

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2010 in the School Hall, Eastington

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Stephens, Simmons, Hill, Souster, Edwards, Bullock and Rank-Broadley; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO); Chris Acock (Neighbourhood Warden) and two members of the public (Malcolm Strang and Tom Low). Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Cozens and Edwards, County Cllr Tony Blackburn and PCSO Ward.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair thanked Malcolm for allowing this meeting to be held at the school, the first of the meetings in the programme to take the parish council to different parts of the village. Chair welcomed Tom Low, and the two new parish councillors. Chair voiced the aspiration of the parish council to represent the views of the people of this parish, working proactively to give the community a voice.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens declared an interest on all planning matters as SDC Member.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Souster and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** None.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.20 for members of the Public to speak.

Chair read from an email received from County Councillor Tony Blackburn. He advises that he is chairing a GCC sub-committee on speed limits and invites EPC's input.

Action: Cllrs Souster, Hill and Niblett to draft a submission to this sub-committee on the reduction of speed limits in Eastington, draft to be considered at the November EPC meeting

Cllr Blackburn made a concerned comment on the applications to withdraw the 'persons in agriculture' restrictions from properties in Nastend - he firmly wishes to 'Keep Eastington Rural'.

Speaking as District Councillor, Ken Stephens confirmed that SDC resolved on 30/9/10 to retain the direction of the Core Strategy. SDC is hoping that other authorities might take up 750 of its housing allocation. Cllr Stephens tabled a question on alternative sites, but has is yet to receive a response.

Cllr Stephens then shared his deep concern that SDC Cabinet recommends an amendment to the current scheme of delegation when dealing with planning applications. Currently, if parish council opinion differs from the Planning Officer opinion then the application is removed from delegated powers and sent to Committee. The proposed amendment would cease the removal from delegated powers.

Action: Clerk to ask GAPTC to engage other parish councils in the District, matter to be returned to the next agenda.

Neighbourhood Warden, Chris Acock, reassured the parish council that although Kaz Elliott is on sick leave, the Neighbourhood Wardens are still there to help residents of Eastington. Chris outlined their role in supporting the vulnerable in our society. All Neighbourhood Wardens are trained 'First Responders' to give assistance in a medical emergency, and can assist with a range of problems such as mental health issues, benefits claims, and neighbour disputes. Chair thanked Chris for his work and for attending this meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.40

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

7.1.1 RFO referred to the circulated accounts spreadsheet (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes) which show the money spent since 1/4/10. There is £33,549.70 in the two accounts. He explained that the £310.00 spent on the OHMG birthday party comprised payments to the band, bouncy castle and a donation to the OHMGC. Income of £214.78 from the birthday party was banked. RFO confirmed that the second tranche of the Precept was received on 30/9/10.

At the next meeting, RFO will provide a projected spend to year end.

Cllr Souster congratulated RFO for preparing this spreadsheet.

7.1.2 RFO asked councillors to start to consider the likely spend for the next financial year. An additional meeting on 2/11/10 to discuss the precept was agreed – Councillors to attend having thought through their spending ideas. RFO will circulate figures and guidance, and advise on the consequences of financial decisions. It was agreed that the precept-setting spreadsheet needed to be simplified, the reserves would reside in one 'pot', and a number of lines would be deleted.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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- 7.1.3 RFO referred to the list of accounts for payment which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The accounts for payment total £1255.61, comprising payment to the Methodists for hall hire, to Mr Loveridge for grass cutting, a donation to the Poppy Appeal, Clerk salary and expenses and RFO salary. Cllr Hill proposed approval of the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried. Copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.1.4 Chair proposed approval of Clerk attendance at GAPTC's information session and networking event on 7th December, cost £12.00 (LGA 1972 s.111). Carried.
- 7.1.5 The new Councillors are not available to attend the forthcoming 'Being a Good Councillor' training, but will attend the Code of Conduct Training being provided by SDC (this is free of charge).
- 7.1.6 Chair proposed that Debbie Spiers is appointed as internal auditor, and that an interim audit as previously recommended is undertaken, up to 8 hours work at £14.00 per hour plus mileage expenses (LGA 1972 s.111). Carried.

Action: Clerk to confirm appointment, RFO to arrange interim audit.

7.2 Planning

7.2.1 The planning following four CPE applications were taken together:

S.10/1751/CPE. The Bungalow, Nupend Farm. Certificate of existing use for the occupation of dwelling by persons not employed or last employed in agriculture.

S.10/1752/CPE. Nupend Farmhouse. Certificate of existing use for the occupation of dwelling by persons not employed or last employed in agriculture.

S.10/1753/CPE. Vale View, Nupend. Certificate of existing use for the occupation of dwelling by persons not employed or last employed in agriculture.

