

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2010 in the Methodist Hall, Eastington

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Stephens, Simmons, Hill, and Edwards; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Souster and Hadley. No members of the public were present.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair thanked the Clerk and all those contributing to Eastington's success in winning the Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year award.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** None.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Stephens, seconded by Chair and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** It was noted that recent actions are in hand. It was agreed that more detail needs to be included in the action list.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 minutes for members of the Public to speak.

Speaking as District Councillor, Cllr Stephens reported that land at Millend had been sold at auction. This land is outside the village envelope and in the flood plain.

Cllr Hill congratulated those involved in the Vibrant Village of the Year competition.

Cllr Hill raised concerns about the lack of mechanism to express relevant local opinion on planning applications if the concerns were not in the planning policy documents.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:20

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

7.1.1 RFO explained that he is undertaking a simplification of the accounts. The new accounts format will be circulated to all councillors in the first week of August for their comments. In future, a detailed written finance report will be circulated prior to each meeting. This report will identify any issues as well as detailing the payments, receipts and budget position.

Action: Cllrs Hill, Hadley and RFO to meet to review the new format of accounts

7.1.2 The council received the signed off Annual Return and heard the report from the Auditor. The Auditor's comment regarding the level of reserves was noted. Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return is posted on the website.

7.1.3 The cheque signatories were reviewed. Cllrs Hill and Hadley to be added to the signatories.

Action: RFO to obtain the forms from the bank and circulate to all signatories.

7.1.4 RFO advised that the main items of expenditure this month are salary and grass cutting. Approval of the accounts for payment was proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Stephens. Carried unanimously. A copy of the list of cheque payments is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.

7.2 Burial Ground, Village Green and Churchyard Maintenance

7.2.1 Cllr Hill proposed adding to the current contract: £50 to clear the right hand area of the burial ground, £100 for 10 further cuts to this area this year, and £300 for emptying the rubbish bins at the burial ground, a total of £450 extra on the contract. Seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried. (LGA 1972 s214).

7.2.2 Additional maintenance at the churchyard was discussed. The risks associated with the river and the churchyard wall will be included in the risk assessment that is due to be undertaken. It was noted that repairs to the wall will be likely, and setting aside funds for this will be considered when setting next year's precept.

Action: Insurance cover in respect of the churchyard wall to be considered when the insurance policy is next reviewed.

Action: Review the asset register to consider inclusion of closed churchyard as a liability.

7.2.3 Cllr Hill proposed a 3 year contract for grass-cutting, to include a performance clause, in line with the 'best value' approach. Seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried.

Action: Comprehensive specification to be drafted

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.3 Employment Matters

7.3.1 Cllrs Niblett, Hill and Stephens were appointed to a committee to review the remuneration of the Clerk, and consider pension provision.

Action: Recommendations to be brought to August meeting.

7.4 Owen Harris Memorial Ground

7.4.1 Item deferred as quotes not in hand.

7.5 Venue for Eastington Parish Council Meetings

7.5.1 Chair proposed holding the parish council meetings, for a trial period of one year, at 4 venues in the parish in rotation. Carried.

Action: Clerk to write to the school, the Village Hall committee, the Eastington Community Centre and the Methodist Church to enquire about the feasibility of this proposal.

7.6 Health and Safety Policy

7.6.1 A sub-group, comprising Cllrs Niblett and Hill, was appointed to formulate a health and safety policy.

Action: Recommendations to be brought to September meeting.

7.7 Public Consultations

7.7.1 It was agreed that this council will not respond to the call for evidence on increase in state pension age.

Any other business

It was agreed that a celebration of the Vibrant Village award should be recognised on The Fun Day on the 19th September. The award will be commemorated by a special supplement in the ECN, and on the website. It was agreed that Eastington Parish Council correspondence should carry the words "Winner of the Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010"

Action: Investigate the possibility of installing road signs to further publicise the award.

Improved broadband is being researched, findings to be brought back to this council.

The meeting closed at 9:15

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10th August 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 4th August 2010.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date