

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th December 2014 in Eastington Methodist Church.

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie, Simmons, Cozens, Andrea Durn (Clerk) and District Councillor Stephens. There were 8 members of the public present.
Apologies were received from Cllrs Allen, Edis-Bates, Evans, Loveridge.
2. **Chairman's announcements:** Cllr Bullock reported that the Swallowcroft development will start in February 2015. She has received an invitation to meet the developers at a date to be agreed. She asked the public to contact her if they are interested in attending the meeting. The Chair gave a brief feedback on the Strategic Planning Alliance group meeting and announced that a public meeting will be held in January 2015. Further details will be forthcoming. The Chair announced that the parish council office will be closed between 23rd December 2014 and 5th January 2015.
3. **Clerks report:** The Clerk reported on the issues and correspondence she had dealt with including supporting councillors and dealing with parishioners queries, some of which had been put on the agenda. She reported that she had been very busy working on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the West of Stonehouse planning application.
4. **Parish Councillor vacancy:** The Chair reported that there had not been any applications for the Parish Councillor vacancy and asked councillors that if they knew anyone who may be interested in becoming a councillor to ask them to contact the Clerk.
5. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None
6. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 11th December 2014:** Proposed amendments previously circulated to the parish council and attached to these minutes were reviewed in detail.
RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of 11th December 2014 with following amendments:
Public session: To add to 'Cllr Allen replied that there was no longer a Lorry Watch scheme but individuals could report any incidents' the addition 'with company name, number plate, date and time'
Public session: To add to 'Mr Niblett asked if EPC reports could be put on the web site' the addition 'prior to the EPC'
The minutes were signed with the agreed handwritten amendments and a copy kept in the parish council records.
7. **Approval of Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting dated 18th December 2014:** There were no proposals for amendments.
RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of 18th December 2014.
8. **Actions from previous meeting:** The actions from previous meetings were reviewed:
Parish web site: Cllrs Corrie and Bullock are to review. **Action: Cllr Corrie and Bullock**
Shirley Harris memorial: The Chair is to contact Mr Niblett **Action: Chair**
EPC agenda reports on the web site: The Clerk is to receive training on the web site **Action: Clerk**
Dog bins: Cllr Corrie had checked the bins and each time they had been emptied.
9. **To consider changes to the order of business:** The Chair asked that items 10.2.2, 10.2.3, 10.2.4 be considered after District Cllr Stephens' report.
RESOLVED: Agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at this point for the District Councillor's report.

District Councillor Stephens gave a report of the Stroud DC Extraordinary meeting on 9th December 2014 which discussed and agreed the Local Plan housing number of 11,200 houses and accepted the Local Plan to include West of Stonehouse development. He thanked everyone who came to the meeting and gave him their support. He was disappointed in the voting result and decision.

He reported that the next Stroud DC Development Control Committee will be on 18th December 2014 and will be discussing applications for 600 houses at various sites in the Stroud district.

There are recommendations for refusal of the sites for 500 houses on landscape grounds and not 5 year land supply.

Bath Road Appeal had been submitted by developers on 9th December 2014. There is a possibility

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of a public hearing if enough people objected.

Dog Bins: Cllr Stephens reported that he had spoken to the Dog Warden and she reported that the dog bins should be emptied weekly.

Cllr Stephens thanked the Parish Council for their support.

10 Resolutions

10.2 Planning

10.2.2/3 West of Stonehouse application and the Local Plan: The planning consultant felt that the Stroud DC meeting on 9th December 2014 had made two critical decisions. The agreement of 11,200 houses will now be an issue for the Inspector at the Examination in Public. The increase in numbers meant more sites were needed which resulted in Stroud DC proposing and agreeing the inclusion of the West of Stonehouse application. He felt that Stroud DC did not need to identify sites at this stage as site allocations would be part of Stage 2 of the Examination in Public (EIP). There was still time for Stroud DC to make adjustments. The Strategic Planning Alliance had commissioned him to instruct a barrister; as a result of those discussions he feels that the Local Plan is unsound due to a decision to include a site without consultation on all options. The NPPF came out in 2012 and is now being tested in the courts. The duty of the Inspector is to firstly consider housing numbers and the objectively assessed housing need. The EIP starts on 29th January 2015 with submissions to be made by 14th January 2015. The West of Stonehouse planning application will continue its process and will be included in the EIP at Stage 2 in the Spring 2015. There may be a significant delay between the two stages if all the options have to be consulted upon.

