00 was for part tree-felling on EUC land. Management fees, £465.35, are also separated out for the sake of clarity; essentially Bletsoes charge at 15% + VAT on rent they collect. The Trustees are happy with a year shortfall of -£285.37, reflected in reduction of current account, as shown.

Asset Statement

Most notably investments have fallen during the last three months of 2018 at £54,261.14 (£59,923.70) as the investments are stock market based, an aspect over which the Trustees have no control. However, the overall trend is still positive, 31-Dec-2016 comparative figure being £52,701.93, for example.

Trustees

Over the last two years Co-optative Trustees have retired by rotation and now comprise Helen Mayer (Jan-2018), Katherine Yates (Aug-2018). Simon Malivoire (Dec-2018) took over from Wendy Kruger who left early for personal family reasons. Clearly the respective five-year periods of office will not run in accordance with the 'Blue Book' rules of one Trustee retiring in any one year but this will have the Trustees attention in terms of succession planning.

Summary

EUC remains financially strong in terms of assets and although the income is relatively small, it does serve the needs of our community well. The biggest imminent challenge is the increasing number of young people completing their education and therefore their grant entitlement although the Trustees will endeavour to continue disbursement of income in line with objectives. Finally, I ought to comment that the two Nominative Trustees (John Maith and myself) will have served their four year tenure in Oct-2019, the appointment of which is in the gift of yourselves. May I, finally, apologise for not presenting in person due to other prior commitments.

Chris Charlton, Hon Treasurer

12-Mar-2019

EASTON UNITED CHARITIES

Asset Statement: 2018

	2018	2017
Charishare	45,849.24	51,463.37
Charinco Investment	2,452.17	2,560.27
COIF	5,959.73	5,900.06
Investments:-	<u>54,261.14</u>	<u>59,923.70</u>
Land, say approx 38 acres at £6,572/acre	249,736.00	249,736.00
Total Assets:-	<u>303,997.14</u>	<u>309,659.70</u>
Cash at Bank		
Current	21,821.79	22,107.26
Savings	13.86	13.76
Plus Debtors	0.00	0.00
Less Creditors	0.00	0.00
Less Prepayments	0.00	0.00
Overall Position	<u>325,832.79</u>	<u>331,780.72</u>
Surplus/ - Shortfall B/fwd	-285.37	
Asset Increase/ - Decline	-5,662.56	
Net Asset	<u>-5,947.93</u>	
Movement Inc/ - Decrease		
Overall Position	<u>-5,947.93</u>	
Increase/ - Decline		

EASTON UNITED CHARITIES

Income and Expenditure: 2018

		<u>2018</u>		<u>2017</u>
Income:				
	Rents	3,002.50		3,709.87
	Wayleave/Rights	172.75		
	Charinco	105.48		105.48
	Charishare	1,463.10		1,358.14
	COIF	206.80		202.51
	Interest	0.10	4,950.73	5,376.00
Expenditure:				
	Grants	3,425.00		2,247.00
	Gifts	477.00		370.00
	Insurance	468.75		501.83
	Maintenenace	275.00		
	Hire of Church	125.00		125.00
	Management Fees	465.35		
	Expenses		5,236.10	3.60
				3,247.43
Surplus/ -Shortfall		<u>-285.37</u>		<u>2,128.57</u>
Bank				
	Opening	Current	22,107.26	19,978.69
		Savings	13.76	13.76
			22,121.02	19,992.45
	Closing	Current	21,821.79	22,107.26
		Savings	13.86	13.76
			21,835.65	22,121.02
Bank Increase/ -Decrease		<u>-285.37</u>		<u>2,128.57</u>

EASTON – GOOSEY CLOSE PLAYING FIELD REPORT 2018 -2019

There have been no additions of play equipment or repairs during the last year. The grass has now grown through the matting under the toddler swings which continues to create the rural theme for the setting of our play equipment. One upright for the 'Monkey Bridge' climbing frame was replaced in 2015 and the other upright was replaced in 2017, following recommendations from the inspection of the playing field equipment by Wicksteed Leisure. As one of the horizontal climbing bars has now broken off, we will replace it this year.

The saplings planted in 2014 on the village road front of the playing field by Steve Thomason and Mike Baker are now showing encouraging signs of growing into a natural hedgerow.

I should like to express my thanks to Richard Burton for the weeding of the play area and the cutting of the hedge around the playing field. I should also like to thank Geoff Messenger for replacing wood supports on the tables and seats outside of the play area.

The playing field continues to provide a leisure facility for the benefit of the village, as well as a venue for the hosting of outdoor village events and a car parking facility for major events held in St Peter's Church. We continue to keep the field cut on a regular basis to enable the playing of football and other sports on the playing field. This year we have also recently replaced the bin, which is only to be used for rubbish and is not for dog walkers to use as a bin for doggy poo bags. Indeed, no pets are allowed in the playing field. Finally, we would welcome any suggestions for additional improvements which might also be eligible for funding from the Woolley Hill Wind Turbine Community Fund.

EASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

REPORT FOR YEAR TO MARCH 2019

Another year has gone by and I am glad to say that I have not heard of any crime in Easton. A new Defibrillator has been installed on the garage of The House, The Lane, to replace that stolen in 1917. There are always minor problems from fly-tipping of rubbish, often opposite Shepherds Close up the Stonely Road, and recently beside the concrete road to the Sewage Treatment Works. Rubbish also often gets blown into the Brook. Thank you to those public-spirited individuals who help to keep the village tidy.

I continue to receive almost weekly notice of burglaries and other crime incidents in Huntingdonshire, but I only circulate those I consider to have more general interest. Most people know the Co-op stores in Brampton High Street, so it may come as a shock to hear that the cashier there was held up at knife-point on the evening of March 18th and £250 stolen. More positively, I received a report on the same day by Chief Inspector Nick Skipworth saying: "Since May 2018 when the Southern Impact Team was formed we have arrested 154 people - the majority of these being County Lines drug dealers - and have a combined cash and drugs total seizure figure of more than £100,000." This was based partly on 101 calls from the public, so it is always worth reporting suspicious activities.

The other 'Neighbourhood' activity I seem to have is to act as a means of quick communication around the village, such as reminders of forthcoming events. My circulation list is 67, out of 79 households.

Brian Davis

21/3/19