

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2010 in the Methodist Hall, Eastington

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Stephens, Simmons, Hill, Souster and Edwards; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). Apologies were accepted from County Cllr Tony Blackburn. Two members of the public were present.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair remarked that he was delighted to have received three applications for the Casual Vacancy. He then read a letter from Harry Elliott thanking the parish council for its letter regarding the closure of the Eastington Branch of the British Legion.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens declared an interest on all planning matters as SDC Member; Chair on planning application S.10/1678/HHOLD, Bottom Cottage.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** Item 7.7.1 – item completed as waste reduction is covered on the questionnaire that will be completed at the Fete. Cllr Stephens asked for Item 9.1.1 to be discharged (bus shelter on A38) as not enough people currently use the bus stop.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.15 for members of the Public to speak.

Tom Low spoke about the land at Millend which has recently been sold at a price that indicates development is likely. The land is outside the village envelope, and all the trees are protected as the land is in the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area. A survey of the trees has been undertaken by Keep Eastington Rural (copy passed to EPC) and published online. The Millend residents have 'squatters rights' to the area that is used for parking, and the sewage plant serving the cottages is protected in perpetuity.

Action: Site meeting to be arranged with Mark Hemmings, SDC Tree Officer

Tom also advised that he is undertaking a feasibility study into the purchase or lease of land for a Community Orchard. He will prepare a report to bring before the next EPC meeting. Chair thanked Tom for taking this work forward.

Speaking as a District Councillor, Ken Stephens said that SDC may be minded to continue as if the Local Plan and RSS still existed, working with the housing numbers that have already been established. Meeting to be convened once the position is clarified.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.35

7 Resolutions

7.1 Co-option of Councillors

Chair moved a resolution to suspend Standing Orders for this agenda item only, to enable the voting to be by written ballot. Carried. Voting slips were issued, and counting was undertaken by Clerk and RFO. The voting slips were destroyed after counting. Co-option was by majority vote for both vacancies.

7.1.1 Muriel Bullock was co-opted as councillor to fill the Casual Vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr Frith.

7.1.2 Ian Rank-Broadley was co-opted a councillor to fill the Casual Vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr Hadley.

7.2 Finance

7.2.1 RFO referred to his written financial statement (attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). Recent income has included the £500 Vibrant Village award, and income from burial fees. To date £11,641 has been spent since April, and there is approximately £19,000 in the bank.

Cllr Souster asked for the level of free reserve to be clarified, following concerns that the Auditor has commented on the low level of reserves. RFO offered to meet Cllr Souster to review the level of free reserve.

7.2.2 RFO presented the accounts for payment, totalling £977. The schedule had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. The payments are for salaries and expenses Clerk and RFO, payment for hall hire, and grass cutting. Cllr Hill proposed approval of the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried. A copy of the schedule is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.

7.2.3 Chair proposed a donation of £50 towards the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath) using EPC powers under the Power of Wellbeing. Carried.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.3 Planning

7.3.1 Chair thanked the planning committee's for preparing their report.

S.10/1572/COU. Victoria Inn. Change of use from a public house to an office. The developer has offered to make a contribution to the community to ameliorate the loss of the amenity. There was extensive discussion. Cllr Simmons proposed that EPC neither support or object, but offer comments only. Seconded by Cllr Hill, carried with 2 abstentions (Cllrs Stephens and Edwards) and 2 objections (Cllrs Souster and Cozens).

S.10/1624/HHOLD. Vine Cottage, Nupend. Erection of a single storey extension (resubmission following permission S.10/0944/HHOLD). Cllr Simmons proposed that EPC supports this application. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried with 2 abstentions (Cllrs Stephens and Edwards).

S.10/1677/HHOLD. 3 Hillview Cottages, Middle Street. Erection of two storey extension to dwelling. Cllr Simmons proposed that EPC objects to this application. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried with 2 abstentions (Cllrs Stephens and Edwards).

S.10/1678/HHOLD. Bottom Cottage, Middle Street. Erection of detached garage. The planning committee noted inaccuracy in the position of the garage on the plan. Cllr Simmons proposed that EPC supports this application. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried with 3 abstentions (Cllrs Stephens, Niblett and Edwards).

S.10/1701/VAR. Land at Alkerton Grange Cottages. Renewal of permitted application S.07/1719/FUL. Erection of two dwellings. Cllr Simmons proposed that EPC supports this application, noting the previous planning conditions. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried with 2 abstentions (Cllrs Stephens and Edwards).

S.10/1762/COU. Westend Barns, Westend Farm, Grove Lane, Westend. Change of use of barns from holiday lets to B1 office and light industrial use, and S.10/1763/LBC. Westend Barns, Westend Farm, Grove Lane, Westend. Internal and external alterations associated with change of use of barns from holiday lets to B1 office and light industrial use. Cllr Simmons proposed that EPC supports this application, SDC to deal with listed building considerations. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried with 2 abstentions (Cllrs Stephens and Edwards).

7.4 Roads and Transport

7.4.1 Chair was pleased to confirm that GCC are consulting on extending the 30mph speed limit along Bath Road, which will bring Orchard Leigh into the 30mph zone. Cllr Souster proposed that EPC writes a letter of support, seconded by Cllr Cozens, carried with one abstention (Cllr Edwards).

Action: Clerk to send letter of support

7.4.2 Cllr Souster apologised that he was unable to attend Local Transport Plan seminar.

7.5 Owen Harris Memorial Ground

7.5.1 The quotes are awaited from the contractors.

7.6 Footpaths

7.6.1 Cllr Edwards confirmed that the proposed diversion of EEA13 at Nastend Farm is a minor diversion, as the footpath had been built over. The diversion takes the footpath around the farm building. Cllr Edwards proposed approval of the proposed diversion of Public Footpath EEA13 at Nastend Farm. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried unanimously.

7.7 Parish Plan at the 'First Birthday Fete'

7.7.1 Chair gave a briefing on the short parish plan questionnaire, to be completed at the fete. This questionnaire is a preliminary stage in the parish plan process and a more detailed questionnaire will be undertaken at a later date. Cllr Stephens congratulated Chair on the preparation of the questionnaire.

Signed

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7.8 To discuss options for waste reduction and recycling

There is a possibility that the recycling bins may be re-sited, and other initiatives have been mooted. Item to be returned to a future agenda.

7.9 To confirm the venue for the October EPC meeting

Chair proposed that the next 3 EPC meeting take place at the school. Carried.

7.10 Consultations

7.10.1 Chair proposed ratification of response made to the proposed Council Tax Referendum. Carried.

7.10.2 Councillors received a report on the electoral review of Gloucestershire County Council.

8. Updates

8.1 Noted planning permissions granted:

S.10/1257/HHOLD. The Elms, Bath Road. Ground floor extension for disabled access to bedroom with en-suite and new first floor bedroom over.

S.10/1352/TCA. 4A Spring Hill. Works to lime tree (Trees in Conservation Area).

8.2 Update on Millend Woods: heard in the public session.

8.3 An update on broadband for Eastington was given by Cllr Hill. He is awaiting a response on the cabled option. The wireless option would cost more than BT. It would need at least 100 people to sign up and could be done in 6 months. There is a question on faster broadband in the preliminary parish plan questionnaire.

Any other business: None

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12th October 2010, at the School. 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 6th October 2010.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date