

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th November 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Allen, Cozens, Edis-Bates, Edwards, Evans, Greenaway and Simmons; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). There was one member of the public present, Tom Low. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Niblett. Apologies were sent by District Councillor Stephens and County Councillor Blackburn.
2. **Chairman's announcements:** Chair advised that anyone interested in the Code of Conduct training offered by SDC should contact the Clerk. She reminded the councillors that statements made in the meetings should not be conjecture or rumour. She thanked Cllrs for their contributions to the Parish Plan.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings:** Cllr Greenaway proposed approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 9th October 2012. Seconded by Cllr Allen and carried. Cllr Allen proposed approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 6th November. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Review of outstanding actions from previous meetings:** Cllr Edis-Bates confirmed that he will circulate the response to the Economic Assessment and Land Use Study consultation
6. **Changes to the order of business:** No requests were made to change the order of business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 minutes for members of the Public to speak.

Tom Low gave an update on the Eastington Community Orchard Group's progress in securing the orchard behind the Kings Head. This it would provide a permanent orchard in a central location. Cottsway have offered a 7-year rolling lease which is unacceptable to ECO as grants cannot be obtained on that basis. The purchase price is expected to be £7500. ECO has identified a sponsor to pay the legal costs. Access arrangements will be dealt with during the conveyancing. Councillors indicated by a show of hands that they would be minded to make a grant of £7500, possibly split between the EPC and Charlie Bullock Fund. RFO advised that ECO request the £7500 from the Charlie Bullock Fund as there has been no provision made in the EPC budget for a capital grant such as this.

Chair read a report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn. His report mentioned the postponed badger cull, the date for the GCC Planning committee to consider the Javelin Park incinerator (provisionally 17 01 2013), and repeated his request for EPC to contribute towards the build-out at Orchard Leigh.

Chair read a report from District Councillor Ken Stephens. He reported that the Committee work on the Local Plan process continues. This is now done in a public forum. Cllr Stephens confirmed that within the forthcoming series of meetings, and elsewhere, he will continue to try and show that the council's preferred strategy is the wrong one, that the way it was derived questionable, and that it has been overtaken by recent events.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:25.

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 RFO presented an update of the 2012-13 accounts (copy distributed to Councillors prior to this meeting and attached to the signed Minutes). RFO confirmed that there will be £48,500 in the accounts after today's payments for approval. There is £18,000 available to spend during the next five months. The OHMGC loan repayment cheque for £2000 has been banked.
- 7.1.2 RFO ran through the list of the accounts for payment (schedule distributed prior to the meeting, copy attached to the signed Minutes). Apart from the regular accounts for salary, expenses, hall hire and mowing, there is an account from Severn Water for the stand tap at the burial ground, the hand grit spreader [approved Minute 7.5.2 of meeting 9th October 2012], and membership of the Open Spaces Society [approved Minute 7.1.1 of meeting 3rd April 2012].
- 7.1.3 Cllr Evans proposed the 2013-14 Precept be set at £34,830 (the same as 2012-13). Seconded by Cllr Allen and carried unanimously.

7.2 Planning

- 7.2.1 Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update on the Core Strategy / housing developments. He advised that he has arranged a meeting of this parish council's Strategic Planning Committee with the planning consultant, Ian Stuart. Ian will assist EPC in trying to persuade SDC to change its strategy.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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- 7.2.2 Cllr Evans stressed the value of a Neighbourhood Plans. If a Neighbourhood Plan is to be created, the boundary needs to be agreed in discussion with adjacent parishes. There is some consensus that an area larger than Eastington would have more weight. To be returned to the next agenda.
Action: Power-point presentation / information booklets to be circulated
- 7.2.3 To consider the planning committee's recommendations for the following applications:
S.12/1620/FUL, Land On The North West Side Of Millend Row Millend Lane. Erection of 3 dwellings. The planning committee note vociferous local objection. The development is outside the village envelope in the IHCA and on the flood plain. There are inaccuracies in the application. The planning committee recommend objection.
S.12/2132/HHOLD, Lindine, Nastend. Proposed front, side and rear extension and carport. The planning committee recommends support for this application.
S.12/2168/HHOLD, Fox House, Bath Road. Erection of single storey extension. The planning committee recommends support for this application.
Cllr Cozens proposed that EPC accepts these recommendations. Seconded by Cllr Evans and carried.
- 7.3 Burial Ground and Churchyard**
The report from the Burial Ground and Churchyard Committee was received. Cllr Cozens confirmed that he has spoken to Mr Strang (Headteacher) about the churchyard wall. The specification for the remedial work on the wall is in hand.
- 7.4 Roads and Transport**
7.4.1 The report from the Roads and Transport Committee was discussed. Since writing the report another grit bin has been found. The trench created during the roadworks at Alkerton has been filled in. Cllr Cozens, responding to the complaints of excessive mud on the roads following harvesting, confirmed that the mud had been cleaned to police and Highway's satisfaction. Cllr Cozens will write an article for the Community News to explain the problems encountered by farmers in this exceptionally wet year.
7.4.2 The draft Roads and Transport contribution for the Parish Plan was circulated. A summary will be produced for the Community News.
- 7.5 Footpaths**
7.5.1 Cllr Edwards is awaiting written permission from the Co-op for the installation of the notice board. Cllr Greenaway has copies of circular walks that were drafted some years ago.
7.5.2 As the costs are not yet finalized the spending decision was deferred.
- 7.6 Parish Plan**
Cllr Greenaway proposed that 'housing' section of Eastington Parish Plan be adopted by the Parish Council and approved for publication. Seconded by Cllr Cozens and carried. Chair thanked those involved.
- 7.7 Community Right to Build**
The proposal to convene a special group to develop options and proposals for Eastington under the 'Community Right to Build' was discussed. It was agreed that this effort would be picked up by the Neighbourhood Plan Group.
- 7.8 Eastington Youth Group**
Cllr Bullock advised that EYG has changed its plans. They are not proceeding with the building of the Youth Pod. The Unite pods will be sold. They are looking into building a playground to attract younger children. The location for the playground has not yet been decided.

Cllr Cozens added that the discussions that the EYG started with Stroud Football Club have been taken forward by the OHMGC. They plan to build a changing rooms and toilet block behind the existing building. SFC will fund the building. The OHMGC will ensure there is a tight formal agreement in place with SFC as the building must benefit the whole parish. To be returned to December agenda.

Signed

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7.9 Flood Group

Cllr Allen's report has been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Allen confirmed that she is in dialogue with the parish Watercourse Wardens. Concern was expressed about the potential flooding hazard from ditches that have not been cleared.

Any other business for the next meeting:

Cllr Bullock gave a brief update on matters arising from The Eastington Allotment Society AGM.

Action: Invoice for rent to be issued

Cllr Allen requested that the idea of name badges for councillors is put on the December agenda.

The meeting closed at 8:40

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th December 2012. 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 Wednesday 5th December 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date