

# **EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Email: [clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk)

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall**

- 1 Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie (Vice-Chair), Chatterley, Cozens, Loveridge, Simmons and Wells. There were 4 members of the public. Also present Parish Clerk Mrs J Shirley and District Cllr Jones. Apologies received from Cllr Bomberg and District Cllr Davis.
- 2 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr Loveridge declared an interest in item 9.7 and 9.13. Cllr Corrie declared an interest in item 9.8 (PROWD).
- 3 Chairman's announcements:** None.
- 4 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017:** RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
- 5 Outstanding actions from previous meeting:** (March 2017) Item 8.2 Lorry Watch volunteer day to be arranged by Cllr Chatterley. (April 2017) Item 9.2 Clerk to seek consent from various Alkerton-central locations for possible defibrillator installation.
- 6 Changes to the order of business.** None.

The meeting was opened up for Public question time.

Mr Davies asked about the requested Tree Preservation Order for the lime tree on Bath Road – the Clerk was expecting a response in the last couple of weeks, to be followed up.

Mrs Brocklehurst asked for an update on the Ecotricity planning application and what legal status would be if the Local Plan is ignored. Councillors provided an update.

Mr Elliot addressed the meeting about maintenance of footpaths that have become overgrown with vegetation; this is a recurring annual problem. Mr Elliot wondered if Stroud DC could give the Parish Council a grant to cut the vegetation back, or use volunteers to clear vegetation if the waste could be arranged to be collected. Stroud DC used to support community clean-up days with removal of waste. The Clerk will find out what options are available.

**To receive a report from the District Councillors:** Cllr Jones gave an update: the next full council meeting is at the end of October. Ordinary committee meetings are starting to meet again after the summer break. The Taxi Drivers' Association will be submitting a request to Stroud DC for a fare increase. A revised application is expected for the Land West of Stonehouse 103 dwellings. Ecotricity application is unlikely to be determined until the New Year as Highways England has requested another 3 months to consider.

### **7. Planning**

7.1 There were no planning decisions made by Stroud District Council this month.

7.2 To consider the following planning applications:

Application No:	Address	Details	Comments
S.17/1884/DISCON	Land West Of Stonehouse Nastend Lane	Discharge of condition 1 and 2 from planning permission S.17/0219/REM.	OBJECT to condition 1. Request the following for condition 2: when permitted, HGVs to only access from A419 not from Whitminster along Grove Lane. The weight restriction to be added to the Freight Gateway

Signed .....

- 124 -

Date .....

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			mapping facility. SDC enforcement needs to take action particularly with contractors starting before 7am.
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7.3 The Council considered the appointment of consultants to review latest environmental information for the Ecotricity development S.16/0043/OUT. Helix Transport were appointed to review the transport information at a cost of £1050, and the Clerk was authorised up to £2000 for an acoustic specialist if required. **Action: Clerk.**

## **8 Groups / Meetings / Reports**

8.1 Cllr Corrie outlined a request from a resident for “Keep Clear” markings at the entrance to the new houses at Swallowcroft. **Action: Clerk to find out what this would cost.**

8.2 The Council received a brief verbal update from the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group; Cllr Wells has been appointed Chair for the group.

8.3 The Council received for information the notes of the latest meeting of the Strategic Planning Working Group.

8.4 The Council received for information the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> August.

8.5 The Council received for information the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

## **9. Finance**

9.1 The Council noted that an election had not been called to fill the councillor vacancy and that the Council can fill by co-option. The Clerk has advertised the vacancy, no applications received to date.

9.2 The Council received an update on the 2017/18 accounts including bank reconciliation.

9.3 The Council approved the payment of Clerk’s expenses for August 2017 which will be paid with the September payroll.

9.4 The Council received the Clerk’s timesheet for August 2017.

9.5 The Council considered Cllr Chatterley’s proposal that Council has a policy on how it will provide information in other formats for example audio, other written languages, large print etc. It was agreed that the Equalities Policy will be revised to cover this aspect. **Action: Clerk.**

9.6 The Council reviewed the following policies and agreed minor amendments:

- Communications Policy
- Expenses Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Solar Grant Fund Policy.

