

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2010 in the Methodist Hall, Eastington

Before the Parish Council meeting, there were two guest speakers, Angela Burlow of GRCC and Peter Gilbert SDC Planning Strategy Manager.

Parish Achievements – speaker: Angela Burlow

Angela spoke on the process of achieving an action plan for Eastington. The action plan will be a powerful document, as it will provide evidence of the achievements and future aspirations and needs of the community. It will provide evidence to be used when seeking funding for projects in the parish, and as such would need to be kept 'live' and refreshed, with updates reflected on the website and through the ECN.

The drop in meetings arranged by Katrina Napthine will kick off the process, with parishioners being asked about their concerns. Angela suggested aiming for a minimum of 50% return of questionnaires and also that signing in sheets be kept for each meeting held during the process as evidence of participation. Angela recommended keeping a portfolio of the events, meetings etc as part of the evidence base, and that regular feed-back is given at parish council meetings.

Chair thanked Angela for her help and advice.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and Core Strategy – speaker: Peter Gilbert

Pete gave an illustrated presentation (a copy of which is available). He explained that the SHLAA deals with the supply side. It is a government requirement and the SHLAA is a theoretical assessment only. Pete noted that the forthcoming election may result in changed policies.

After Hunts Grove and other existing commitments, there is a requirement for a further 1,500 homes. SDC are asking for more, to err on the side of caution.

The planning is intended to facilitate jobs for the District, as there is a shortfall of jobs and currently a great deal of out-commuting. Employment sites will be permitted in the new plan as exceptions to normal policy. By making land available it is hoped that employers will be attracted to the area.

Pete presented the seven potential strategies. These range from concentrated approaches (large developments of 1000 or 2000 homes) to dispersal of small clusters of 10 to 50 new homes, scattered around the district's towns and villages. He gave an opinion of the pros and cons of each option. He stressed that these strategies are only suggestions, and the final strategy could be a 'mix and match'. Pete ran through the 15 associated policies, which are in the Core Document.

Chair thanked Pete, and called for any questions.

Tom Low asked where these figures for housing need had come from. Pete replied that they are from central government, fed down through the Regions who set the targets.

Tom Low asked what would happen if the plan was not in place in time, would it then be a case of 'planning by appeal'? Pete advised that existing policies can be saved until the new plan is adopted.

Tom Low asked why housing development outside the formal plans cannot be taken into account - the 'windfall' housing. Pete advised that the government looks for positive proof that the allocation can be delivered and that as windfall cannot be guaranteed it cannot be counted.

Questions were asked about how realistic are the aims to create two jobs per house, and concerns voiced that if all the development was put in one place then the other areas would wither, and that the high density development may lead to social problems.

Pete confirmed that there is evidence to support the need for affordable housing.

Pete confirmed that Option 1 (3 sites of 1000 houses west of Stonehouse) would be an urban extension and would need infrastructure built into it.

Cllr Hill asked if there were enough brownfield sites in the District to accommodate the required development. Pete advised that he did not know, and acknowledged that some of the sites identified in the SHLAA may not be in fact deliverable due to flooding and other issues. Cllr Hill asked SDC to quantify the number of brownfield sites. Pete said this could be done, but there would be layers of policy over these.

Chair and Cllr Stephens both thanked Pete.

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Stephens, Frith, Simmons, Souster; Hill, and Hadley; Mary Gribble (Clerk). No members of the public were present. Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Tony Blackburn, and PCSO Liz Ward.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** None.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens on all planning applications as SDC

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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Member.

4. **Approval of the Minutes 2nd February and 12th January 2010 meetings:** Proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Cozens and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last meeting:** The list was reviewed; actions are in hand.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** No changes were requested.

Chair read a report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn, which included comments on the traffic calming and the waste facility.

Chair also read a report from PCSO Ward. Two people have been charged with burglary following an incident in Eastington. The Stonehouse Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group has decided that the main priority for the next few months will be anti-social behaviour in Eastington. PCSO Ward is responsible for this SARA plan.

District Councillor Ken Stephens advised that the first 350 houses may now be built at Hunt's Grove, and that permission has been given for a travellers and gypsies site at Moreton Valance.

7 Resolutions

7.1 Power of Wellbeing (POWB)

- 7.1.1 Chair thanked the councillors for attending the recent POWB training. Chair proposed that the council adopts its policy objectives as a 'Statement of Intent'. Proposal carried unanimously.
It was agreed that EPC meets all the eligibility criteria under the POWB. Chair proposed that EPC has determined its eligibility for the 'Power of Wellbeing', as prescribed in the The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 s77. Carried unanimously.
Action: Clerk to advise NALC that this resolution has been passed.

7.2 Finance

- 7.2.1 Cllr Cozens proposed that Mary Gribble be appointed as temporary RFO. Seconded by Cllr Frith and carried unanimously.
- 7.2.2 An appointments committee in anticipation of new RFO was convened, consisting of Cllrs Frith, Hadley, and Niblett. Cllr Hill to be reserve member.
- 7.2.3 Chair thanked Cllr Frith for preparing the list of cheques for payment, and proposed its approval. Carried. A copy of the list is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.2.4 Cllr Frith proposed acceptance of TW Hawkins quote for mowing the OHMG sports ground in 2010. Seconded by Cllr Cozens and carried.
Chair requested that all councillors pass their comments on the draft mowing schedule of the village greens to Cllr Frith by this weekend.

7.3 Planning

- 7.3.1 Planning Appeal against refusal of a Householder application by Mr & Mrs Keeling, Laurel Cottage, Middle Street: erection of a detached garage/workshop. Cllr Frith proposed that as this council knows of no new information its comments will be unchanged, and SDC to be advised that the previous comments stand. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried with one abstention (Cllr Stephens).
- 7.3.2 Cllr Stephens proposed that this council appoints a planning professional to study, and reply on behalf of EPC, the Core Strategy Alternative Strategy Consultation being undertaken by SDC. This reply to be in line with EPC current aims and objectives, which is that Eastington remains a rural parish. The budget for the consultation and response initially to be £3000. Further, that a sub-group of EPC be created and delegated powers to appoint a planning professional. This sub-group to be all of EPC, a quorum to consist of one-third, one of whom must be the Chair or Vice Chair of EPC. Cllr Frith to lead this Core Strategy Group. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hill and carried unanimously.

7.4 Application for Street Trader Consent

- 7.4.1 Chair proposed support for the Application for Street Trading Consent by Mrs T A Dyer to sell hot and cold food from a catering van located at Blunder Lock, Eastington. Carried unanimously.
Action: Clerk to respond to SDC

Signed

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7.5 Consultation Policy of Stroud District Council

7.5.1 Chair proposed that this council supports Nailsworth Town Council's request for SDC to adopt an appropriate Consultation Policy that entrenches good practice on consulting with towns and parishes on any significant decision or change that affects the area they cover; and the we are involved (with GAPTC) in developing such a policy). Carried unanimously.

Action: Clerk to advise Nailsworth TC of EPC's support

Any other business

Cllr Stephens advised that Mr & Mrs Bromilow continue to be badly affected by the noise from the road. They have enquired about the possibility of the movements of large vehicles being restricted at certain times. This matter to be brought to the next EPC meeting.

Cllr Hadley advised that she has organised a litter pick in the village, and collected several bin bags full of litter. Cllr Stephens that SDC's "Spring Clean" initiative be taken up this year.

The meeting closed at 21.55

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9th March 2010. 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 Wednesday 3rd March 2010.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date