

# EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2013 in Eastington Methodist Church.

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Bullock, Cozens (arrived at 7.25pm), Edis-Bates, Edwards, Evans, Greenaway and Simmons: Anita Sach (Acting Clerk), Robert Powell (RFO). There were 22 members of the public present, Elin Tattersall of GRCC and Cllr Lesley Williams (GCC). Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Allen. Apologies were sent by County Cllr Blackburn and District Cllr Stephens
2. **Chairman's announcements:** Chair highlighted the closed session at the end of the meeting which would be closed to the public. Council was looking forward to moving on after the previous 2 months and committees will be reorganised to get the best out of all councillors. He thanked Tom Low for his professional and systematic help with the Parish Plan and planning issues in general. Chair advised that the MP Neil Carmichael would address the meeting on 9 April.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings:** Cllr Bullock proposed approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 12 February 2013. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions.
5. **Review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** The list was reviewed and all actions are in hand.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** Item 7.1 to be brought forward.

The meeting was adjourned at this point for members of the Public to speak.

Kevin Dalby of the Eastington Youth Group gave a short presentation about the group. A survey found that the group would benefit from a park and they were looking at a site to the west of the allotments next to Snakey Lane. Facilities would cater for all ages including a shelter for the older kids and outdoor gym equipment and they have been quoted £70,000. They were actively seeking grants and fundraising was under way. The freestanding equipment and shelters would be installed by professionals but will need additional help from volunteers. A consultation event is planned for April to help with ideas for equipment. Councillors discussed the proposal and advised that as the proposed park was on council land they will need to see detailed plans before the next meeting so that they can ratify the proposal then.

Because of time restraints it was agreed that the following reports from County Councillor Tony Blackburn and District Councillor Ken Stephens would be circulated with the Minutes.

County Councillor Blackburn submitted the following report:

He can confirm that there is no increase in the County Council share of the council tax. GCC has been able to provide a further £3M towards potholes and £1M towards adoptions as well as keeping to plan to save £114M over 3 years.

Parents applying for secondary school places for their children for September should have done so by now. If there are any problems with placements or school transport which haven't been resolved by GCC yet, please let him know.

Cllr Blackburn is now signing off as County Cllr for Eastington as we will now come under Stonehouse from 2 May. He very much regrets not being able to get the speed limits down at Springhill and Claypits but hopes that we will keep trying and that the new councillor will do so on our behalf. He hopes that we feel that he helped with Sophie's Pitch village green and road repairs. He is unhappy that he has not been able to get the Orchard Leigh build out but, if he is elected to GCC again he asks that we contact him to pursue it and hopefully the Stonehouse County Cllr will also take it up. He feels that despite the parish, GCC, social services and Camphill all agreeing and the fact that he had planned to put in £1500 from his Highways allowance, it has had to be aborted because of a lack of cooperation from Highways in not giving a proper figure for the road features.

District Councillor Ken Stephens submitted the following report:

The Local Plan continues to take up a considerable amount of time. Unfortunately officers do not seem to have moved away from their support of a large housing allocation in the Nupend/Nastend area of the

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Parish. It seems the more information that is submitted about how stupid this proposal is the more they support it. He became aware at a Planning Advisory Panel meeting last week that officers had been in discussions about ways of enhancing the merits of this site with developments quite a way outside of the SCHLA site the proposal encompasses. The officer proposal on how housing requirements should be met was not accepted by me or the rest of the group. He will be working with others to see if there is consensus on housing numbers and possibly allocation. There was a request at the meeting that if anybody has a contrary view to the officer they should talk to officers. Cllr Stephens actually thought that he and many others had been doing just that for months, even years. He did bring this to the attention of the councillor making the request. The work continues!

Ian Rank-Broadley thanked EPC for helping to get the lane resurfaced in Nastend and for their support against Javelin Park. He had met with David Drew re the housing strategy and urged EPC to develop a Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible.

Ed Davies expressed concern about the density and height of housing in the Swallowcraft plans. He was concerned about the balancing pond for flood water and pointed out that in his previous parish responsibility for the balancing pond had fallen to the parish council.

Alan Brasier was concerned that the Swallowcraft application was being decided in early April which seemed very hurried. Cllr Niblett explained the system for planning applications.

## **7 Resolutions**

### **7.1 Finance**

- 7.2.1 RFO gave an update of the 2012-13 accounts, referring to the report circulated prior to the meeting (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). After the cheques listed there will be approx £43,000 in the accounts. The spend to date is £25,584 with around £13,000 left to spend. There are 5 cheques including payment for the Acting Clerk, RFO salary, balance of salary for the previous Clerk, hire of the Methodist Hall and GAPTC subs. A cheque for £415 for funeral charges has been received.
- 7.2.2 Cllr Simmonds proposed approval of the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried. The schedule is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.2.3 Chair proposed 'Internal Audit & Compliance' be confirmed as internal auditors for the 2012-2013 accounts and this was carried.
- 7.2.4 It was agreed to make the following donations:
- Stroud Valleys Project – £50 proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded Cllr Greenaway
  - Hop, Skip and Jump – £25 proposed by Cllr Bullock, seconded Cllr Niblett
  - Samaritans - £25 proposed by Cllr Simmonds, seconded by Cllr Edwards

Carried unanimously.