10.2.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): The NDP is emerging rapidly. Any NDP has to be compliant with the Local Plan. The Eastington NDP will have an input into the Bath Road Appeal as parishioners have been consulted upon the Bath Road site and the outcome was to protect the site from development.

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

Mr Brasier queried the progress on the Swallowcroft complaint to the Planning Inspectorate as agreed on the EPC October 7th meeting. A discussion was held on the amount of planning work and priorities. It was noted that the resolution of the EPC meeting on 7th October 2014 would be completed. **Action: the planning consultant to continue the complaint (Planning Group)**

Mr Brasier asked if the parish council had an opinion of the design of the Swallowcroft development. He reported that he is in negotiation with the developers on the design and proximity of the show home to his property which has changed from the design in the planning application. The Chair reported that the parish council had received an invitation from the developers to meet and discuss the plan for the site. She asked parishioners to contact her if they were interested in attending. The planning consultant advised that the change should be seen as a new planning application and should comply with Stroud DC's guidance on planning design. Councillor Corrie proposed an urgent response be sent to Stroud DC's Head of Planning, the planning case officer, and the Chair of the Development Control Committee, asking for a call in due to the overbearing effect under the scheme of delegation. **Action: the planning consultant to respond to Stroud DC (Planning Group)**

Mr Niblett reported that one of the grounds for having a public hearing for the Bath Road Appeal is the number of public objections. The deadline is 9th January 2014. He reported that Neil Carmichael MP had submitted comments to the Head of Planning. The planning consultant advised that the criteria for appeals is in the National Planning Policy Guidance which includes information on public interest. He reminded the parish council of the short timescale for comments. Mr Parry asked if the dog bin at Alkerton Cross could be bigger as it is full in a few days. **Action: Getting Around Group to review (Getting Around Group)**

Mr Godsell reported that there was a planning application submitted for South View, Nupend. He felt there were issues of access on to a single track, metalled, unregistered lane. He queried who

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would be responsible for maintenance? The Chair reported that the planning application had recently been received and would be reviewed by the EPC Planning Group for a decision at the next meeting.

10.1 Finance

- 10.1.1 The Clerk gave an update on the 2014/15 accounts including the budget and projected spend. There is approximately £12k available in the budget.
- 10.1.2 The Clerk went through the accounts for payment which had been previously circulated. The Chair reported that she had reviewed the payments with the Vice Chair prior to the meeting. There were no questions.
RESOLVED: to accept the payments schedule. A list is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 10.1.3 The Chair referred to the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) notification of the Finance Revisited training on 14th January 2015. She reported that Cllr Allen will be the internal finance checker for the parish council and will review the finances quarterly. She proposed that the Clerk and Cllr Allen would attend the finance training.
RESOLVED: That the Clerk and Cllr Allen to attend the GAPTC Finance Revisited training on 14th January 2015. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Allen**
- 10.1.4 The Chair referred to the National Joint Council for Local Government Services national salaries agreement for parish and town councils.
RESOLVED: Noted.
- 10.1.5 The Chair referred to the grant request from Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The council discussed the request and noted the good work that the CAB carried out. A discussion was held on the budget constraints and priorities.
RESOLVED: That the Clerk to write to Stroud CAB declining their grant request due to budgetary constraints. **Action: Clerk**
- 10.1.6 The Chair reported on the request from a parishioner to have the draft minutes published after each EPC meeting. A discussion was held on concerns councillors had on publishing drafts.
RESOLVED: That the draft minutes are not published.
- 10.1.7 The Chair reported on the proposed list of subscriptions for Open Spaces Society (OSS), the Ramblers and the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association. It was noted that payment of these would all be within the Subscriptions budget. A discussion was held on the advantages and benefits to the parish council on subscribing to each of these groups.
RESOLVED: To subscribe to OSS, the Ramblers, and Gloucestershire Playing Field Association. To keep subscriptions under review to ensure value for money. **Action: Clerk**
- 10.1.8 The Chair referred to the Getting Around group's report and the proposal to purchase 3 grit bins at £100 each as part of a rolling programme. It was noted that payment of these would be within the Roads and Transport budget. A discussion was held on their value for money.
RESOLVED: Agreed to purchase 3 grit bins at £100 each. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Allen**
- 10.1.9 The Chair referred to the Chuch and Burial Ground group's and the proposal to purchase a waste bin at £15 to be located next to the river.
RESOLVED: Agreed to purchase a waste bin at £15. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Allen**
- 10.1.10 The Chair reported on the request from a parishioner for the parish council to continue paying for the power at approximately £30 per annum to the ex telephone kiosk which will be used for community purposes. Mr Godsell, parishioner, offered to pay for the power in a donation to the parish council. The parish council thanked Mr Godsall for his kind offer of a donation.
RESOLVED: The parish council accepted the donation for the power to the Nupend kiosk from Mr Godsall. The Clerk writes to Mr Godsall on the details for making a donation. The Clerk writes to the Nupend parishioner on the parish council's decision. **Action: Clerk**

