

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: eastingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2015 at 7.00pm in Eastington Methodist Hall

- 1 **Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie (Vice-Chair), Allen, Simmons, Bomberg and Loveridge. There were 7 members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs Evans, Edis-Bates and District Councillor Davies. Absent: Cllr Cozens.
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** Cllr Loveridge (DPI in item 8.7 and personal interest in item 9.4 application S.15/2670/FUL); Cllr Corrie declared a personal interest in item 9.4 application S.15/2601/HHOLD).
- 3 **Chairman's announcements.** The Cotswolds Canal Trust restoration bid has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Chair extended many thanks to everyone involved in the bid. A planning appeal has been notified for four dwellings on Land at Springhill House due to non-determination by the Local Planning Authority and the Parish Council will follow up its objection to the proposal with a written representation to the Planning Inspector.
- 4 **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2015:** RESOLVED to accept the minutes of 10th November 2015.
- 5 **Outstanding actions from previous meeting:** Item 6 (potholes) will be raised with Highways at the Parish Council's next quarterly meeting in January.
- 6 **Changes to the order of business** None

The meeting was adjourned at this point for a presentation from Community R4C and for members of the Public to speak.

Mr Jarman from Community R4C outlined how Gloucestershire's Recycling Plant would operate and recycle up to 90% of waste at a lower operating cost than the proposed County Council incinerator. For more information and to show support for the scheme people can go to www.communityr4c.com.

Mr Low is unhappy that Stroud DC is not taking more action regarding the breach of planning conditions at Millend Mill, and that the District Council should have involved enforcement immediately.

Mr Low spoke regarding item 7.5 nominating Assets of Community Value; it is clear from advice that the nomination of the school playing field is not a good idea.

Mr Low also mentioned the planning appeal for Land at Springhill House; concerned residents will be meeting Jamie Cooper Case Officer on Tuesday afternoon to take his advice on the Appeal.

Mr Low spoke in support of item 10 regarding the signing of Brownings Orchard Lease, and reminded the Council that it kindly gave £5k towards the new orchard a few years ago.

Mr Davies was dismayed that the various groups in the village seemed to be slipping back into disagreeing again. Chair agreed and said we are trying our best for the village.

Mrs Pitcher spoke on item 8.6 and asked if the Council goes ahead with seeking legal advice then some residents were willing to provide witness statements that the Council conducted itself properly.

Mr Harris expressed thanks on behalf of residents at Nupend to Cllr Allen and the Parish Council on getting a water drainage problem resolved at the top of the Pitch.

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County Councillor's Report Cllr Williams was not in attendance. Cllr Allen asked that the Clerk forward a question to Cllr Williams asking when the weed spraying would be carried out (which Cllr Williams had said would be carried out using funds from the County Councillor's Highways budget). Also, when will the assessment of the village gateways be carried out? **Action: Clerk.**

District Councillor's Report Cllr Davies gave apologies and sent in a report which the Clerk read out. Mr Low requested the Clerk forward a question to Cllr Davies regarding the meeting that Nupend residents held with Cllr Davies – does Cllr Davies feel that prosecution of SDC regarding South View is a constructive way to engage? The Clerk reported that she believed that the South View application was being referred to DCC for decision but would confirm; Mr Low asked that the Parish Council will send a representative to DCC. Clerk will find out date so that the Parish Council can consider attendance.

7 Groups

- 7.1 A report will be given next month from the Getting Around Group pending a meeting with Highways.
- 7.2 A report will be given next month from the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group; however the Clerk gave a brief feedback from the churchyard inspection and noted that there are no matters that require immediate attention from a safety point of view although there is some minor maintenance matters. The Churchyard & Burial Ground Group will review the safety report and report back to Council.
- 7.3 A report will be given next month from the Resources Group.
- 7.4 No report from the Strategic Planning Working Group. It was agreed that Cllr Bomberg takeover as Chair of the Working Group and will arrange a meeting and feedback in January.
- 7.5 The Council received an update from the Clerk on the outstanding nomination of asset of community value and based on the advice received from Locality decided not to proceed with the nomination.
- 7.6 Cllrs Bomberg and Loveridge gave feedback on the HR and Employment Law training recently attended and felt the course was informative and helpful.

8 Finance

- 8.1 The Clerk circulated an update on 2015/16 budget versus spend, and bank reconciliation. It was noted there is an unrepresented cheque dated June 2015, the Clerk confirmed this was for the GCC Cultivation Licence which is not likely to go ahead. Any old unrepresented cheques will not be carried forward to the new financial year. Cllr Corrie asked that the Council recognise the hard work that Mr Edwards puts into the footpaths and kissing gates work which has saved the Council a substantial amount of money.
- 8.2 Council RESOLVED to pay the Clerk's expenses for November 2015 at £146.06 and these will be paid with the December payroll.
- 8.3 The Council approved the accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to meeting:

Payee	Details	Chq No	Amount	Budget
Salaries & Expenses	October 2015 Expenses agreed 10/11/15 processed through Payroll plus November 2015 Salary	1682	£1247.73	Parish Admin
Post Office Ltd	PAYE & NI payments to HMRC for November 2015	1683	£267.75	Parish Admin
Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation agreed 10/11/15	1684	£100	Donations
Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal 2015	1685	£100	Donations
Kingfisher Direct Ltd	3 grit bins	1686	£284.87	Grit Bins
Shaw & Sons Ltd	Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial Form book	1687	£117.88	Parish Admin
Staples UK Ltd	Stationery	1688	£20.38	Parish Admin
GAPTC	Planning training 22/10/15 £30 Employment & HR Training 21/11/15 £105	1689	£135.00	Training

