

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2015 at 7.00pm in Eastington Methodist Hall

- 1 **Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Allen, Loveridge, Simmons, Bomberg, Cozens (Finance onwards). There were 8 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs Corrie, Evans and Edis-Bates.
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** The temporary register of interests' book was signed by Cllr Loveridge (finance).
- 3 **Chairman's announcements.** The Chair expressed thanks to Cllr Corrie for acting as Chair during Cllr Bullock's absence; the Chair also thanked Cllrs Edis-Bates and Evans for all their work on the Local Plan and attending the Examination in Public on behalf of the parish. The Chair noted that in the last minutes there was a suggestion of having a formal Planning Committee and she felt that this was a good idea and for it to be put on next month's agenda for discussion. **Action: Clerk.** The Chair has spoken with the planning consultant regarding the Appeal for The Bungalow, Bath Road and has requested he submit a statement on behalf of the parish council objecting to the Appeal. The Chair also reported from a recent councillor training evening on the Sustainable Communities Act and noted that Bishops Cleeve Parish Council were planning to put in a proposal to request a share of New Homes Bonus that district councils receive and the Chair felt that this would be good to support.
- 4 **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on 12th May 2015 and 5th January 2015** RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
- 5 **Re-signing of the Minutes of meetings held between March 2013 and April 2014 due to the lack of hard file copies** RESOLVED to re-sign the minutes by the present Chair.
- 6 **Outstanding actions from previous meeting:** none.
- 7 **Changes to the order of business** None

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

Mr Low addressed the Council regarding the Canal restoration project; there will be a consultation event on Saturday 27th June 2015 1-6pm at the village hall. Mr Low requested that the parish contact Mr Vince at Ecotricity regarding his purchase of Mrs Prentice's land in relation to the emerging NDP. Action: Clerk to make contact.

Mr Parry enquired as to when the parish council will be carrying out the long-overdue maintenance on the pond adjacent to the allotments? The resident also asked if the parish council goes ahead with newt and pond surveys at Middle Street, would the Council consider extending this to all the ponds in the parish?

Mr Niblett addressed the meeting regarding large lorries driving up to Cress Green despite the "no through road" sign. The parish council is aware of the issue and has requested additional signage from Gloucestershire Highways. Secondly, the dog waste bins at Cress Green are not getting emptied as planned every week with the rubbish collection – the assumption being that the bins are not full enough. The bins then overflow during the following week. The Clerk to raise this matter with Stroud DC.

Mr Niblett also addressed the Council regarding newt and pond surveys and the request for funding to support the surveys. Mr Niblett has formed a "pondlife" group of 9 volunteers, to gather data and record the various populations at the ponds. The whole parish ideally needs doing; however Mr Niblett requests that the ponds at Middle Street are surveyed first due to the network arrangement of the 7 ponds which increases diversity, and also because this area forms part of a planning application in that area. Mr Low suggested that the NDP budget be utilised for the surveys as they will feed into the Plan.

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Mr Low also addressed the meeting regarding the application for a new Conservation Area to be created at Nastend and provided information to the Clerk regarding the original application that just needed current date added before re-submission.

Mr Warner addressed the Council regarding his planning application to increase the office units at Westend Suites. He explained that the people that occupy the units currently live within cycling distance and consider themselves to be local. The site was re-instated as green field by Mr Warner and noted that it was previously overgrown rough ground. Mr Warner also noted that more buildings have been removed than it is intended to build so the site is not going to contain more buildings in total.

District Councillor's Report Cllr Davies: no report
County Councillor's report Cllr Williams: no report

8 Ongoing management of Snakey Park

The Council considered the recommendations of the Gloucestershire Playing Field Association. It was noted that section 106 monies will be forthcoming for the play park that need to be managed by the parish council. The Council RESOLVED to accept full responsibility for the play park and discuss this with the Eastington Youth Group. **Action: Clerk** to arrange a meeting with the Eastington Youth Group.

9 Finance

- 9.1 The Clerk circulated an update on 2015/16 budget versus spend. The Council noted that room hire needs to be allocated against the "Parish Administration" budget instead of the "Hall Hire" budget. There was a discussion about un-presented cheques dated prior to 1st April 2015 and it was decided to leave them on the bank reconciliation for the time being.
- 9.2 Council RESOLVED to pay the Clerk's expenses for May 2015 at £152.13 and these will be paid with the monthly payroll.
- 9.3 The Council approved the accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to meeting:

Date	Supplier	Details	Chq No	Gross Amount
19/05/15	J.Shirley	May 2015 Salary	1624	£939.24
19/05/15	A.Durn	Outstanding Clerk Salary	1625	£63.36
09/06/15	Gloucestershire County Council	Cultivation Licence	1626	£102
30/04/15	Avoca PLD	Planning Consultancy	1627	£1,370
01/04/15	EON	BT Phone Box Electricity April 2014-31 March 2015	1628	£26.09
14/05/15	Alison Williamson	Eastington NDP Screening for HRA & SEA	1629	£732.35
09/06/15	Post Office Ltd	PAYE & NI payments to HMRC for May 2015	1630	£103.87
09/06/15	J.Shirley	Office Expenses	1631	£152.13
19/05/15	Chris Davis-Berry	NDP Website Updates	1632	£100
17/05/15	IAC	Internal Audit Services 2014-15	1633	£222
08/06/15	GAPTC	Councillors Update Evening – Muriel Bullock & Julie Shirley 8 th June 2015	1634	£30
27/05/15	A.Sach	Acting RFO & expenses	1635	£208.83
26/05/15	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance 1 st June 2015-31 st May 2016	1636	£763.36
19/05/15	Eastington Methodist Church	Meeting room hire	1637	£39.50

