

# EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

## *CHAIRMAN*

MARK ORSON  
89 PYE CORNER  
GILSTON  
NR HARLOW  
HERTS CM20 2RD  
TELEPHONE 01279 453257  
Email: [marko@btinternet.com](mailto:marko@btinternet.com)

## *PARISH CLERK*

CHRISTINE LAW  
9 CHURCH COTTAGES  
GILSTON  
NR HARLOW  
HERTS CM20 2RH  
TELEPHONE 01279 411646  
Email: [christine.law2@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.law2@btinternet.com)

## **EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016, 8.00PM, VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Beazley, Geddes, Hughes, Litvinov, Olsen, Orson,

In attendance: Christine Law (Parish Clerk), Robert Brunton (District Councillor), Roger Beeching (County Councillor), 1 member of the public

- 1. TO RECEIVE APLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None received
- 2. TO RECEIVE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015-2016**  
Cllr Orson gave his annual report. The full report is attached to these minutes and can also be found on the parish web site.
- 3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**  
Nominations were received for Cllr Mark Orson to be Chairman. Cllr Mark Orson's nomination was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Geddes and Cllr Orson accepted the position of Chairman.
- 4. TO RECEIVE THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (CODE OF CONDUCT)**  
The new chairman Cllr Orson signed the declaration of acceptance and was witnessed by the Parish Clerk. (COPY ATTACHED).
- 5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**  
Nominations received for Cllr Spike Hughes to be Vice Chairman. Cllr Spike Hughes nomination was proposed by Cllr Geddes and seconded by Cllr Orson and Cllr Hughes accepted the position.
- 6. 2015-2016 ACCOUNTS TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL AND TO BE APPROVED**  
Cllr Orson reviewed the Parish Council summary of receipt and payments accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. These had been previously circulated to the council. These were proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Olsen. The accounts were then signed by the chairman Cllr Orson and Christine Law – Responsible Officer.

**Meeting closed at 8.10pm**

*Mark Orson*  
2/7/16



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015/16

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of what the Parish Council has been doing during the last year and to comment on the major issues that we are facing as a parish. There is more information available on our community website at [www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk](http://www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk), our Neighbourhood Plan website at [www.hegnp.org.uk](http://www.hegnp.org.uk) and the STOP Harlow North Facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/#!/pages/STOP-Harlow-North-Campaign/151589618240500](https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/STOP-Harlow-North-Campaign/151589618240500).

During the year, the Parish Council has held six Parish Council meetings and an Annual Parish meeting. Individual Parish Councillors took the following responsibilities.

Mark Orson – Chairman - Parish Paths and Planning Matters

Spike Hughes – Vice Chairman - STOP Harlow North representative

Tim Geddes – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group representative

Amanda Olsen - Highways Matters, Village Hall Management Committee liaison

Xavier Litvinov - Parish Website

Lucille Beazley

Christine Law – Parish Clerk

In May 2015 there were two vacancies for Parish Councillor and I am delighted that Xavier Litvinov and Lucille Beazley joined the parish council during the year and that we are now up to full strength.

## Neighbourhood Plan

The East Herts Council Draft District Plan is going through consultation and the Parish Council has started the process of developing our Neighbourhood Plan. To address our common interests, in particular the area between Hunsdon and Eastwick & Gilston, Hunsdon Parish Council and Eastwick & Gilston Parish Council have agreed to create a joint Hunsdon and Eastwick & Gilston Neighbourhood Plan (HEGNP) where the designated area will encompass both parishes.

Neighbourhood Plans are intended to give communities more of a say in the development of their local area - within certain limits and parameters. For example, they must fit with the agreed District Plan. As such, the Neighbourhood Plan will be a supplement to East Herts Council's District Plan. The District Plan is the planning document that "will deliver sustainable development and shape the future of East Herts to 2031". At the time of writing (in May 2016) that is well advanced but remains to be ratified and become fully effective.

However, as the District Plan emerges, more and more weight is attached to it (and therefore to its supplements) when the Council makes its decisions on applications for developments.

When the District Plan is in place, it will be the single and definitive basis against which all applications are decided. That includes both strategic policies - i.e. the 'top-down' assessment of where the additional 15,000 homes that East-Herts has been determined to require by 2031 should broadly go - and the detailed policies that would apply to a specific development.

So if you live, work or own land in Hunsdon, Eastwick or Gilston and have a view on where development should go or not go, or you have a view on what types of development should be permitted or what should not, or you have a view on what developments should look like or should not - then this is your opportunity to express those views. Because, in time, those decisions will affect you.



*Handwritten signature and date*  
11/7/16

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is chaired by Anthony Bickmore with representatives of both Hunsdon and Eastwick & Gilston Parish Council. The Steering Group will undertake some of the work itself, but its main purpose is to enable the Plan by engaging volunteers and professionals in the various stages, and in particular to generate and gather the detailed information upon which the Plan must be based. A website for our Neighbourhood Plan is now up and running at [www.hegnp.org.uk](http://www.hegnp.org.uk) and a leaflet will soon be delivered to each household that explains in more detail:

- What is Neighbourhood Planning.
- Why the two Parish Councils working together.
- When the Neighbourhood Plan is going to be produced.
- How this affects you as a resident, business or landowner.

