

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2011 in Eastington Community Centre

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Stephens, Souster; Hill, Bullock, Rank-Broadley, Simmons, and Edwards; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). One member of the public was present. Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Tony Blackburn and PCSO Liz Ward.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair announced that there were several updates to be made in AOB.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens on all planning applications as SDC Member.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** Training for Councillors was agreed in principle for later in the year.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None required.

Chair read a report from PCSO Ward: There has been a theft of fuel from Fromebridge, and reports of vehicles racing in Millend. A welding machine has been stolen from Smiths.

Chair read a report from Cllr Blackburn: Highways have agreed to investigate the possibility of a crossing at Orchard Leigh. The Speed Limit Study Group's request for 20mph limits where communities request them is before Cabinet. Cllr Blackburn urges residents to write in support of retaining the bus service, and for concessionary fares before 9:30 for travellers whose only bus or ongoing connection would cause them to miss out.

Speaking as a District Councillor, Ken Stephens advised that SDC have a budget setting meeting this week. He remarked that the current County Council ward boundary review is throwing out some interesting scenarios.

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 RFO presented a report on the accounts, copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. There is £28,057.53 in the bank accounts. £20,711.62 has been spent to date this year, currently there is £24,076.38 surplus in the budgets which will enable EPC to increase its reserves.
- 7.1.2 Chair proposed approval of Clerk and RFO's attendance at training course 'Budgets in Perspective', at £5 each. Carried. [LGA 1972 s.111]
- 7.1.3 RFO ran through the accounts for payment: Clerk and RFO salaries, HMRC PAYE; GAPTC training course, Mr Loveridge for bin emptying, Eastington Methodist Church, and OHMGC. Cllr Cozens proposed approval of these accounts, seconded by Cllr Hill and carried. A copy of the cheque list is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.1.4 The quotes for the mowing contract were reviewed. Cllr Hill reminded EPC members that the Tenders were commercially sensitive and the information in them was constrained to Parish Councillors. The quotes were reviewed on the basis of the most economically advantageous. Cllr Hill proposed that Tender 2 be accepted, noting a saving of resource to the council by employing a local (lower carbon footprint) contractor familiar with the requirements of the work. Seconded by Cllr Cozens and carried unanimously. Cllr Edwards proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Hill for his work on this contract.
Action: Cllr Hill to draft a contract letter, clarifying the 3-year fixed price, performance clause and detail of the 'shared benefit' concept.
- 7.1.5 Cllr Rank-Broadley proposed acceptance of the quote for the repairs to the bus shelter. Seconded by Cllr Cozens and carried. [LG(MP)A 1953 s.4(1), PCA 1957 s.1].
Action: RFO to investigate implications of recovery of costs from insurance cover.
- 7.1.6 Chair proposed that EPC publishes any spend over £500 in the Minutes. Cllr Cozens proposed an amendment that the Minutes to be posted on the notice board. Carried.
- 7.1.7 A spreadsheet detailing the current Burial Ground charges, and suggested increase in EPC charges was circulated prior to the meeting by the Clerk. The spreadsheet details the charges made by other local burial authorities. Chair thanked the Clerk for preparing the spreadsheet.
It was agreed that the current charges represented undercharging as the income from the Burial Ground does not cover the maintenance costs, and are far lower than our neighbouring burial authorities. Review of these charges on an annual basis in future was agreed.
Chair proposed acceptance of the revised charges as proposed, subject to revision next year. Carried.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.2 Planning

S.11/0031/FUL. Orchard Leigh Camphill Community. Proposed replacement common room and extension, to provide 1 no. self contained unit of accommodation and additional communal facilities.

Cllr Hill advised that the proposed development was subservient to the existing building, and would involve minimal shading of the neighbouring property. The planning committee see no planning reason for objection, and recommend support of this application.

11/0004/STREG3 (District Reference S.11/0091/CM). Stroudwater Interchange, Fromebridge, Whitminster, Gloucester, GL2 7NJ. Erection of salt storage dome and associated works.

The planning committee proposed support for this application, but would ask that the two unused dwellings be re-introduced to the housing stock.

Cllr Rank-Broadley proposed support for both planning applications, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried (Cllr Stephens abstained).

7.3 Community Orchard

7.3.1 Chair gave an update on the meeting with the PCC, and his discussions with the Licensee. There have been full and frank discussions with the PCC. The PCC supports the use of the reserve area of the burial ground as a temporary orchard. The area of the burial ground currently designated for the interment of ashes was also discussed with the PCC. They support traditional burials in this area. The current Licensee agrees that the use of this land as a temporary orchard is a sound idea. He has requested boundary fencing be installed.

