



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Welcome to the Annual Report 2016-17 on the activities of the Council. You will find details of how the Council spent its money and how the Council funds this expenditure.

The Parish Council consists of 9 councillors who represent an electorate of approximately 1,332. Elections are held once in every four years, the last one was uncontested in May 2016.

The Parish Council has a number of responsibilities in the village including: Burial ground, closed churchyard, play area, notice boards, bus shelters, and grass cutting of the parish owned open spaces.

The Parish Council employs 1 part-time member of staff (20 hours per week) to manage all Council matters.

The Council meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Village Hall in Eastington. Agendas are displayed on the village notice board and also on the website – www.eastington-pc.gov.uk. The public are welcome to attend these meetings and raise questions during the 20 minute public forum at the start of the meeting.

We keep residents updated on parish matters through our website, the Eastington Community News and you can follow us on Twitter (@Eastington_PC) or on Facebook (EastingtonPC).

Contact details:

Tel: 01453 799616

Email: clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors as at April 2017:

Pauline Allen	pauline.allen@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Alex Bomberg	alex.bomberg@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Muriel Bullock	muriel.bullock@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Mark Chatterley	mark.chatterley@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Jennifer Corrie	jennifer.corrie@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Andrew Cozens	andrew.cozens@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Alison Loveridge	alison.loveridge@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Jill Simmons	(no email) tel: 01453 825303
Sharon Wells	sharon.wells@eastington-pc.gov.uk

Chairman's Report:

Another year has flown by in a flurry of activity. Sometimes it feels that as a Council we make slow progress but when you look back on the achievements of the past year it really has been quite busy. We launched a new website including email addresses for our councillors; the Neighbourhood Development Plan was adopted in October 2016; the long-awaited village gateways were ordered and should be installed during April 2017; the skate area at Snakey Park is well underway all paid for through grants and developer funds and organised by the Friends of Snakey Park.

A review of dog and litter bins was undertaken and two new bins installed with more planned. The Council also achieved Quality in the Local Council Award Scheme and is currently putting together an application for Gold status. I'm sure you'll all agree we've achieved quite a lot for a small council with one part-time member of staff. As always, we're very grateful to our supporters and volunteers who help us with our projects. My personal thanks go to the Councillors who work incredibly hard to progress our plans.

Oldbury End (our preferred name for the development West of Stonehouse) will be starting this year; the detailed planning applications have started to come in and with the support of Stroud District Council we're making sure we receive the best development we can whilst retaining the unique historic characteristics of our hamlets.

Ecotricity plans for the land at junction 13 will likely be decided later this year; we're hopeful that the application won't be permitted; we remain very concerned about the impact on the A419 traffic and surrounding hamlets.

To keep up to date with Parish matters, please come along to our Council meetings or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Cllr Muriel Bullock - Chairman

Grants & Donations

The Parish Council manages the Solar Grant Fund (from the Cambridge Solar Farm income) and also a small grants & donations budget; we have been able to support the following groups and initiatives during the past year:

Citizens Advice Bureau	£100
Public Rights of Way Defenders	£117.50
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£100
Community Heartbeat Trust (from donations received)	£1863
Allsorts Gloucestershire	£182.50
Eastington Community Land Trust (from Solar Grant Fund)	£2000
TOTAL	£4363



Receipts & Payments Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2017

	Year ended 31 March 2017	Year ended 31 March 2016
Receipts		
Precept	66,570.00	60,300.00
Local Council Tax Support Grant	0.00	1,785.00
VAT refund	1,752.48	3,596.82
Burials	2,330.00	3,715.00
Bank interest received	22.27	31.44
Rent and wayleaves	17.38	77.38
Grants & Donations	60,378.25	
Other	6,020.95	11,613.77
	£137,091.33	£81,119.41
Payments		
VAT	8,985.89	1,769.48
Hall hire	274.83	357.00
OHMG ground maintenance	0.00	1,921.02
Greens and churchyard grass maintenance	10,280.00	4,450.00
Office expenditure/phone	2,575.78	1,343.16
Severn trent Water	52.68	44.22
Audit & legal fees	885.00	485.00
Grants and donations	4,313.00	574.60
Subscriptions	255.50	954.68
Training	454.50	517.50
Loan repayments	5,522.96	5,522.96
Insurance	726.07	763.36
Payroll services	90.00	97.30
Staff costs	18,798.72	16,338.21
Expenses: Clerk and council	612.40	585.95
Election expenses	0.00	0.00
Graveyard Burial Ground repairs	3,159.50	2,647.00
Footpaths and kissing gates	600.00	565.00
Planning expenses	5,727.10	8,485.00
Repair projects	1.00	0.00
Professional representation fund	480.00	0.00
NDP/Parish plan	1,500.00	9,356.87
Roads and Transport	297.30	501.39
Other	29.06	339.85
Snakey Park (from grants)	33,501.69	0.00
	£99,122.98	£57,619.55

Budget 2017/18

The Parish Council has requested a precept figure of £68,898 to support a budget of £77,643. The precept is slightly increased from last year and represents an increase of 1.29% on an average Council Tax Band D property. In addition to the usual activities, we have budgeted to update the bus shelters and improve the burial ground footpath.