9.7 The Council approved the accounts for payment:

Invoice Date	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Budget
27/07/17	Salaries & Expenses	Payroll August 2017 & Expenses July 2017	£1333.75	£0	£1333.75	Parish Admin
05/09/17	Post Office Ltd	PAYE & NI payments to HMRC for August 2017	£261.66	£0	£261.66	Parish Admin
31/08/17	Smith’s (Gloucester) Ltd	Burial Ground bin collection £7.61+VAT Annual Duty of Care note £45+VAT	£52.61	£10.52	£63.13	C&BG
31/07/17	Abbey Loos Ltd	Portable Toilet for Snakey Lane Play Park	£23.00	£4.60	£27.60	Grant Funding

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15/08/17	Andrea Pellegram Ltd	One year subscription to Planning Local	£100.00	£0	£100.00	Planning
18/07/17	Rubicon Industries Ltd	Skate & scooter sessions at open day	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00	Grant Funding
16/08/17	SLCC Enterprises Ltd	Data Protection course	£165.00	£33.00	£198.00	Training
01/09/17	Town & Parish Council Websites	Website hosting 01/09/17-31/08/18	£120.00	£0	£120.00	Parish Admin
04/09/17	Gary Dingle	Notice board	£401.00	£0	£401.00	N/board
04/09/17	FJ Cambridge & Co Ltd	36 x row markers for burial ground	£792.00	£158.40	£950.40	C&BG
06/09/17	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	Parish-wide desktop assessment of Eastington for protected-species	£260.00	£52.00	£312.00	Planning
30/08/17	Alan Loveridge	Grass cutting August 2017 (£1135) High Path cutting (£80) Concreting around gym equipment (£150)	£1365.00	£0	£1365.00	Grounds Maint
	<b>DIRECT DEBITS:</b>				0	
24/08/17	NEST	Pensions for August 2017	£107.60	£0	£107.60	Parish Admin
22/08/17	Vodafone	Parish Mobile	£27.72	£5.54	£33.26	Parish Admin
		<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£5753.40</b>	

**The Council also noted the following receipts:**

Police & Crime Commissioner	Grant for village gateways	£7000
Renishaw	Grant for portable toilet	£300

9.8 The Council considered the applications received to the Solar Grant Fund:

- **Public Rights of Way Defenders:** The Council discussed the application and felt that it was an important project to support. Cllr Chatterley would like to see at least one full path replaced with something more accessible than kissing gates so that those with pushchairs, electric scooters etc could also access the countryside. The grant application is for the purchase of kissing gates, installation is to be met through other means. It was noted that that PROWD do not have a bank account as per the grant criteria. It was agreed to ask PROWD to review the application for further consideration. **Action: Clerk.**
- **Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity:** Concerns were raised that the ball net fencing would benefit sports teams such as West Bromwich that are not from the local community, also there was no evidence of match funding in place. It was noted that the hiring of the sports pitches to outside teams brings OHMG an income which allows them to invest in the community centre facilities which do benefit the local community. The Council will invite OHMG to re-submit their application with details of match funding and more detail as to how the grant would benefit the local community. The Council noted the urgency of the matter and will reconsider the application at the first meeting following receipt of the revised application. **Action: Clerk.**

9.9 The Council agreed donations to:

- Citizens Advice Bureau - £100
- Poppy Appeal and Wreath - £150.

9.10 The Council deferred making a decision about the Alkerton Cross plaque until more options on style and wording could be considered. **Action: Clerk.**

9.11 The Council agreed to vire £1000 from General Reserves to the Insurance and Contingency budgets. **Action: Clerk.**

9.12 The Council considered the commissioning of a design scheme to improve the high path through Gloucestershire Highways at a maximum cost of £4,000. The design scheme is required in order to

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apply for grants to improve the high path. It was agreed to authorise the work and also for the Clerk to prepare a Solar Grant Fund application on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk.**

- 9.13 The Council agreed the increase in grass cutting costs at £15 per cut due to the installation of the skate park which resulted in more strimming. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.14 The Council agreed the replacement of both bus shelters (one shelter already agreed) using grant funding from GCC to pay £3k towards the final £6999+VAT cost. It was noted that the total exceeds the budget by £500 but felt that it was important to proceed and monies will be vired to the budget at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.15 The Council discussed the annual maintenance of the CCTV but felt that it was quite costly at £650+VAT. The Clerk was requested to invite the Chairperson of OHMG to come to the next meeting to discuss why the annual maintenance is beneficial. **Action: Clerk.**

**Council suspended standing order 3v to allow the meeting to continue beyond 2 hours.**

- 9.16 It was agreed to upgrade the Parish Mapping subscription to include a user management module at a cost of £25+VAT per year that will allow Council to give access to parish volunteers. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.17 The demonstration of the online banking was deferred to the next meeting.

## **10 Correspondence**

- 10.1 The Council received a list of correspondence received for information.
- 10.2 It was agreed that the Council Clerk will contact all housing associations to ensure section 106 obligations on affordable housing is met within the parish. **Action: Clerk.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.07pm.

**Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017. 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 9am on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

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- 127 -

Date .....