If you are interested to find out more about this work and perhaps to become involved please contact me or Christine Law, Parish Clerk

### **Harlow North**

As yet there has been no report or conclusions published on “areas identified as Broad Locations for Development” resulting from the draft District Plan Development Strategy 2011-2031 consultation.

The current draft District Plan Development Strategy 2011-2031 that is the subject of the consultation states that “provision will be made to meet the projected housing need of at least 750 homes per annum, making a total minimum requirement of 15,000 homes in the period 2011-2031.”

It goes on to say “Land North and East of Ware, East of Welwyn Garden City and land in the Gilston Area, are identified as Broad Locations for Development, subject to testing and examination through a further Development Plan Document (DPD) or Documents in accordance with Policy DPS4 (Broad Locations for Development.”

And that “The feasibility of a strategic-scale development of between 5,000 and 10,000 new homes in the Gilston Area will be tested through the preparation of the DPD. 5,000 homes represent the minimum scale of development considered necessary to deliver on-site and off-site supporting infrastructure, and deliver the range of sustainability features which would be expected given the width of the Stort Valley and resultant requirement for a degree of self-containment. Subject to testing through master planning, assessing viability and infrastructure planning, 10,000 homes are considered to be the approximate maximum scale of development which could be satisfactorily accommodated in light of environmental and natural assets such as woodlands, the need to avoid coalescence with local settlements, other on-site constraints and transport impacts.

It is anticipated that development could commence on site towards the beginning of the 2021-26 period, continuing through the remainder of the plan period and beyond. Hence it is estimated that only 3,000 of the overall headline housing anticipated may be complete by 2031, with the site continuing to supply a pipeline of future housing to address local need going forward from 2031 onwards.”

The Parish Council continues to be strongly opposed to building up to 10,000 homes in the Gilston area. Please see the STOP Harlow North Facebook pages at [www.facebook.com/#!/pages/STOP-Harlow-North-Campaign/151589618240500](https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/STOP-Harlow-North-Campaign/151589618240500) for full information on our campaign.

### **Terlings Park**



*[Handwritten signature]*  
11/7/16

Welcome to our many new residents in Terlings Park. We are told that approximately 75% of the site will be occupied by around Winter 2016 / Spring 2017 and once completed this will have doubled the size of our community. I'm very pleased that our two new parish councillors Xavier Litvinov and Lucille Beazley are residents of Terlings Park.

At the time of writing the planned access across the site from the main entrance to the bottom of Burnt Mill Lane is not open to the public. We are told this will be opened as soon as the developers judge it safe to do so while construction work continues. This will allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross Terlings Park and avoid using the C161 from Terlings Park entrance to the Dusty Miller and the hill section of Burnt Mill Lane from the Dusty Miller down to The Stort. The pathway will be partially lit and should be a safer and more pleasant route than we currently have available.

We will keep residents informed of progress through the Parish Magazine and our website [www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk](http://www.eastwickandgilston.org.uk).

### **Website**

The website has been up and running since 2012 and with Terlings Park residents starting to arrive it is time to review our website content and use of website facilities to make sure that we are making best use. For example, in addition to providing static information and photographs we can also include Discussion Forums, Blogs, Community Pages and Consultations. If you have any views or suggestions for how the website could be used and/or types of information that should be published to support our community, please let us know.

This is a community website and we are also looking for local groups who would like to use the facilities to support their activities. No costs or charges will apply for use of the site.

For more information and to discuss your ideas please contact Christine Law, Parish Clerk, on 411646 or email [christine.law2@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.law2@btinternet.com).

### **Pole Hole Quarry Restoration**

The end of an era for Eastwick and Gilston as all operations at Pole Hole Quarry have been ceased and the restoration work is finally complete!

### **Planning**

We have had a number of planning applications to comment on during the year and most have been reasonably straightforward and non-contentious changes to existing properties. The major planning issues affecting our area are addressed by our Neighbourhood Plan and the STOP Harlow North campaign.

### **Highways**

We continue to work closely with Highways to ensure that Highways maintenance activities are carried out effectively and meet our local needs. As with all local services Highways work is governed by budget and availability of resources and getting work carried out in a timely manner can sometimes be a frustrating struggle. However, we have an agreed schedule of outstanding work and take every opportunity to push for priority treatment.

During the last year the road has been re-surfaced through Pye Corner and remedial works carried out on Eastwick Hall Lane that has major works planned for this year subject to budget availability.

### **Parish Paths**



*[Handwritten signature]*  
11/7/12

The parish footpath network is a real asset and I would again encourage anyone who hasn't walked them to try and find the time as it will give you another perspective on our local area. Our footpaths are well maintained and we have continued to keep them so during the last year with grants and practical help from the Rights of Way department and Countryside Management Service.

We received a grant to pay for the reprinting of the parish paths brochure/map and a copy was delivered to each household with the May edition of the parish magazine, additional copies are available from Christine Law, our Parish Clerk You will also find a number of display maps of the footpath network located around the parishes including both the Eastwick and Gilston War Memorial sites.