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GRCC	NDP Support	1690	£1350.00	NDP
Eastington Methodist Church	Council meeting room hire – November 2015	1691	£10.00	Parish Admin
NEST	Pensions for November 2015	DD (17/11/15)	£104.75	Parish Admin
Vodafone	Parish Mobile	DD (23/12/15)	£48.99	Parish Admin
		TOTAL	£3787.35	

- 8.4 The Council noted the Clerk’s timesheet for November 2015 including 10 hours paid overtime. It was noted that overtime for October was missed from the last payrun and will be paid in December. The Resources Group will review the Clerk’s timesheet at its next meeting.
- 8.5 The Council considered the draft budget for 2016/17 and noted that some budget headings are still work in progress. The budget and precept request will be confirmed at the next meeting. The noticeboard for the Burial Ground can be purchased using funds in the current budget, and the church bridge repair could also be considered for this financial year, **Action: Clerk** to put on agenda for January. It was noted that the unspent monies from the Repair Projects budget, Roads & Transport budget and OHMG road repairs budget could be moved to earmarked reserves and carried over to 2016/17.
- 8.6 The Council considered seeking legal advice from Stroud District Council at a cost of £50 per hour regarding a recent councillor complaint. Councillors held a vote with 1 councillor in favour of paying for legal advice, and 5 councillors against due to the advice already received from GAPTC stating that the complainant should make a code of conduct complaint direct to the monitoring officer if he feels the matter has not been resolved.

Cllr Loveridge left the meeting for the next item.

- 8.7 The Council received the grass cutting tenders and discussed the tenders at length. Contractor 3 was awarded the contract for 2016/17 at an annual cost of £9,030 up to a maximum of £10,155 for additional cuts. **Action: Clerk.**

Cllr Loveridge re-joined the meeting.

- 8.8 The Council noted that new bank accounts have been opened with Barclays Bank for the Charlie Bullock Fund and Solar Farm Fund and agreed to transfer funds as follows (to comply with audit guidance):

Charlie Bullock Fund	£25,105.29
Solar Farm Fund	£5,908.68.

9 Planning

- 9.1 The Council received a written update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Cllr Bomberg hoped that the NDP can be completed as soon as possible as he feared that proposed developments could use the absence of a NDP against the Parish. The Clerk outlined the plans to finalise the plan for 21st December for circulation to the Parish Council prior to Christmas for a 5th January meeting for the Parish Council to sign off the plan ready for submission to SDC on 11th January.
- 9.2 The Council determined that the NDP does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment as per the report from the external consultant.
- 9.3 The Council received the draft response for the West of Stonehouse application S.14/0810/OUT as drafted by the Council’s Planning Consultant and agreed that the response be submitted to Stroud DC. Mr Harris was invited to speak on this item and he thanked the Parish Council for contracting

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a professional consultant to prepare the response.

9.4 The Council considered the following planning applications:

Date received	Application No:	Address	Details	Comments
17-11-2015	S.15/2601/HHOLD	16 Alkerton Road Eastington	Two storey extension	No objections.
20-11-15	S.15/2670/FUL	Apple Tree Park Claypits Eastington	Change of use of 20 touring pitches to holiday caravan pitches	No objections but requested a planning condition to prevent residential use and limited to holiday lets.
30-11-15	S.15/2748/TCA	Springhill House Eastington	Fell Robinia tree due to decay	No objections.

Cllr Allen mentioned that Meadow Mill application has had an extension of time, Environment Agency has submitted comments regarding flooding and objected to the application based on the level of detail submitted.

9.5 The Council noted the following planning decisions made by Stroud District Council:

- S.15/1852/DISCON – Millend Mill – Discharge of conditions. PARTIAL COMPLIANCE (the Parish Council has requested enforcement action be taken regarding the breach of planning conditions required prior to first occupation of Millend Mill)
- S.15/1781/FUL – Proposed Solar Farm West of Stanley Downton Sewage Works – REFUSE
- S.15/2303/FUL – 3 Alkerton Terrace – 2 storey side extension – PERMIT.

10 The Council RESOLVED to co-sign the lease of Brownings Orchard as Custodian Trustee of Eastington Community Orchard Group, and the Clerk was authorised to sign the lease on behalf of the Parish Council.

11 The Council agreed to the request for permission to install a memorial bench at the burial ground. The Churchyard and Burial Ground was delegated authority to agree the location and installation requirements. **Action: C&BG Group.**

12 Correspondence

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

12.2 Cllr Bullock and Clerk will attend the precept seminar at SDC on Monday 21st December; Cllr Corrie will attend if the Chair cannot attend.

12.3 Cllr Bullock and Cllr Bomberg will attend the Annual Parish & Town Council seminar on 14th January.

Any other business for the next meeting.

West of Stonehouse email from Cotswolds Canal Trust.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Notice: The next Full Council Meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12th January 2016. 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 4th January 2016. There may be an extra meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 5th January 2016 to review the final version of the NDP prior to submission to Stroud District Council on 11th January 2016.

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