

# EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: [eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.00pm in Eastington Methodist Hall**

- 1 **Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Allen, Loveridge, Simmons and Bomberg. There were 7 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs Cozens, Corrie, Edis-Bates and Evans.
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** The register of interests' book was signed by Cllr Loveridge (DPI finance).
- 3 **Chairman's announcements.** Cllr Bullock passed on congratulations to the Eastington Community News team for a really good latest edition and for the good job the team are doing in keeping the parish informed. Thanks were also conveyed to Mr Edwards for quickly organising the installation of 3 new kissing gates which the landowner paid for. A developer has delivered a questionnaire to residents on public spaces usage; the Chair urged that people complete it.
- 4 **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015:** RESOLVED to accept the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
- 5 **Outstanding actions from previous meeting:** 8.5 is outstanding, no update has been received from Cllr Evans on behalf of the Strategic Planning Working Group. Cllr Bomberg will contact Cllr Evans to follow-up this action. Item 10.9 is still in progress with opening the accounts with Barclays.
- 6 **Changes to the order of business** None
- 7 **The applicant Mr Toomey was present to answer the Parish Council's concerns regarding planning applications S.15/1781/FUL and S.15/1856/FUL Solar Farms at Leonard Stanley.** No hedgerows will be removed, and they plan to build a matt green security fence within 3 metres of the boundary and then plant hedgerows to obscure the security fences, there will be no barbed wire. They will introduce different types of local wildflowers and grasses to enhance the bio-diversity. There are some overviews from properties particularly at Cress Green; unfortunately it is unavoidable to have no impact at all in the production of this type of green electricity. Hedgerows will be cut annually but not aggressively, so will take a shorter time to blend in. There will be no fast growing plants used.

The applicant has contacted Network Rail and they have no objections to the proposals. The sewage line follows the public footpath so no panels will be installed in that location. There will be a security fence alongside the public footpath unfortunately with some visual encroachment on the open space. As time goes by, the wildflowers will grow and the applicant hopes this will make the walk more pleasant and lessen the impact. The landowner will be able to graze sheep on the site.

Archaeologists have requested 2% trench digging across the site, the applicant has asked that this be subject to planning. The applicant has already carried out geo-physics surveys across the land and there are some areas of interest and the trenches will be dedicated to those locations. There is a clear 6 metre area alongside the River to maintain the width of the public footpath. Cllr Bomberg asked if the geo-physics report could be made available; it should be on the planning portal already.

The applicant would like to contribute to the community with a contribution of £10k per MW for a community fund (approximately £50k per site one-off payment); the Parish Council would like more information on how this fund would operate. The applicant thought that this would form part of a section 106 agreement.

The land would be returned to original condition when the solar farm is removed at the end of its life.

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

Mr Low thanked the Parish Council and Clerk for the initiative of having the meeting pack published on the website. Mr Low went on to talk about agenda item 14.2 – Arc Energy Resource offering community support, Mr Low felt that decoration of the roundabout is not applicable as this is now managed by Stroud District Council. However, Mr Low suggests that Arc could help with a piece of equipment needed by the Eastington Community Orchard group which will cost £280. This will be taken into consideration when the Council discuss this item.

Mr Low also spoke about Millend Mill breach of planning permission (agenda item 9.7). Mr Low felt that this is the fault of the owner and not the architect, and that it is vitally important that the conditions are met in particular the new footpath.

Mr Low also spoke about agenda item 11 submitted by the Community Land Trust group regarding nomination of the school playing field as an asset of community value to protect this piece of land from market housing in the future.

Cllr Bomberg asked for an update on the new community orchard. Mr Low responded that a lease is in the process of being signed, the legal fees for which are being met by the Orchard Group.

Mr Parry asked about the vandalised lock on the main gate to the OHMG; Cllr Bomberg had brought this up with two OHMG Committee members and was advised that this gate lock is no longer being used. Mr Parry felt it was important that this gate be secured and will raise this with OHMG Committee. Cllr Bomberg will also raise this again with the Committee.