### **Parish Precept**

You will have recently received the booklet from East Herts Council outlining your rates for 2016/2017. Part of the rates is made up of the Parish Precept which is set by the Parish Council to cover small running costs and a number of initiatives we undertake. The amount attaching to your rates for the parish is a function of what we spend and the number of properties and their valuation bands in the area.

This year we deliberately maintained our precept at the same level for the eighth year running.

If you have views on how we should spend our money and if we should spend more or less then let one of the Parish Councillors know or attend a Parish Council meeting. We are always keen to hear views and enjoy the interaction with members of the public at the meetings – all are welcome.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, we have again made good progress and are fortunate to have a dedicated and hardworking team of Councillors. They devote a lot of their time for the benefit of the community which is unpaid and they claim no expenses. Thanks to Bob Brunton and Roger Beeching who are our District and County Councillors respectively they give valued support to the Parish Council.

Thanks also to Christine Law, our Parish Clerk.

Mark Orson



*Mark Orson*  
14/7/16

**EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL30  
SUMMARY OF RECEIPT AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup>  
MARCH 2016**

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS			
2014/2015		2015/2016	2014/2015	2015/2016	
£4939.32	Precept	£4900.00	£4298.57	General Administration	£4,471.67
£7.53	Interest of Investments	£6.62	£441.48	Footpath Benches	
£1007.00	New Homes Bonus	£1071.00		<b>RUNNING COSTS:</b>	
£445.00	Advertising – Parish Magazine	£740.00	£165.00	War Memorials	£253.00
£5,000.00	Donations – Village Planters	£0	£0	Churchyards	£800.00
£0	Other income	£333.23	£812.00	Parish Magazine	£902.50
	Transparency Code Grant	£826.22	£0	Maintenance village planters	£2115.20
£0	VAT Refund	£345.32		Computer	£728.98
£11,399.73	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	£8222.39	£5717.05	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	£9,271.35

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY**

Balance brought forward £11,800.78  
 ADD Total Receipts £8,222.39  
 LESS Total Payments £9271.35  
 Balance carried forward £10,751.82

These cumulative funds are represented by:

Bank Current Account Balance £4565.41  
 Uncashed Cheques £ 240.00  
 Bank Reserve Account Balance £6426.41  
 Cash at bank £10,751.82

SIGNED

CHAIRMAN – Mark Orson CLERK/RESPONSIBLE OFFICER – Christine Law

DATED 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

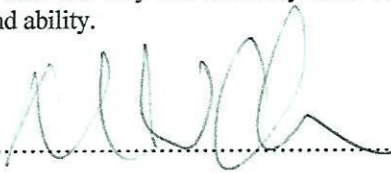
*Handwritten signature and date: MWO 4/7/16*

# EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

## DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

I Mark Owen having been elected to the office of member (Parish Councillor) of Gilston Parish Council declare that I take that office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability.

Signed



Date

2/5/16

This declaration was made and signed before me

Signed



Date

9-5-16

Proper officer of the Council (Parish Council)

*(a) Under Section 83(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, a declaration for Members or elected Mayors of a county, district or London Borough Council shall be made before two Members of the Council, its elected Mayor, its proper officer, a justice of the peace or magistrate in the United Kingdom, the Channel Isles or the Isle of Man, or a commissioner appointed to administer oaths in the Supreme Court. A declaration for Members of Parish Councils shall be made before a member of the proper officer of the Council.*



2/7/16

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL30

SUMMARY OF RECEIPT AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS			
2014/2015		2015/2016	2014/2015		2015/2016
£4939.32	Precept	£4900.00	£4298.57	General Administration	£4,471.67
£7.53	Interest of Investments	£6.62	£441.48	Footpath Benches	
£1007.00	New Homes Bonus	£1071.00		<b>RUNNING COSTS:</b>	
£445.00	Advertising – Parish Magazine	£740.00	£165.00	War Memorials	£253.00
£5,000.00	Donations – Village Planters	£0	£0	Churchyards	£800.00
£0	Other income	£333.23	£812.00	Parish Magazine	£902.50
	Transparency Code Grant	£826.22	£0	Maintenance village planters	£2115.20
£0	VAT Refund	£345.32		Computer	£728.98
£11,399.73	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	£8222.39	£5717.05	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	£9,271.35

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Balance brought forward £11,800.78

ADD Total Receipts £8,222.39

LESS Total Payments £9271.35

Balance carried forward £10,751.82

These cumulative funds are represented by:

Bank Current Account Balance £4565.41

Uncashed Cheques £ 240.00

Bank Reserve Account Balance £6426.41

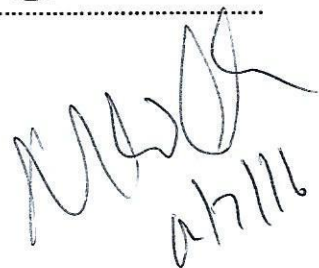
Cash at bank £10,751.82

SIGNED 

CHAIRMAN.....

CLERK/RESPONSIBLE OFFICER .....

DATED 2/5/16.....

  
2/5/16