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07/05/15	Russell Warner	Leaflet printing reimbursement for NDP	1638	£37.50
01/06/15	Alan Loveridge	Grass cutting & grounds maintenance	1639	£580
22/06/15	Vodafone	Council's Mobile telephone	Direct Debit	£48.99
			TOTAL	£5,519.22

- 9.4 The Council received the internal auditor's report for the year ending 31st March 2015 and noted that a separate bank account for the Charlie Bullock Fund will need to be opened to comply with audit guidelines; the Clerk will request paperwork from the bank to open the account.
- 9.5 The Council approved the year end accounts and statement of governance for 2014/15.
- 9.6 The Council RESOLVED to sign the direct debit mandates for the NEST pension scheme.
- 9.7 The Council RESOLVED that the Chair and Clerk attend the GAPTC councillor training evening on 8th June 2015 at a cost of £15 each.
- 9.8 The Council RESOLVED that Cllr Bomberg will attend the GAPTC councillor training "Being a Better Councillor" on 22nd June 2015 at a cost of £95.
- 9.9 The Council RESOLVED that Cllrs Bullock, Allen and Bomberg will attend the Code of Conduct training on 2nd July 2015 at 3pm until 4.30pm at a cost of £50 for 3 members.
- 9.10 The Council RESOLVED that the Chair will attend the Chairmanship training course on 9th July 2015 at a cost of £95.00.
- 9.11 The Council noted that the Clerk had renewed the annual insurance with Zurich Town & Parish Council Insurers at an annual cost of £763.36.
- 9.12 The Council RESOLVED to give permission for Eastington Youth Group to install an additional item of equipment in Snakey Park which will increase the insurance premium by £28.40 for the year.
- 9.13 The Council noted the Clerk's timesheet for May 2015. Council noted that the Clerk is not requesting overtime but she can take time-off-in-lieu and Council will review the hours in 3 months.
- 9.14 The Council RESOLVED to vire £4,716 of unspent NDP budget from 2014/15 into a reserve for use against NDP expenditure in 2015/16.
- 9.15 The Council discussed the request for additional funds towards SPA, however did not agree to contribute any further funds towards SPA at this stage.

10 Planning

- 10.1 Cllr Bullock gave a brief verbal update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan; the consultation ends on Friday 12th June 2015. There was a good turnout for the consultation event on 6th June.
- 10.2 The Council received an update from Ian Stuart, planning consultant, on the Examination in Public of Stroud's Local Plan, and this was shared with the members of public present at the meeting.
- 10.3 The Council agreed responses to the following planning applications:

13/05/2015	S.15/1088/FUL	Westend Courtyard Grove Lane Westend	Proposed extension to Westend courtyard to provide 10 additional offices (B1 use).	Object with comments as drafted by the Chair/Clerk.
15/05/2015	S.14/1709/OUT	The Bungalow Bath Road Eastington	Appeal notification for demolition of existing building and erection of replacement plus 3 new dwellings	EPC Objects, planning consultant will submit a statement on behalf of EPC.

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15/05/2015	S.15/1137/HHOLD	22 Alkerton Road Eastington	Erection of a two storey side extension and porch	No objection
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10.4 The Council considered the request to fund pond and newt surveying in Middle Street, Eastington and RESOLVED to fund one survey at £250 utilising the underspend in the Insurance budget.

10.5 The Council RESOLVED the request to appoint Ian Stuart, Planning Consultant, to submit a statement objecting to Appeal APP/C1625/W/15/3007986.

10.6 The Council noted the following planning decisions from Stroud DC:

10/04/2015	S.15/0784/FUL	Land adjoining Springhill House Spring Hill Eastington	Erection of six new dwellings (including 2 affordable)	OBJECT due to the loss of trees and detrimental impact to the historical setting of nearby Springhill House. 13/05/15	REFUSE 26/05/15
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11 Feedback from Meetings

11.1 Cllr Allen will provide a written report from the Stroud Joint Cluster Group meeting on 2nd June 2015 when the minutes of that meeting are available.

11.2 Cllr Bullock was unable to attend the Chartered Parishes Group meeting on 4th June 2015.

12 Groups

12.1 No report received from the Play Park Group.

12.2 Cllr Allen gave a verbal report from the Getting Around Group; the cycle racks have been fitted and the flower tower has been installed. Highways have looked at blocked drains at Nupend which were damaged by Severn Trent Water and they have been requested to rectify. Claypits is due to be resurfaced this year. Potholes will be repaired by Amey. Cllr Cozens asked if the grass along Millend Lane could be cut as the overgrowth is producing a safety hazard for parents/children walking to & from school along the signal track road. **Action: Cllr Allen** to chase up.

12.3 Cllr Allen circulated the Churchyard and Burial Group report prior to the meeting; it was noted that River bridge repair quotes will be presented at the July meeting for consideration. Cllr Bomberg noted that it is very sad to have to lay unstable graves down and requested that Council put aside budget to repair the stones in future.

12.4 The Council RESOLVED to review the burial ground rules and fees and agreed that the Churchyard and Burial Ground Group will draft recommendations for Council to consider. **Action: C&BG/Clerk.**

13 Correspondence

13.1 Council received a list of correspondence received since the last meeting for information.

Any other business for the next meeting.

None

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th July 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 6th July 2015.

Signed

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