

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2011 in Eastington Community Centre

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Stephens, Souster; Hill, Bullock and Rank-Broadley; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO) No members of the public were present. Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Cozens, Simmons, and Edwards; County Councillor Tony Blackburn, and PCSO Liz Ward. There were no members of the public present.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair welcomed the councillors to the first in the series of three meetings at the Community Centre. He asked councillors for contributions for the next Eastington Community News.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens on all planning applications as SDC Member; Cllr Hill on Item 7.2.1; and Cllr Rank-Broadley on Item 8.1.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Souster, seconded by Chair and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** The list was reviewed, all new actions are in hand.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10.

District Councillor Ken Stephens spoke of SDC's budget. SDC has suffered the largest reduction in precept in the country. The final budget figures will be available early February. Turning to the subject of 'precept capping' Cllr Stephens believes this will require primary legislation, more details will emerge in due course.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:15

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 RFO referred to his written report and payments listing (copies attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). There has been little activity; there are 3 cheques for payment, and income from Allianz (insurance claim for bus shelter repairs) and Eon (wayleave payments). There is £28,900.05 in the bank. The reserves are projected to increase by a modest amount this financial year.
Cllr Rank-Broadley asked for clarification of the sum paid to Keith Dench Bailys Beads. He was advised this was in payment for the band at the summer Fete.
The budgets which have been unused this year were discussed.
- 7.1.2 Chair proposed a donation of £60 to the School in thanks for the use of their hall for the past three Parish Council meetings, this money to be used by the School Council on one of their projects. Carried unanimously. (Power of Well-Being).
- 7.1.3 RFO presented the accounts for payment, 3 cheques – 2 for salaries and one for GRCC membership renewal, totalling £515.47. Cllr Stephens proposed approval of these accounts, seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. A copy of the cheque list is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.1.4 Chair proposed membership renewal to the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (£25.00). Carried. (LGA 1972 s.143).
- 7.1.5 The quote to repair the bus shelter has not yet been received.

7.2 Planning

- 7.2.1 Planning application discussed: S.10/2464/VAR. Land at Alkerton Farm, Bath Road. Removal of Condition 7 of application S.10/0151/FUL (footpath provision). It was suggested that as the builder will be saving a considerable amount of money if the footpath is not provided, he may be minded to donate a similar sum to provision of highway improvements elsewhere in Eastington.
Action: Cllr Hill to take this idea to the builder.
Chair proposed support for this application. Carried with two abstentions (Cllrs Hill and Stephens).

7.3 Roads and Transport

- 7.3.1 Cllr Souster ran through the updates he has made to the Roads & Transport priorities list.
The control of lorries in the village was discussed. It was noted that the 'Lorry Watch' scheme is now defunct, and that the signage to Middle Hall Farm is not yet in place.
Action: Lorry control to be returned to a future agenda.
- 7.3.2 Cllr Hill presented a draft letter to GCC seeking clarification of the speed limit extensions in Bath Road and Spring Hill.
Action: Cllrs Souster and Hill to agree the final draft of the letter. Finalized letter to be sent by Clerk.
- 7.3.3 It was agreed the data from GCC Traffic flow monitors would be of value to EPC.
Action: Ask GCC for the data.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.3.4 Road traffic accidents in Eastington: The need to record and log all incidents to create a parish record was agreed.

Action: Parishioners to be asked for their input via a request in ECN

7.4 Environment

7.4.1 Cllr Rank-Broadley voiced the concerns of Nastend residents regarding excessive lighting of the Stroudwater Business Park. EPC shared the concerns, around environmental and waste issues, both at Stroudwater Business Park and Bonds Mill.

Cllr Rank-Broadley proposed that EPC takes action in response to the high levels of night-time lighting at Stroudwater Business Park. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried unanimously.

Action: Cllr Rank-Broadley to draft a letter to companies concerned. Follow up meeting to be considered.

7.4.2 The litter at Oldbury roundabout was discussed. Cllr Rank-Broadley has taken this matter up with the manager of the Shell Garage, advising him that the litter was being raised as an issue by EPC. The manager assured Cllr Rank-Broadley that the litter is picked up regularly, and that he will monitor the situation.

Action: Litter, both at Oldbury roundabout and at the Co-op, to be brought back to the agenda.

8. Updates

8.1 Nastend Conservation Area:

Cllr Rank-Broadley has received a response from English Heritage. They make several suggestions, including putting a package together for SDC's consideration and incorporation of the Conservation Area in the Parish Plan. Cllr Stephens commented that a petition of 1,110 signatures would force a debate at SDC, and suggested writing to Cllr Mrs Tait. Chair confirmed that the level of support for the Nastend Conservation Area will be gauged in the Parish Plan process.

8.2 Community Orchard Project:

Chair confirmed that a meeting is scheduled for 25th January to discuss the use of the reserve area of the burial ground as a temporary orchard. Checks are in hand with SDC Planning, and a solicitor's opinion will be sought.

The possibility of using land behind the proposed new development at the Kings Head will be pursued.

Any other business

The issue of parking in the centre of the village was discussed, as the parking at the Kings Head will be affected by the housing development. It was suggested that parking for people working in the village centre might be secured in the car park in Victoria Drive.

Action: Matter to be returned to March agenda.

The feasibility of arranging Councillor training in Eastington was discussed.

Action: Clerk to check with GAPTC, and ascertain level of interest with neighbouring parishes.

Chair read out a report provided by PSCO Ward. Concern centres on a few youths.

Cllr Bullock advised that she has started to look into the provision of youth facilities, and has obtained costings of £36 per hour (2 workers at £18 per hour each), for 2 sessions of 2 hours, plus £50 for use of the facility, plus mileage costs. She has one offer of help from a parishioner.

Chair mentioned that the Localism Bill may provide a mechanism to enable parish councils to save village pubs.

The meeting closed at 9:30.

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8th February 2011. 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 2nd February 2011.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date