

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Allen, Bullock, Cozens, Edis-Bates, Evans, Greenaway and Simmons; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). There were no members of the public present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Cozens and Edwards.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair confirmed he would be laying the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council during next Sunday's Remembrance Service.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** Cllr Simmons declared a personal interest in Item 4.1.1

4 Resolutions

4.1 Planning

- 4.1.1 The proposal to retain a planning consultant to assist this council was discussed. It was agreed that as this parish faces several complex planning issues a professional representative is vital. The planning issues are:
 - It is believed that 32 houses are planned at Swallowcroft.
 - Plans for 1500 houses to the north of the A419 in Eastington are anticipated shortly.
 - Representation of our parish's interests is needed in the developing Core Strategy.The anticipated proposals are all a outside of the Village Envelope where development might be appropriate. Cllr Greenaway proposed that a planning consultant is engaged, seconded by Cllr Allen and carried unanimously.
- 4.1.2 Cllr Edis-Bates and Evans presented a short list of three possible planning consultants. After considerable discussion, Mr Ian Stuart, an ex-Inspector and a national consultant was selected, as his profile most closely matched the parish council's criteria. Cllr Greenaway proposed that Ian Stuart is retained to represent Eastington Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. Cllr Bullock proposed that up to £2000 paid to Ian Stuart for his preparatory work (leading up to the final Inquiry) on the Core Strategy, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried. Mindful of the threat of significant planning developments pending, Chair proposed a further sum of £2000, pointing out that the majority of public objections has demonstrated the importance of this issue. Carried unanimously. Chair proposed a 'Strategic Planning Group' comprising himself, Cllrs Bullock (Chair of this Group), Greenaway, Edis-Bates, Evans. Meetings of this Group to be attended and minuted by the Clerk. Carried.

4.2 Finance

- 4.2.1 The budget for the financial year 2013-14 was discussed. Prior to the meeting RFO has circulated a draft budget, together with his recommendations (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). RFO confirmed that of the income from the Precept of £34,830 approximately £30,000 is 'spoken for' in salaries, insurance, grass cutting etc. RFO strongly recommended that, in the light of the current financial climate, the level of Precept requested is the same as the previous year. The budget was discussed in detail. The following points were made:
 - The churchyard wall repairs are imminent. This will cost at least £3000.
 - The Community Orchard is likely to need more funding, £1000 to be budgeted
 - £500 will be needed for the proposed footpaths noticeboard materials and installation.
 - The dog bin at Millend needs to be replaced. This would cost about £400.
 - Three grit / salt bins would cost £300 (£100 each).
 - The cost of a planning consultant to represent the parish council over the Core Strategy and other planning developments could amount to £6000.

It was agreed that these items should be included in the budget, as all have been identified as of value to the parish. It is noted that this would push the budget deficit up; the expenditure would come from reserves. RFO will amend the budget and circulate it.

Cllr Evans proposed that this Council adopts the revised budget. Seconded by Cllr Allen and carried. Chair thanked RFO for his work on the budget.

Any other business for the next meeting: None

The meeting closed at 8:40

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th November 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date