

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2014 in Eastington Methodist Church.

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie, Cozens, Evans, Edis-Bates, Allen, Loveridge, Andrea Durn (Clerk). There were 6 members of the public present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Simmons, Edwards and District Cllr Stephens.
2. Cllr Edis-Bates propose Cllr Bullock as Chair of Eastington Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr Corrie. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous. Cllr Bullock was elected to the Chair.
3. Cllr Allen proposed Cllr Corrie as Vice Chair of Eastington Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr Loveridge. There were no other nominations. Cllr Corrie was elected unopposed as Vice Chair.
4. The Chair and Vice Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
5. The councillors were asked to confirm that their Register of Interests forms were up to date. The Clerk reminded the Council of the importance of keeping the Register complete and current and that the Register of Interest forms should be returned to the Clerk within 28 days.
6. The Groups were proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Corrie. Carried.
7. Cllr Allen suggested that the groups should decide the Terms of Reference and roles. The membership of the groups were proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Corrie. Carried.
8. **Chairman's announcements:** The Chair thanked Cllr Corrie for being Vice Chair. She also thanked all councillors for all their hard work over 2013/14. She said it was the start of the new year with old and new challenges and that the Council would be working with all community groups if needed. She also asked all councillors to send in their agenda reports to be circulated with the agenda in advance of the meeting so that Council could be fully informed.
9. **Clerks report:** The Clerk went through the issues and correspondence she had dealt with in the previous month including supporting councillors, and the responses to parishioners on their queries. She reminded Council of that this and the forthcoming month is very busy with the Annual Meetings and closing of accounts as well as holding public consultations on planning. She updated Council on the courses she had attended and informed councillors of the new legislative and financial requirements that will affect Parish Councils and will have implications for the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
10. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** Cllrs Edis-Bates, Evans, and Loveridge signed the Interests Book with regard to Items 14.2.3, 14.2.3 and 14.1.3 respectively.
11. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 8th April 2014:** The minutes were proposed for approval by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Allen. Carried.

Cllr Cozens joined the meeting at 7.15pm

12. **Actions:** The actions from previous meetings were reviewed:
 - Item 8.2.3 Allotment meeting will be held with the Clerk after this EPC meeting
 - Item 8.1.5 Team Building Workshop: The Clerk had contacted 2 facilitators and was to contact 2 more. A report to come to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
 - Item 8.4.1 WW1 commemoration: The Chair is to speak to Tom Low re planting trees **Action: Chair**
 - Item 8.4.1 WW1 commemoration: Cllr Corrie to speak to the local school **Action: Cllr Corrie**
 - Item: 8.4.2 Commemorative Cross: Still ongoing **Action: Cllr Simmons**
 - Item 8.5.4 Cllr Cozens has had the surface dressing delivered. Cllr Corrie to speak to Cllr Cozens on the use of eco-base. **Action: Cllrs Corrie and Cozens**
 - Item 8.5.5 Parking Alkerton Green: The Chair had raised the problem with the OHMG Committee. OHMG is to address.
 - Item 8.5.8 Youth Services. The Chair reported that the Playground Group would like a Tenancy Agreement with EPC. The Clerk to look at the legalities and report back. **Action: Clerk**
13. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None.

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Signed.....
Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....

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

Mr Davies asked if EPC would complain to PINS and SDC re the handling of the Swallowcroft Appeal. He had complained to SDC and has had a reply which he will send to the EPC.

The following report from District Cllr Stephens was read to the Council:

'With the District Council elections due this month the Council is in 'Purdah' and things are a bit on hold.

However, with regard to our Local Plan EIP I understand that leader/chief executive meetings have been held between Stroud, Cheltenham and Tewksbury on the input of those two authorities in our EIP. I believe that certain conformations have been sent to the inspector from Cheltenham that are helpful but that the same response may not have been forthcoming from Tewksbury. I get the impression that some people in SDC are of the opinion that it seems that within that council there are people who think that if our EIP fails then the Joint Core Strategy would fail also and that those people would not be disappointed if that happened. I understand that the EIP Inspector has also written to both of those authorities asking for more clarification on their input at the EIP. I am told that correspondence and results of meetings held between SDC and the other two authorities has been sent to the Inspectors office. We continue to await the Inspectors interim findings.

With regard to the ongoing boundary review, SDC has decided that it wishes to continue with the existing ward/member arrangements of one, two and three member wards depending on local requirements. To do this we have had to agree to all out elections to the council every four years. My personal preference would have been to maintain the existing arrangements of electing the council in thirds but to do that all wards would have had to be three member wards and to me that would remove a lot of the local aspect of councilor representation in many places.

The report into SDC's sheltered accommodation service is due to be published at the end of the month.

I had a visible reminder of what some people would like our rural parish to look like recently. I was driving home from Hucclecote and drove around the site of the old Gloucester Aircraft works and airfield. This merges into the Coopers Edge development. Many years ago I briefly worked on the former GAC site and I think a comparison with what the larger area was like then and what it is now is an example of what our Parish could look like. The drive home was a bit quiet."