Mr Parry asked about the “Love Eastington” Facebook page, and will talk to Cllr Bomberg about this after the meeting as this is not a Parish Council page.

Mr Parry asked if they could install a keypad lock on the allotment gate as this is only used by the allotment-holders and grass cutters.

Mr Parry also asked about the lorry access to Swallowcroft from Bath Road and the resulting broken up pavements at that site; this would be the responsibility of Newland Homes to repair and they have said in the past they will make the surfaces safe.

**County Councillor’s Report** Cllr Williams was unable to attend the meeting, but provided Cllr Bullock with an update. Cllr Williams will contribute £5k from her Highways budget towards the costing up exercise and assessment of the parish gateways.

**District Councillor’s Report** Cllr Davies spoke about Ecotricity; he had conducted a survey of 300 homes and received 65 responses. The preliminary findings on the question “do you like the Ecotricity proposal or not – score 0-10”. 35% gave a zero, 55% gave a score of 4 or less. The survey also asked for opinion on Stroud Local Plan. Cllr Davies read out some of the statistics and will publish the information in due course. A number of houses were missed, particularly the bulk of the village that will be affected by the Ecotricity proposals. Cllr Loveridge asked that the results not be published until the whole parish has been surveyed. Cllr Davies will attempt to survey wider before the Ecotricity planning application is submitted.

Cllr Davies met with Highways but they do not have an improvement plan for A419 that includes Ecotricity plans but will carry out traffic surveys; Cllr Davies will pursue this. Cllr Davies has followed up the Parish

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Council's request for minutes of pre-application meetings with Ecotricity and has been told that no minutes were taken. Cllr Davies met with the planning officer for Millend Mill and expressed his concerns and won't allow this matter to drift. Cllr Davies also met with Mr Nissler at Williams Morris House regarding concerns over the Ecotricity proposals and passed on that William Morris House would like to work more closely with the community.

Mr Davies asked Cllr Davies about an employee of Ecotricity being a District Councillor and perhaps not declared an interest; Cllr Davies confirmed that the District Councillor has declared the interest.

## **8 Policy and Procedures**

- 8.1 The Council received the following Council Policies and RESOLVED to adopt as drafted:
- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Complaints Policy  | Data Protection Policy |
| Publication Scheme |                        |

Cllr Bomberg proposed an addition to the Information Security Policy that laptop and email passwords are changed every 6 months and retained by the Clerk and Chair, passwords must be "strong" and contain at least one uppercase and numerical character. The Council RESOLVED to adopt the policy with the password amendment. **Action: Clerk.**

- 8.2 The Council RESOLVED to create Facebook and Twitter accounts for Eastington Parish Council and authorised the Clerk to publish Parish Council updates. The Clerk will also update the Communications Policy. **Action: Clerk.**

## **9 Planning**

- 9.1 The Council received an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 9.2 The Council considered the draft pre-application protocol to be submitted to Stroud District Council and RESOLVED to adopt as drafted and will add local businesses to a future revision of the protocol. **Action: Clerk** to forward to SDC.
- 9.3 The Council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015.
- 9.4 The Council received the notes of the meeting held with Planning Officers at Stroud District Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.
- 9.5 The Council received a summary of the West of Stonehouse development meeting held with Stroud District Council on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Stroud District Council compiled detailed notes of the meeting which they have asked to be treated confidential but any areas that the Parish Council wishes to publish will need permission from SDC first. **Action: Clerk** to circulate the notes to the Parish Councillors as confidential.
- 9.6 The Council considered the request for the Parish Council to take on management of a proposed community hall at West of Stonehouse development. The Council re-iterated that it remains opposed to the housing development, but following discussion agreed that in principle it would take on the running of the proposed community hall. The Clerk and Chair will meet with the developers to discuss the specification of the community hall. **Action: Clerk and Chair.**
- 9.7 The Council noted that Millend Mill has received first occupation in breach of planning conditions.