10.2 Planning

- 10.2.1 The Chair reported on the submission of the Local Plan Statement of Common Ground to Stroud

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DC on behalf of the parish council and proposed its ratification.

RESOLVED: To ratify the Local Plan Statement of Common Ground.

- 10.2.5 The Chair reported on the Bath Road Appeal and referred to the previous discussions at the public session. She proposed that the parish council instruct the planning consultant, Avoca Planning Landscape and Development Ltd to act on its behalf on the Bath Road Appeal.

RESOLVED: To agree to instruct Avoca Planning Landscape and Development Ltd to act on behalf of EPC on the Bath Road Appeal. **Action: Clerk**

- 10.2.6 The Planning Group recommended the following action:

S.14/2346/LBC. 2, The Cross, Alkerton Road, Eastington. New entrance and window at front and reinstate original roof over bay window at the rear. Erection of garden room. Accept.

S.14/2407?HHOLD Beech Cottage, Old Bristol Road, Newtown. Retrospective application for erection of garage, gate and fence. Accept.

S.14/2357/LBC 7 Churchend, Eastington. Installation of level access shower for disabled occupant. Accept.

S.14/2594/HHOLD Newgate/Teazle Cottage, Claypits. 2 storey side extension and first floor extension. Accept.

RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Group's recommendations.

10.3 Burial Ground Memorials Annual Health and Safety Check

The Chair referred to the Churchyard and Burial Ground report and the proposal to move the annual check from the autumn to the spring due to the weather.

RESOLVED: To agree to move the annual memorials health and safety check to the spring.

10.4 Canal Restoration Partnership

The Chair reported on the meeting on 4th December 2014. The canal restoration between Whitminster and Pike Lock, Eastington is a major project and the Cotswolds Canal Trust is involving 14 community bodies, including EPC. This is needed for lottery funding. There is no budget requirement from EPC.

10.5 Groups

10.5.1 Getting Around

Cllr Corrie presented the report that was previously circulated. She reported that advice had been sought from the Public Rights of Way Defenders (PROWD) group on styles and kissing gates. There were no questions.

10.5.2 Church and Burial Ground

The Chair referred to the report that was previously circulated. She reported that the group will be meeting with the Rev. Ameys to discuss issues and fees. She also reported that a retaining wall is in need of maintenance and would be needed to be budgeted for in 2015. There were no questions.

10.5.3 Play Ground Project

The Chair reported that she had met the fencing contractor to discuss complaints she had received. The contractor agreed to fix the issues raised. The Chair referred to the monitoring reports received from the Play Ground Project Group. There were no questions.

10.6 Planning notices

The Council noted the following decisions:

S.14/2207/HHOLD. Alkerton Court Cottage, Alkerton. Two storey rear extension to building. Permission.

S. 14/1475/DISCON: Discharge of conditions 2,3,4,10,11,14,17,18,19,20 and 21 from planning permission S.13/2578/FUL. Split decision for consent and refusal.

S.14/1479/DISCON: Discharge of conditions 5,7,and 8 from planning permission S.14/1228/FUL.

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Any Other Business

None

Meeting finished: 8.42pm

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th January 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 5th January 2015.

Signed.....
Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....