

# EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: [eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 7.00pm in Eastington Methodist Hall**

- 1 **Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Allen, Loveridge, Simmons, Bomberg, Evans, Edis-Bates, and Cozens. There were 26 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Corrie.
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** The register of interests' book was signed by Cllr Loveridge (DPI finance, Personal interest Ecotricity item 7.1), Cllr Bomberg (Personal interest Ecotricity item 7.1).
- 3 **Chairman's announcements.** The Chair noted that whilst we are aware a planning application is forthcoming for Ecotricity's plans at land near Junction 13, there are no formal plans yet available to consider. Once the plans are available it is likely the Parish Council will hold a public meeting; in the meantime the Parish Council will continue to gather background information pending receipt of the plans. The Chair read out the notes of the meeting held with Ecotricity on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (agenda item 12.2).
- 4 **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015:** RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
- 5 **Outstanding actions from previous meeting:** The Chair noted that whilst Lloyds Bank had agreed to open a new account for the Charlie Bullock Fund the paperwork has not been forthcoming; Cllr Evans offered to put the Clerk in touch with a Lloyds bank manager living in Eastington that was very helpful in the past. **Action: Cllr Evans/Clerk.**
- 6 **Changes to the order of business** None

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

Cllr Evans stated that Ecotricity's plans are not in our Local Plan and not in Eastington Neighbourhood Development Plan and it was clear from the public present that the application is not supported.

A resident noted that in the EPC Objectives dated 2012 it states that the Parish Council will oppose any large industrial development.

Mr Campbell feels strongly that the Parish Council should get on with objecting and dealing with the plans.

Mr Davies noted that there wasn't a representative cross-section within the public present, so need to find out what everyone thinks.

Mr James stated that predetermination is not something parish councillors need to be concerned with as the parish council does not determine planning applications. The Clerk clarified that predetermination relates to anything that Councillors are asked to decide and referred to the Localism Act 2011 section 25.

Mrs Rank-Broadly, and Cllr Evans, both asked that anyone present who was for the proposed Ecotricity plans make their case, and there were no respondents.

It was noted that the parish has recently been through a NDP consultation and it was clear from the responses that parishioners do not support large scale industrial developments.

Mr Low spoke on item 7.4 in relation to a prospective meeting with Planning Officers. Mr Low suggested that the opportunity for informal discussion regarding West of Stonehouse should be taken before the Local Plan Consultation period ends.

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Mr Nissler from William Morris House stated that the impact Ecotricity's plans have on the community will be huge and may extinguish WMCC as it currently exists.

**County Councillor's Report** Cllr Williams: there was a recent Highways seminar which wasn't entirely satisfactory; Amey has said it is working on the backlog of Highways work. Cornwall has successfully applied for devolved powers; Gloucestershire has also put in a letter of intent for devolved powers. A resident asked if this meant a unitary authority for Gloucestershire, Cllr Williams confirmed it doesn't.

**District Councillor's Report** Cllr Davies spoke about the Forest Green Rovers application and whilst he is also not allowed to pre-judge he did note that the plans are not within Local Plan or NDP. Cllr Davies is concerned about the necessary infrastructure required to support the development and there are no concrete proposals from Ecotricity on how to address infrastructure issues. Cllr Davies may support if it was only for recreational purposes, however the land proposed to be given to Cotswolds Canal Trust is only the land and no monies attached to assist with the reinstatement of the canal. Cllr Davies is meeting with John Longmuir about process and will report this back to the parish in due course. Cllr Davies also mentioned Standish hospital plans; and a recent speech he made at SDC on human rights.

## **7 Planning**

7.1 The Council considered the draft comments to submit to Stroud DC on the Scoping Opinion Consultation on the development of land at Junction 13 (Ecotricity). There was discussion about how to proceed. Cllr Cozens felt that the main items of concern were the traffic congestion and the development falls outside the settlement boundary. Cllr Edis-Bates proposed that a Strategic Planning working group be formed to look at strategic planning matters including the scoping opinion consultation, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Five in favour, Motion carried.

Cllr Evans volunteered to go on the working group, as did Cllr Simmons and Cllr Bomberg. Three members of public also volunteered to go on the working group, and other people can be included as the group needs. Feedback from the working group will be presented to the Parish Council to consider. Cllr Evans will convene a meeting and forward the outcome of the meeting to the Clerk to convene a full council planning meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August for Council to agree comments to submit to SDC. **Action: Clerk** to request a short extension to the scoping opinion consultation.

7.2 It was agreed to include Cllr Corrie and Cllr Loveridge as additional members to the Planning Committee to ensure meetings are quorate; the Committee now consists of Cllrs Bomberg, Loveridge, Corrie, Simmons and Bullock.

7.3 It was noted that the public consultation is available 29<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> September on further post-submission proposed changes to Stroud Local Plan and it was RESOLVED that the Planning Consultant will submit further comments on behalf of EPC at a cost of £240. **Action: Clerk.**

7.4 The Council discussed the offer of a meeting with planning officers, and agreed to have a separate meeting with an agreed preset of questions on Ecotricity and West of Stonehouse applications, and possibly a follow-up general meeting. It was requested that the Clerk attends to keep a record of the meeting. Cllr Evans suggested that the new Strategic Planning working group can draft a set of questions for Council to agree on 25<sup>th</sup> August. **Action: Cllr Evans and Clerk.**

7.5 Cllr Edis-Bates gave a brief verbal update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan; the feedback from the consultation is being processed and the NDP group is looking at landscape assessments for the hamlets to provide more evidence to the Plan. In relation to Stroud's Local Plan, criteria for sustainability assessment for a settlement in our parish have never been consulted upon and are

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now being consulted upon.