### **7.3 Planning**

- 7.3.1 Chair proposed ratification of Council's response to Gloucestershire County Council: Objection to planning application for an 'energy from waste facility' at Javelin Park. Seven in favour with 1 abstention.
- 7.3.2 A Parish Plan update was presented by Tom Low, member of the working group. The Housing and Transport sections were adopted in November 2012 following an excellent response from parishioners. Work is continuing to be able to present a draft Parish Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting with a view to publishing the final document in June.
- 7.3.2 Neighbourhood Plan meeting with MP Neil Carmichael: Cllr Bullock had attended this meeting and had invited Elin Tattersall of GRCC to the EPC meeting to outline the value of a Neighbourhood Plan to Eastington. Elin gave Councillors an overview of a Neighbourhood Plan. The document has more teeth than a Parish Plan but will build on the work started in the Parish Plan. It will be considered in material planning terms and is ideal for communities that want growth but want to be

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able to shape that growth. Initially EPC need to apply to SDC with map, reasons for a plan and the area under consideration (can be whole or part of parish or join with neighbouring parishes, although the latter can slow the process down). SDC goes out to consultation for 6 weeks before the working group consults with the community to develop vision, objectives and solution. Based on evidence the plan can develop a policy on the style of houses, design characteristics and parking and even conservations areas, green spaces and employment. Draft document goes to statutory consultation for 6 weeks when comments from other consultees are taken into consideration and included in the plan, which should conform with NPPF and the Local Plan. SDC then put it on their website for 6 weeks. The final stage is for a referendum in the local community where at least 50% of those who vote must approve it. From 1 April 2013 more funding is available, technical expertise is on offer free of charge and GRCC can also facilitate. The working party must have terms of reference, a code of conduct and take in sustainability and human rights. Chair proposed that EPC develops a Neighbourhood Plan and it was carried unanimously. The working group to include Cllrs Niblett, Edis-Bates, Greenaway, Bullock and Evans with Tom Low and Alan Brasier. Cllr Evans proposed, and Cllr Greenaway seconded that the initial letter should be send to SDC straight away to get the process started and Elin Tattersall will provide a template. Carried unanimously. Cllr Evans reported that the Parish-Developer protocol is under development looking at how developers should approach parishes. He will report in full at the next meeting.

- 7.3.3 The following planning committee's recommendations were considered for the following applications:  
S.13/0269/TCA Meadow Cottage, Millend Lane, Eastington Dismantle to ground level large leaning lime tree over garage. T2 - Very small apple tree to be felled and removed to allow dismantling operations relating to the lime tree to be carried out safely and effectively. The planning committee recommended that council raises no objection.  
S.13/0428/HHOLD Providence Cottage, Claypits, Eastington Proposed alterations, extension and relocation of driveway access. The planning committee recommended that council raises no objection.  
Cllr Greenaway proposed that the parish council supports these recommendations. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried unanimously.
- 7.3.4 Stroud Youth Football Club and new changing facilities at Eastington Community Centre (Owen Harris Memorial Ground): Cllr Greenaway expressed concerns that the facilities would be for the use of an organisation from outside the parish and not be available to Eastington residents. He asked that safeguards should be put in place and Cllr Bullock responded that a contract would be drawn up for the conditions of use. It was felt that it should be discussed in more detail at a later meeting taking into consideration concerns from parishioners. Stroud YFC would be asked to hold a public meeting which councillors would attend.
- 7.3.5 Swallowcroft: Chair reported that he had cancelled the Bathurst meeting as the developers had agreed to meet before the planning application was submitted but the application went in before the meeting date, having been drafted in January in consultation with SDC. Cllr Greenaway has prepared a letter expressing council's displeasure at there being no consultation with the parish, and this had been circulated.
- 7.3.6 Swallowcroft: Cllr Simmonds proposed and Cllr Cozens seconded accepting the letter to Bathurst written by Cllr Greenaway. Carried with one abstention

## **8. Updates**

- 8.1 The Strategic Planning Committee reported that Ian Stuart, a former Chief Planning Officer for Gloucester City, had been engaged to advise EPC on how SDC might better approach the Core Strategy. Two of the local political parties are now involved and this will give the findings some weight. At a meeting on 14 February, the committee resolved to accept the report and share it with District Councillors.  
At a subsequent meeting on 14 February the requirements for a Community Land Trust were investigated. It was agreed to put an article in the ECN about the CLT and to have an initial meeting on 2 April at 7.30pm at a venue TBA.

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**9. Closed Session**

**Appointment of new Clerk**

Two extremely competent candidates had been interviewed and Cllr Edwards proposed and Cllr Cozens seconded that Andrea Durn be appointed. The motion was carried unanimously. Cllr Evans was asked to look into providing a parish mobile phone for the new Clerk as well as a dongle for the parish laptop.

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Anybody with an item they wish to bring to the attention of the Council, should forward details, in writing, to the Clerk to the Parish Council, no later than Monday 1st April 2013.

Signed.....  
Chairman/Responsible Officer

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