## **10 Finance**

- 10.1 The Clerk circulated an update on 2015/16 budget versus spend, and bank reconciliation. **Action: Clerk** to prepare a list of annual subscriptions and grants for the budget.
- 10.2 Council RESOLVED to pay the Clerk's expenses for September 2015 at £182.79 and these will be paid with the October payroll.
- 10.3 The Council approved the accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to meeting:

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Payee	Details	Chq No	Amount	Budget
Salaries & Expenses	August 2015 Expenses agreed 08/09/15 processed through Payroll plus September 2015 Salary	1667	£1229.56	Parish Admin
Post Office Ltd	PAYE & NI payments to HMRC for September 2015	1668	£267.75	Parish Admin
Alan Loveridge	Grass cutting & grounds maintenance £580 Footpaths £390	1669	£970	Ground Maintenance
Eastington Methodist Church	Council meeting room hire in August & September	1670	£45.50	Parish Admin
Staples UK Ltd	Stationery invoices x 3 (£21.98, £7.08, £43.47)	1671	£72.53	Parish Admin
OHMG	NDP Meeting room hire	1672	£96	NDP
PATA(UK)	Payroll services July-Sept 2015	1673	£19.80	Parish Admin
Stonehouse Town Council	Councillor Training 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	1674	£20	Training
Royal British Legion	Donation agreed in 2013, replacement for cheque 1408	1675	£100	Donations
NEST	Pensions for September 2015	DD (16/09/15)	£104.75	Parish Admin
Vodafone	Parish Mobile	DD (19/09/15)	£48.99	Parish Admin
Public Works Loan Board	Loan Payment	DD (21/10/15)	£2761.48	Loans
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5736.36</b>	

- 10.4 The Council noted the Clerk's timesheet for September 2015.
- 10.5 The Council considered the quotes received for safety inspections to be carried out at the closed churchyard and RESOLVED to accept the quote from Andrew Marcham at a cost of £450+VAT to come out of the Burial Ground budget. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.6 The Council considered the issue of the untended land near to 9 Swallowcroft and noted Stroud District Council's offer to remove the 4 trees if the Parish Council will take on management of the land (grass cutting and hedge maintenance). The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the properties that overlook the land and received no objections to the proposals. The Council RESOLVED to take on the management of the land. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.7 Councillors noted that budget suggestions should be submitted to the Clerk by 30<sup>th</sup> October for inclusion in the first draft of the budget 2016/17. **Action: All.**

## 11 Assets of Community Value

The Council considered the request from Eastington Community Land Trust to nominate the school playing field as an "Asset of Community Value". After a discussion regarding the need to identify other "assets of community value" it was agreed to nominate the school field as an Asset of Community Value, and also to ask the Strategic Planning Working Group to look at other assets for nomination within the parish. **Action: Clerk.** The second part of the request that relates to land allocation will be forwarded to the NDP group for discussion. It was also clarified that the Community Land Trust group is not a committee of the Parish Council.

## 12 Groups

- 12.1 No report received from the Play Park Group.
- 12.2 The Council received a report from the Getting Around Group and notes of the meeting held with

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Highways on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

- 12.3 The Council received a report from the Churchyard and Burial Ground Group.
- 12.4 The Council received a report from the Resources Group meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

## **13 Review of Burial Rules and Fees**

- 13.1 The Council approved the updated rules and regulations. **Action: Clerk.**
- 13.2 The Council approved the updated burial fees. **Action: Clerk.**

## **14 Correspondence**

- 14.1 Council received a list of correspondence received since the last meeting for information.
- 14.2 The Council considered the offer of community support from Arc Energy Resource. After a discussion of ideas the Clerk was instructed to respond to Arc Energy to make them aware that the roundabout is protected so that this is not an option for community support, and to forward the request from Eastington Community Orchard, and also suggest sponsorship for flower towers.  
**Action: Clerk.**
- 14.3 The Council noted the letter and information flyer from Stroud Valleys Project, and Council expressed a desire to improve the ponds in the parish particularly the one behind the allotments. This can be considered in the budget for 2016/17.

## **Any other business for the next meeting.**

Recognition scheme for individuals input into the community.

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm.**

**Notice: The next Full Council Meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015.**

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