S.10/1754/CPE. Happy Valley Cottage, Nupend. Certificate of existing use for the occupation of dwelling by persons not employed or last employed in agriculture.

The planning committee find no planning reasons to object to these applications, but would ask SDC ensures that the paperwork is in order. Cllr Hill requested that SDC be asked for a list of all properties in the parish with agricultural restrictions. Cllr Hill proposed 'no comment' be returned to SDC. Seconded by Chair and carried (Cllr Stephens abstained).

Action: Clerk to ask SDC for list of properties with agricultural occupancy restrictions.

Cllr Simmons proposed recommendations for the following four applications:

S.10/1811/HHOLD. Holmlea, Claypits Lane. Erection of extension. Recommendation: support.

S.10/1860/HHOLD. 10 Swallowcroft. Erection of conservatory. Recommendation: support

S.10/1864/HHOLD. Beacon View, Claypits Lane. Alterations to dwelling to include raising the roof by 1.5m and removal of front disused chimney. Recommendation: considered assessment not possible due to poor quality drawings. SDC to be asked to halt the work that has already started, and to seek proper drawings to enable assessment.

S.10/1958/TCA. Meadow Cottage, Millend Lane. Work on yew tree, 10% reduction; small cherry tree to fell and remove. Recommendation: no comment.

All four proposals seconded by Cllr Hill and carried (Cllr Stephens abstained):

7.3 Community Orchard

7.3.1 Tom Low asked the parish council to assist in convening a working party to build on the foundations of his feasibility study into the establishment of a community orchard in this parish. He has a list of 22 people with confirmed interest in this project, giving scope for several orchards throughout the hamlets, perhaps on the sites of historic orchards. Tom is keen to share his knowledge with the working party, to consider the location, type, and running of the orchards. The orchards could run as a club or co-operative. Malcolm Strang strongly supported this initiative, seeing it as a worthwhile opportunity for involvement by the school children, underlining the importance of the children's' rural surroundings and raising environmental awareness.

Cllr Stephens proposed that Eastington Parish Council supports the principles outlined in the feasibility study presented by Tom Low, and resolves to assist the progression to the next step by sponsoring the initial meeting of the working group to the sum of £50 (Power of Wellbeing). Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried. Cllr Simmons volunteered to represent this council on the working party.

7.4 Owen Harris Memorial Ground

7.4.1 Tar filling of cracks along Snakey Lane: Cllr Stephens proposed the quote from Cotswold Surfacing be accepted as it is the lowest cost quote. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried. (Highways Act 1980 s50).

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7.5 Parish Plan / 'First Birthday Fete'

7.5.1 The First Birthday Fete was agreed to be a success. Money was raised, and 65 mini questionnaires were completed (this represents 10% of the households in Eastington). GRCC will assist with the analysis of the questionnaires.

7.5.2 Chair was pleased to report that 23 people offered to help with the Parish plan. It is hoped the deadline of the year end can be met.

7.5.3 Initial feedback from the mini questionnaire shows a high level of perception of social problems in the community. It was agreed this should be addressed at the earliest opportunity. Other feedback:

- high interest in the idea of community orchards
- 33 people expressed a high level of interest in faster broadband
- 7 offers of help with Eastington Community News

Cllr Hill proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Niblett and Bullock for their work at the fete.

7.6 Millend Woods

7.6.1 It was agreed that the meeting between Mark Hemming, Tom Low and Clerk was useful. The TPO process is now better understood. SDC confirmed the survey undertaken by Keep Eastington Rural is of value. Chair thanked Tom and the Millend residents for their work.

7.7 Nastend Conservation Area

7.7.1 Chair proposed Cllr Rank-Broadley's appointment as parish council representative to review with KER the recent feedback from SDC. Carried. Matter to be returned to future agenda.

7.8 Bus shelter

7.8.1 Chair proposed the discharge of action point 9.9.1 of May 10 regarding the investigation of the possibility of bus shelter on the A38. Carried.

8. Updates

8.1 Noted planning permissions granted:

S.10/0854/HHOLD. Nupend House, Nupend. Erection of two storey extension.

S.10/1111/LBC. Somerlea, Nastend. Replacement windows.

S.10/1715/DISCON. Alkerton Green Farm, Alkerton. Discharge of condition 2 from planning permission

S.10/0754/FUL.

8.2 Noted planning application withdrawn:

S.10/0920/HHOLD. Sage House, Middle Street.

Any other business

Cllr Rank-Broadley asked that the cutting of the village greens is not undertaken on Sundays.

Cllr Stephens advised that a representative from Glosvain has offered to attend EPC meeting to update councillors. Cllr Rank-Broadley expressed an interest in this issue, Cllr Stephens will ask Sue Oppenheimer to send information to Cllr Rank-Broadley

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9th November 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 November 2010.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date