

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2015 at 7.00pm in Eastington Methodist Hall

- 1 **Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie, Loveridge, Simmons, Bomberg, Evans, Edis-Bates, and Cozens (7.25pm onwards). There were 10 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Allen.
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** The register of interests' book was signed by Cllr Loveridge (finance).
- 3 **Chairman's announcements.** We have received information that the Planning Inspector has confirmed housing numbers for the Stroud Local Plan as 11,400. Cllr Bullock and the Clerk visited a rural affordable housing event at Uley and found the visit very helpful. Several complaints have been received about the footpaths in Swallowcroft, Newland Homes has confirmed the paths will be made good when the development has been completed, and will be made safe in the meantime.
- 4 **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2015:** RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
- 5 **Outstanding actions from previous meeting:** none.
- 6 **Changes to the order of business** None

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

A member of public asked if it is possible for the parish council to request Tree Preservation Orders? Yes, the parish council can request Stroud DC to TPO trees. Clerk will find out the process.

It was observed that Newland Homes should have a health and safety policy to protect members of the public using the footpaths in the vicinity of the development.

Mr Low wanted it recorded that the Bath Road planning appeal for 36 houses had been won, and wanted to thank everyone that was involved in the process.

Mr Niblett thanked the Council for its support in the ecology survey and a new ecology group has been formed.

District Councillor's Report Cllr Davies: the planning inspector has come back with initial comments on the Local Plan, has asked for a minimum of 11,400 homes and asked the District Council to look at numbers up to 12,200. At this stage, West of Stonehouse is still on the table in terms of housing numbers. The Council will pass housing numbers for public consultation, with the planning inspector issuing final views in November 2015. Cllr Davies is of the view that there is little justification for adhoc building across the entire Stroud district, and the time has come that we will hopefully win more appeals. Planning Officers have offered to come and meet with the Parish Council. Cllr Davies suggests two separate meetings – one for West of Stonehouse and one for general planning. Cllr Evans and Cllr Edis-Bates felt strongly that the Planning Officers were not being genuine in their offer to sit down and talk to the Parish Council.

A member of public asked if Planning Officers that have left SDC for private practice declared a conflict of interest in dealing with those developers' applications; Cllr Davies will make enquiries.

Cllr Bomberg feels that there is still a possibility that West of Stonehouse will be overturned and would like Cllr Davies to stop giving the impression that the battle is lost. Cllr Davies confirmed he is against West of Stonehouse and feels it is the wrong development for a number of reasons but also feels that if it goes

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ahead we need to ensure the best possible outcome.

Cllr Davies updated the Parish Council that as part of the electoral boundary commission recommendations that the Eastington ward will become part of Severn ward. Cllr Davies also mentioned that there is a planned solar farm at Awre, which Cllr Davies objects to given the size of the development.

7 Council Policies

There was a brief discussion about the policies and the Clerk outlined Cllr Allen's requested amendments, and Cllr Corrie also asked for a couple of amendments in the Communications Policy. It was agreed to amend the policies as outlined and to defer adoption to the next Council meeting, with no more than four policies each meeting to be considered. **Action: Clerk.**

8 Ongoing management of Snakey Park

The Council received an update from the meeting with Eastington Youth Group. There was a discussion about how much the facility will cost to manage. The Parish Council has budgeted £2000 for maintenance for this year. Any future new or replacement equipment will need to be fundraised through the Youth Group.

9 Finance

- 9.1 The Clerk circulated an update on 2015/16 budget versus spend, and bank reconciliation. Cllr Edis-Bates queried whether the money for SPA had been included in the budget expenditure; the Clerk confirmed that the £2,000 committed to SPA will be drawn from the Planning budget of £12,000 but has not yet been paid. The Chair clarified that the second request for £3,000 had been turned down by the Parish Council. There is a SPA meeting on Monday 20th July where the matter of funding can be discussed.
- 9.2 Council RESOLVED to pay the Clerk's expenses for June 2015 at £59.25 and these will be paid with the July payroll.
- 9.3 The Council approved the accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to meeting:

Payee	Details	Chq No	Amount	Budget
J.Shirley	May 2015 Expenses agreed 9/6/15 processed through Payroll plus June 2015 Salary	1631	£1074.27	Parish Admin
Post Office Ltd	PAYE & NI payments to HMRC for June 2015	1640	£100.47	Parish Admin
Stroud Valleys Project	Newt survey	1641	£250.00	Contingency
GAPTC	Being a Better Councillor Training 22.6.15	1642	£95.00	Training
Information Commissioner	Data Protection registration	1643	£35.00	Parish Admin
PATA	April-June Payroll Services	1644	£15.20	Parish Admin
Chambers Builders Ltd	Churchyard wall repairs	1645	£2,382	Graveyard Repairs
TW Hawkins & Sons SGMS	Contract Mowing	1646	£768.41	OHMG Mowing
Plantscape	Flower Tower Rental	1647	£214.80	Roads & Transport
Alan Loveridge	Grass cutting & grounds	1648	£855	Ground

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	maintenance £580 High Path one-off cut £100 Kissing gate works £175			Maintenance £680 Footpaths £175
Parish Online	Parish Mapping Annual Subscription	1650	£33.60	Parish Admin