7.3.2 Chair advised that a thorough investigation into the conditions has been undertaken; noting that the response from the GCC solicitor is yet to be received. Chair proposed that EPC accepts as discharged the conditions laid down in the December meeting (Minute 7.3) when EPC approved the principle of using the reserve area of the burial ground for a temporary orchard until such time as the land is needed for burials. Carried.

7.3.3 Chair confirmed that the details of the constitution will be proposed at the April EPC meeting.

7.3.4 Chair proposed that a confirmatory letter is sent to Licensee. Carried.

Action: Clerk to write to confirmatory letter to Licensee.

7.4 Parish Plan

7.4.1 Chair confirmed that Claire Watkins has taken on the role of principal volunteer organiser. Proposals for the parish plan questionnaire are being put together, taking into account the outputs from the meetings at the OHMGC, the First Birthday event, and the mini-questionnaire.

7.4.2 Chair encouraged councillors to comment on Leonard Stanley's parish plan.

7.5 Roads and Transport

The request for support for lane naming was discussed. The parish council is not aware of any opposition from those affected. Chair proposed that EPC supports this request, carried. Cllr Stephens voted against this proposal.

7.6 Environment

7.6.1 **Litter:** Chair thanked Cllr Rank-Broadley on his exemplary approach to this problem of litter at the Oldbury roundabout. Chair proposed issue of a letter to businesses at Oldbury roundabout. Carried. The continued problem of litter at the Co-op was also discussed.

Action: Clerk to issue letter to the businesses at Oldbury roundabout.

Action: Cllr Hill to take up the matter of litter with the manager of the Co-op.

7.6.2 **Abundance of light:** Cllr Rank-Broadley advised that both Schlumberger and Modular are looking at reducing their lighting levels. Chair thanked Cllr Rank-Broadley for the way he has tackled this issue. Chair suggested a question in the parish plan to seek out other areas of Eastington where light levels could be reduced.

7.7 Pinching Memorial Trust

The offer of a first aid demonstration was supported, and will be pursued by OHMGC.

Action: Clerk to advise the Pinching Memorial Trust that OHMGC will contact them.

Signed

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7.8 Consultations:

(i) Manual for Gloucestershire Streets

(ii) Broadband

Chair proposed delegation of authority to Cllrs Souster and Hill to respond to these consultations on behalf of EPC. Carried. The issue of faster broadband will be considered in the Parish Plan.

7.9 Eastington Community News

A rota for 'Parish Matters' contributions for ECN was agreed. Two councillors each to contribute 200-300 words per edition. Cllrs Bullock and Cozens will write for the next issue. The rota will continue in alphabetical order of surname, two councillors per ECN edition.

7.10 Meeting with Neil Carmichael

Cllrs Rank-Broadley, Simmons, Niblett, Hill and Souster expressed an interest in meeting Neil Carmichael.

Action: Clerk to ascertain the time of the meeting.

8. Updates

8.1 Planning:

Noted: planning permissions granted:

S.10/1873/CPE. 1 New Cottages, Nupend, Stonehouse. - Condition C of Planning Permission G.3787 dated 12.11.1962 is no longer relevant or applicable.

S.10/2217/HHOLD. Hill View, Bath Road, Eastington. Loft conversion and alterations Sage House, Middle Street, Eastington. Permission

S.10/2291/HHOLD - Demolish single storey garden store and extension and refurbishment to outbuilding to provide staircase access (Resubmission following withdrawn application S.10/0920/HHOLD).

Noted: Appeal Dismissed: S.10/1624/HHOLD Vine Cottage, Nupend

AOB:

The future of the village pubs was discussed, as both are now under threat of closure. More than one developer has seen the Victoria in terms of potential residential development. There was general agreement that the loss of both pubs would damage the social fabric of our community; they currently provide a valuable village facility. It was felt that the high leasehold overheads are big factor in the lack of commercial success.

Chair reported that discussions on the best solution for the OHMG carpark resurfacing were ongoing. Concerns have been raised that the surface created by the soil stabilisation process can be slimy, slippery and subject to frost damage. Tar and chippings may be applied to the stabilized surface to ameliorate this. Discussions and review of the information available is ongoing.

Cllr Cozens drew attention to the eyesore of the yellow stickers that have been put on telegraph posts throughout the parish.

Cllr Stephens noted the removal of wooden fence along the canal cycle way. Cllr Hill commented that it had been in poor repair.

The meeting closed at 9:47

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

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date