

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2016 at 7.00pm in Eastington Methodist Hall

- 1 Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie, Simmons, Bomberg, and Cozens. There were 3 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs Allen and Loveridge. Also present: County Councillor Lesley Williams, District Councillor Stephen Davies, and Stroud District Council Neighbourhood Warden Stuart Beard. **Absent:** Cllrs Edis-Bates and Evans.
- 2 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** None.
- 3 Chairman's Announcements.** The Chair expressed thanks to Cllr Corrie for drawing Highways attention to the unauthorised Starbucks signs attached to lampposts in the village.
- 4 Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2016.** RESOLVED to accept the minutes of 9th February 2016.
- 5 To review outstanding actions from previous meeting.** Item 10.6 from 10th November 2015 (councillor briefing on the Solar Farm Fund) still to be completed. The Clerk gave the meeting an update on Millend Mill planning enforcement matter (item 10.5 Feb 2016 meeting). A meeting has been arranged with Ecotricity for 22nd March 2016; County Councillor Williams and District Councillor Davies were invited to attend the meeting. The Clerk has not yet prepared a press statement relating to Ecotricity (item 10.5 Feb 2016 meeting) as we are awaiting facts and figures from the Planning Consultant that could be used.
- 6 To consider changes to the order of business.** None.

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

Mr Stuart Beard (Stroud District Council Neighbourhood Warden) introduced himself and the service he provides to the area as Neighbourhood Warden.

Mr Parry noted that a number of potholes have been filled but not all of them. The Clerk updated the meeting that Claypits Road is scheduled for resurfacing end of June 2016 depending budget approvals although the Highways Manager has requested the scheme to be brought forward.

County Councillor's Report: Cllr Williams updated the meeting; the budget was approved for 2016/17. Some additional funds have been allocated to the highways budget so it hasn't been cut as much as envisaged. There has been a proposal in West Oxfordshire to form a unitary authority with Cotswold District Council. Cllr Williams has confirmed that the traffic improvement scheme for the A419 does not include the impact of Ecotricity traffic.

District Councillor's Report: Cllr Davies reported that the SDC budget and council tax has been approved which represents an increase of 1.99%. SDC has rolled out a green waste scheme, feedback appears to be good. Ecotricity were requested by Gloucestershire CC to expand their traffic survey, the information has not yet been provided. Planning is not expecting to determine the Ecotricity application before autumn 2016. In the application, Ecotricity claim that SDC's employment figures are incorrect; Ecotricity are funding an independent employment study. Cllr Davies spoke about a planning application he has requested to be called-in to DCC. Cllr Davies will also follow-up with Enforcement about Millend Mill planning breaches.

Mr Ed Davies raised the issue of Forest Green Rovers car parking with Cllr Davies; he has discussed this with Gloucestershire County Council. Cllr Bomberg has been advised that the proposed running track would be sacrificed as additional car parking.

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Cllr Davies noted that Ecotricity is only leasing the land to the Cotswold Canal Trust not gifting the land.

7 Policy and Procedures

- 7.1 The Council resolved to amend Financial Regulation 11.1 (b) (f) (h) and (k) due to changes in legislation with The Public Contracts Regulations 2015. **Action: Clerk.**
- 7.2 The Council resolved to amend Standing Orders 3(f) 3(l) 13(e) 13(f) 18(a) 18(c) and 18(f) and appointed the Clerk to decide dispensations before meetings. **Action: Clerk.**

8. Website

- 8.1 The Parish Council noted that Stroud District Council is ceasing to host the parish council website during 2016; the Clerk will present options for a new website once additional information from Stroud DC has been received.

9 Groups / Meetings / Reports

- 9.1 No update from the Strategic Planning Working Group. **Action: Cllr Bomberg** to convene a meeting.
- 9.2 The Parish Council received minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23rd February for information.

10 Finance

- 10.1 The Clerk circulated an update on 2015/16 budget versus spend, and bank reconciliation. It was noted that OHMG has repaid £2000 loan monies to the Charlie Bullock Fund. It was also noted that £10,000 has been transferred from the Council's savings account to the current account to cover payments.
- 10.2 The Council RESOLVED to pay the Clerk's expenses for February 2016 at £116.49 and these will be paid with the March payroll.
- 10.3 The Council approved the accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to meeting:

Payee	Details	Chq No	Amount	Budget
Salaries & Expenses	January 2016 Expenses agreed 09/02/16 processed through Payroll plus February 2016 Salary	1707	£1236.38	Parish Admin
Post Office Ltd	PAYE & NI payments to HMRC for February 2016	1708	£267.75	Parish Admin
Ramblers Association	Annual Membership	1709	£60.00	Subs
Anita Sach	Locum Clerk	1710	£32.51	Parish Admin
Helix Transport Consultants Ltd	Eco Park Review	1711	£1820	Planning
Zeta Printing	NDP Printing	1712	£83	NDP
Staples	Stationery	1713	£97.50	Parish Admin
GAPTC	Annual Membership	1714	£406.06	Subs
Glos Playing Field Assoc	Annual Membership	1715	£50	Subs
NEST	Pensions for February 2016	DD (12/02/16)	£104.75	Parish Admin
Vodafone	Parish Mobile	DD (23/03/16)	£48.99	Parish Admin
		TOTAL	£4206.94	

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- 10.4 The Council noted the Clerk's timesheet for February 2016
- 10.5 The Council considered adoption of the Alkerton Cross monument after carry out research to ascertain ownership. It was agreed to adopt and insure the monument at an annual cost of £136 (£35.81 pro-rata for the remainder of the policy year). **Action: Clerk.** Cllr Simmons also requested that the Council look at cleaning the monument, Cllr Bullock will makes enquiries as to the best way to care for the monument and report back. **Action: Cllr Bullock.**
- 10.6 The Council agreed to include the pirate ship on the insurance schedule but not increase the amount of safety surface insurance. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.7 The Council considered quotes for the repair of the river bridge at the churchyard and agreed to accept Quote 4 at a cost of £545+VAT. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.8 The Council appointed IAC as independent auditor for the internal audit 2015/16 at a cost of £185. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.9 The Council considered the request from the Public Rights of Way Defenders group to upgrade footpath EEA56 and accepted Quote 1 at a cost of £600. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.10 The Council noted that the annual safety inspection of the play area will be carried out during April at a cost of £66.50+VAT.

11 Planning

- 11.1 The Council received an update on the Ecotricity planning application response and copy of the traffic report. It was agreed to submit the traffic report to Stroud DC immediately and also submit headline planning comments by end of March with a fuller response to follow to ensure that any revised information is included. **Action: Clerk.**
- 12 The Council considered the possible acquisition of defibrillators for the village. Cllr Simmons felt that we would need two defibrillators for the village. **Action: Clerk** to find out more information. It was noted that the Solar Farm Grant fund could be used for this initiative.
- 13 Cllr Bomberg gave an update on plans for a village fete which is being held on 28th May at OHMG. Volunteers are being sought; the Neighbourhood Warden also said the Wardens may be able to assist.

14 Correspondence

- 14.1 The Council received a list of correspondence received since the last meeting for information.
- 14.2 The Council received correspondence regarding the condition of Claypits Road; Highways has advised that the resurfacing is scheduled for June 2016 pending approval of budgets.
- 14.3 The Council considered putting forward a resolution to GAPTC's AGM to request Government protect rural living through planning laws. Cllr Corrie was requested to word the resolution for Council to consider at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Corrie.**

Any other business for the next meeting.

To clean and maintain the milestones (Cllr Simmons).

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12th April 2016. 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 4th April 2016.

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