The Council thanked District Cllr Stephens for his report.

There was no report from Cllr Williams.

14 Resolutions

14.1 Finance

- 14.1.1 The Clerk presented the Standing Orders that had been updated with the comments previously received by councillors. The adoption of the updated Standing Orders was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Allen. Carried.
- 14.1.2 The Clerk reported that she was closing the 2013/14 accounts and that the Finance Group had reviewed the bank reconciliation and draft final accounts which would be sent to the Internal Auditor.
- 14.1.3 The Clerk went through the 2014/15 finance report. There would be approximately £49k in the accounts after April's payments. The finance report was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Cozens. Carried.
- 14.1.4 The Clerk went through the accounts for payment. Approval of the accounts for payment as per the schedule circulated was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Cozens. Carried with one abstention. A list is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 14.1.5 The report on the Being a Better Councillor course will be brought to a future meeting. **Action: Cllr Corrie**

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- 14.1.6 There were no requests for training.
- 14.1.7 The Chair fed back from the Business Meeting on updating the list of project aspirations in case of Section 106 Agreements which is pertinent with the current development proposals. She asked that further proposals to be sent to the Chair and Clerk. A proposed list will be brought to the next EPC meeting. **Action: All**

14.2 Planning

- 14.2.1 Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update on the NDP. The results from the consultation event have been analysed and incorporated into the Action plans for each Theme. A further consultation event is being planned.
- 14.2.2 Bath Road: The outline planning application has not yet been received by EPC but has been received by SDC. EPC's Planning Consultant will propose a response for consideration.
- 14.2.3 West of Stonehouse: SDC have stated this will be a long process. A meeting was held between EPC, Stonehouse TC and Standish PC to discuss. There will be a joint and individual parish council response to the application. There will be public consultation events when appropriate.
- 14.2.4 The Planning Group recommended to accept the following application:
S.14/0803/HHOLD:
East Lodge Cottage, Old Bristol Road, Newtown, Stonehouse.
Proposed single storey rear extension to create new study and entry. Proposed orangery to the rear of the house.
The Chair proposed to accept the recommendation, seconded by Cllr Evans. Carried.

14.3 Broadband Speed

- 14.3.1 Cllr Evans reported on the research he had done on the national Fastershire Broadband project. The broadband is to be updated by the end of 2016 and is carried out on a technical basis not demand. Cllr Evans will write an article for the next ECN, deadline 23rd May 2014. **Action: Cllr Evans**

14.4 Parish website

- 14.4.1 The Clerk reported that the website needs updating and asked for one or two councillors to work with her on editing the site. There were no volunteers. The Chair asked for councillors to review the website and send edits to the Clerk. **Action: All**

14.5 Burial Ground Path

- 14.5.1 Cllr Allen reported that parents with buggies were having difficulty using the open grass between the Community Orchard path and tarmac path in the Burial Ground in wet weather. Council discussed the relative advantages and disadvantages of tarmac and wood chippings surfacing. Cllr Allen will discuss further with the grounds maintenance contractor and bring back to a future meeting.

14.6 Roads and Transport

- 14.6.1 A38 signage: Council discussed possible design options for the sign. Cllr Evans proposed that Cllr Allen discussed the design with Ian Rank-Broadly, seconded by Cllr Edis-Bates. Carried.
- 14.6.2 Gateway access points: Cllr Allen proposed to ask residents to adopt their gateway with planting, mowing. The Council discussed how to involve parishioners and Glos Highways in the project. Ideas for involvement to be sent to the Clerk to bring to a future meeting. **Action: All**

14.7 Groups

14.7.1 Roads and Transport Group

Cllr Allen presented her report. She reported that she had asked Glos Highways about improving the visibility of the signage for the Build Out in Bath Road. Glos Highways to supply a timescale of works.

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14.7.2 Churchyard and Burial Ground

Cllrs Allen presented her report. She said that the Burial Ground map is to be updated to include the new burial area. She reported that there was a broken boundary fence at the burial ground. Cllr Cozens will provide quotes on installing a gate and renewing the fence. **Action: Cllr Cozens**

14.7.3 Footpaths

The Chair presented Cllr Edwards' report. There were no questions.

14.8 Planning notices

The Council noted the following decisions:

S.14/0498/LBC: Brookhill House, Millend Lane, Eastington. Renovation, restoration, extension and conversion to semi derelict listed buildings at Brookhill House. To provide residential annexe and studio,garaging and workshop space. Revised plans received 25 April 2014. Consent

S.14/0462/HHOLD: 2 Millend Row, Millend Lane, Eastington. Erection of UPVC conservatory to the front of the property. Permission

Any Other Business

None

Meeting finished: 8.45pm

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10th June 2014. 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 2nd June 2014.