- 9.4 Cllr Bullock updated the Council regarding the new Charlie Bullock Fund bank account and confirmed that Lloyds Bank have been requested to open an account with the same authorised signatories as the Parish Council's bank account.
- 9.5 The Council noted the Clerk's timesheet for June 2015.
- 9.6 The Council RESOLVED that Cllrs Bullock and Bomberg will attend the Planning Training at Stroud DC on 30th July at a cost of £15 each. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.7 The Council received the amended Financial Regulations circulated prior to the meeting; unfortunately not all councillors had been able to read the document so this item was deferred to the August meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.8 Cllrs Loveridge and Corrie will carry out the probationary review with the Clerk in August including a review of working hours. **Action: Clerk** to arrange a date.
- 9.9 The Council considered holding a councillor workshop in September to look at the requirements of quality council and to also draft a 3-year plan; it was provisionally set as 15th September in the evening. **Action: Clerk** to arrange and circulate information about the quality council scheme (Local Council Award Scheme) in advance of the event.

The meeting was adjourned for a short period to allow the signing of the cheques.

Cllr Lesley Williams joined the meeting and was invited to give a report from the County Council. There is a Highways seminar coming up next week and Cllr Williams requested any items to take forward to the seminar.

10 Planning

- 10.1 Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update regarding the Examination in Public of Stroud's Local Plan; stage 1 of the examination is complete which looked at the housing numbers and the inspector has advised a requirement for 11,400 houses. Cllr Edis-Bates circulated SPA's calculations of housing numbers needed which demonstrates that West of Stonehouse is not required to meet the 11,400 houses target in the Local Plan. We are awaiting the inspector's final decision.
- 10.2 Cllr Edis-Bates gave a brief verbal update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan; the comments from the public consultation are currently being analysed. If the Local Plan goes ahead then the NDP will need to be in accordance with the Plan.
- 10.3 The Council RESOLVED to formalise the planning group into a committee which will meet publicly in the later part of each month and be delegated the power to respond to planning applications on behalf of the Council. The Planning Committee will consist of Cllr Bullock, Cllr Simmons, and Cllr Bomberg. The Committee will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Methodist Church (if available) commencing in August, and the meeting will be deferred if there are no plans to consider. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.3 The Council agreed responses to the following planning applications:

Date received	Application No:	Address	Details	EPC Comments
03/06/2015	S.15/1185/FUL	John Stayte Service Station Puddlesworth Lane Eastington GL10 3AH	Erection of building on existing site and change complete site to a mix use of B2 vehicle servicing and repair including MOT testing	Neither support nor object; concerns with highways access

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			and Sui generis car sales use.	
04/06/2015	S.15/1214/HHOLD	Walnut Tree Cottage Nupend, Stonehouse	Proposed two and single storey extensions	No objection
05/06/2015	S.15/1227/OUT	South View Stonehouse	Erection of 3 dwellings with workspace and 3 affordable dwellings and public open space	Object with comments as prepared by the planning group
08/06/2015	S.15/1256/FUL	Land at Tulip Cottage Churchend	Replacement dwelling following approval S.14/1228/FUL including erection of garage, bridge and pergola	Object with comments as prepared by the planning group
22/06/2015	S.15/1455/GDPE	2 Alkerton Grange Cottages Alkerton	Replace existing single storey extension under permitted development rights	No objection
02/07/15	S.15/1620/EIAS	Proposed Solar Farm (Site 2) Leonard Stanley	Environmental Impact Screening opinion request in relation to proposed solar farm development	Not a planning application at this stage. Comments submitted highlighting the environmental impact areas that the solar farm development will have.
03/07/15	S.15/14951/COU	K B Coaches, Claypits, Eastington, Stonehouse	Change of use for the agricultural land at the rear of depot and garage to parking and storage of vehicles and extension to the current depot.	No objection

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

S.15/0918/FUL – Oakview, Claypits. Erection of new dwelling. REFUSED 09/06/15

S.15/0972/FUL – John Stayte Service Station. Siting of a Portakabin. PERMITTED 18/06/15

S.14/149/OUT – Land off Bath Road. Up to 30 dwellings. APPEAL DISMISSED 22/06/15.

S.15/1137/HHOLD – 22 Alkerton Road, Eastington. Erection of a two storey extension and porch. PERMITTED 30/06/15.

11 Feedback from Training

11.1 Cllr Bomberg gave a brief update on “Being a Better Councillor” training he recently attended; Cllr Bomberg found the course very informative and helpful, and hoped that more parish councillors would take the opportunity to attend the course.

11.2 Cllr Bullock gave a brief update on the “Code of Conduct” training at Stroud DC recently attended by Cllrs Bullock and Allen; unfortunately the course was very short and not informative. Cllr Bullock has requested GAPTC to put on another course.

12 Groups

12.1 No report received from the Play Park Group.

12.2 Cllr Allen circulated the Getting Around Group report prior to the meeting.

12.3 Cllr Allen circulated the Churchyard and Burial Group report prior to the meeting.

13 Correspondence

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

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was an offer to join with Stonehouse TC in joint councillor training and to share the costs. **Action: Clerk** to find out who is facilitating the training and indicative costs and circulate the information to councillors in order to make a decision at the next meeting.

Any other business for the next meeting.

To consider Kissing gate works £350.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th August 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 3rd August 2015.

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