## 7.6 The Council agreed responses to the following planning applications:

Date received	Deadline	Application No:	Address	Details	EPC Comments
16/07/2015	12/08/2015	S.15/1594/FUL	Eastington Trading Estate Churchend	Erection of commercial building	No objection
22/07/2015	12/08/2015	S.15/1441/HHOLD	Hill View Bath Road Eastington	Single storey extension to side	No objection
04/08/2015	25/08/2015	S.15/1781/FUL	West Of Stanley Downton Sewage Works, Leonard Stanley, Gloucestershire (Site 2)	4.7MW Solar Farm and associated infrastructure	Object with comments as drafted.

## 7.7 To consider submitting comments to Stroud DC on the following street trading licence applications

- Hot Food & Drink Trailer at layby near Junction 13 (Stroud-side) operating Monday to Sunday 6am until 4pm. No objection.
- Hot Food & Drink Trailer at Blunderlock, Eastington operating Monday to Sunday 5pm until 1am. Object strongly. Some anti-social behaviour issues in this location already and a hot food trailer operating until 1am may encourage the anti-social behaviour and will impact nearby residents. There will also be an issue with litter due to the proximity of canal and wildlife. **Action: Clerk.**

## 7.8 To note the following planning decisions from Stroud DC:

S.15/1088/FUL – Westend Courtyard – 10 additional offices. PERMIT  
 S.15/1185/FUL – John Stayte Services – new building & change of use. PERMIT  
 S.15/1214/FUL – Walnut Tree Cottage – two and single storey extensions. PERMIT.  
 S.15/1256/FUL – Tulip Cottage – replacement dwelling. REFUSE.  
 S.15/1455/GDPE – 2 Alkerton Grange Cottages – replacement extension. NO OBJECTIONS.

## 8 Finance

- 8.1 The Clerk circulated an update on 2015/16 budget versus spend, and bank reconciliation.  
 8.2 Council RESOLVED to pay the Clerk's expenses for July 2015 at £142.55 and these will be paid with the August payroll.  
 8.3 The Council approved the accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to meeting:

Payee	Details	Chq No	Amount	Budget
Staff salaries & expenses	June 2015 Expenses agreed 14/07/15 processed through Payroll plus July 2015 Salary	1651	£979.19	Parish Admin
Post Office Ltd	PAYE & NI payments to HMRC for July 2015	1652	£102.67	Parish Admin
Staples	Ink cartridge & A4 paper	1653	£23.78	Parish Admin
GAPTC	Code of Conduct training 2.7.15 £50	1654	£145.00	Training

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GAPTC	Chairmanship training 9.7.15 £95			Training
Alan Loveridge	Grass cutting & grounds maintenance	1655	£580.00	Ground Maintenance
Eastington Village Hall	NDP Meeting room hire	1656	£14.00	NDP
Eastington Methodist Church	Council meeting room hire June & July 2015	1657	£25.00	Parish Admin
Avoca PLD	Bath Road Appeal £720 Underpaid previous invoice £400 Local Plan SPA £2000 Clay Pitts Road £120 NDP £600	1658	£3840	Planning Planning Planning Planning NDP
Nest	Pensions	DD	£61.49	Parish Admin
Vodafone	Parish Telephone	DD	£48.99	Parish Admin
			£4,569.48	

- 8.4 The Council noted the Clerk's timesheet for July 2015.
- 8.5 The matter of old outstanding cheques was deferred until the September meeting.
- 8.6 The Council received the amended Financial Regulations circulated prior to the meeting; it was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed amendments. **Action: Clerk.**
- 8.7 It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with laying hardcore at 3 kissing gates at a cost of £350. **Action: Clerk.**
- 8.8 The Council received the updated risk assessments and asset register.
- 8.9 The Council noted that quotes are being collated for professional safety assessments to assess churchyard stonework (wall, tombs, and bridge) and parish council owned trees in the burial ground and churchyard.

## 9 Council Policies

The Council received the following updated Council Policies and **RESOLVED** to adopt as drafted:

- Absence Management Policy
- Staff Appraisal Policy
- Dignity at Work Policy
- Disciplinary Policy

## 10 Ongoing management of Snakey Park and adopt Agreement of Terms

The Council received an update regarding the ongoing management of Snakey Park and agreed to adopt the Agreement of Terms. **Action: Clerk.**

## 11 Untended land at the rear of 11 & 13 Swallowcroft

The Council considered the issue of untended land and Cllr Bomberg offered to try and track down Cheltenham Builders who may still own the land, and will provide details to the Clerk to follow-up.

## 12 Feedback from Training

- 12.1 Cllr Bomberg gave a brief update on the "Introduction to Planning" training attended on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Cllr Bomberg found the course very helpful and felt the course could have been a full-day's course which Stroud DC do run on occasions, and recommended that Councillors attend.
- 12.2 The Council received notes of the meeting held with Ecotricity on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

## 13 Groups

- 13.1 No report received from the Play Park Group.
- 13.2 Cllr Allen circulated the Getting Around Group report prior to the meeting. Cllr Allen drew Councillors attention to plans to re-surface Bath Road (A38 Claypits to Frocester end) and Springhill to A419 in 2016/2017. The A38 is due to be resurfaced in worn places (surfacing done in 2014) end of August 2015. There was a residents' petition to Highways complaining about the

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speed on Bath Road past the build-out; the Highways Manager forwarded Cllr Allen a copy of his reply stating that there have been no accidents on the road so not a high priority but would be carrying out a speed survey in September 2015 as last speed assessment was in 2010.

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

## **14 Correspondence**

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

### **Any other business for the next meeting.**

Cllr Bomberg would like to look at forming a working group to look at requesting new Tree Preservation Orders.

**The meeting closed at 8.55pm.**

Notice: The next Full Council Meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 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 24<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

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