

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th April 2011 in Eastington Community Centre

FIVE Valleys Energy gave a presentation on renewable energy, focusing on the installation of a wind turbine at OHMG.

FIVE operate on a co-operative basis. The profits from the government's "Feed In Tariff" (FIT) go 10% to FiVE, 90% to the parish. The current FIT is for 20 years; once agreed the FIT cannot be retrospectively changed. FiVE's projection is that the £1.3M costs would be paid back in 7 years. Benefits to the community include: a long-term investment stream, lower carbon footprint, green credentials and improved use of land assets.

If the community supports the proposal, FiVE would engineer the solution at this site, raise the funding (through a mixture of borrowing and community bonds), take it through planning, commission construction, manage day to day operations, and maximise profit. They would put insurance in place, which includes insurance against loss of income should the turbine be out of action.

The lead time includes a wind capacity assessment over one year. The planning process (including bat and bird surveys) would take at least a year. The actual installation is two days. Once installed, there would be free access to the base of the wind turbine.

Chair thanked FiVE for their presentation, and the members of the community present for attending.

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair) Cozens, Hill, Bullock, Rank-Broadley, Edwards and Simmons; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO); Martin Alder and Brian Oosthuysen of FiVE Valleys Energy; Chris Acock (Neighbourhood Warden). Over 30 members of the public were present. Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Souster and Stephens, County Councillor Tony Blackburn and PCSO Liz Ward.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair advised that he would need to leave part way through the meeting, chair to be taken at that point by Cllr Cozens. Chair announced two SDC Standards Committee vacancies, and requested any councillor is interested to contact Clerk.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Hill on planning application S.11/0563/FUL.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Proposed by Cllr Bullock, seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** Actions are in hand.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** There were several changes or order of business to accommodate the full agenda, for clarity of recording the Minutes are set out in the order of the Agenda.

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

Tony Thomas complained of several issues affecting the roundabout at Alkerton: parking on the pavement and in the areas marked 'no parking'; the displacement of a post installed to prevent parking; the bollards on the roundabout are often knocked over; and the extra lighting on the roundabout is costly and has environmental impact. Cllr Hill agreed to work with Mr Thomas on these issues

Residents of Millend are concerned about the safety of Millend Mill. The building has been sold; the scaffolders who took down the previous owners scaffolding were of the opinion that the structure has become unsafe, the gable end being the worst affected. SDC Building Control has been advised of the problem but are yet to take action.

Action: EPC to write to the landowner (Lamplugh)

Tom Low gave an update on the community orchard. Names have been agreed for the group "Eastington Community Orchards" (ECO), and the temporary orchard at the burial ground "Churchend Orchard". Blackcurrants and raspberries have been planted. A draft constitution and tenancy agreement have been submitted to EPC.

Neighbourhood Warden Chris Acock reminded the public present that he is there to help them with any issues such as neighbourhood disputes or anti-social behaviour. He left his contact details (these can be obtained from Clerk).

Tina Smith and Roma Hall reported on yesterday's inaugural meeting of the Eastington Youth Group which was attended by over 40 people. The aim of the group is to give a voice for the village children, supporting them and raising funds for youth activities – encompassing a range of ideas from a skate park to dance and art groups. A meeting has been arranged with Steve Miles at SDC. A litter-pick arranged by Tina was a great success, 10 youths turned up and collected 10 industrial size bags of rubbish from the village.

Cllr Hill warmly congratulated them on their achievement, and proposed a vote of thanks. He further proposed that a small amount of start up funding be considered at the next parish council meeting.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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Residents of Millend voiced extreme concern over the proposed development at Oliver's Orchard, pointing out that there is no vehicular access to the land, and that an existing planning refusal is not being enforced. It was agreed that this matter would be added to the forthcoming meeting with SDC Planning.

Chair read a report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn, which included a comment on the speed limits in Eastington and a complaint about the state of the road at Claypits.

The meeting was reconvened.

7 Resolutions

7.1 The proposed set of working protocols was discussed. It was agreed that they were not necessary, there being sufficient guidance in 'The Good Councillors Guide'.

7.2 Finance

7.2.1 RFO gave an update of the accounts; £22,436 has been spent in the past 12 months, and a reasonable increase in reserves has been achieved. Income of £70 from the burial ground has been banked this month.

7.2.2 A copy of the list of accounts for payment is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes, there were no cheques over £500. The schedule was distributed prior to the meeting and comprises cheques in payment of Clerk's salary and expenses, RFO salary, PAYE payment to HMRC, the donation to CAB which was approved in March, and the invoice for repairs to the bus shelter. It is hoped these repair costs will be reimbursed by EPC's insurers.

7.2.3 RFO is in negotiation with an internal auditor. Chair proposed a limit of £150 on internal audit fees for the 2010-11 audit. Carried. [LGA 1972 s.111].

7.2.4 Chair proposed approval of the OHMGC cutting contract (price unchanged from 2010) for the 2011 season. Carried. [LG(MP)A 1976 s.19(3)]. Chair advised that the company, a local firm, had the majority of sports field cutting contracts in Stroud and carried out the work to an excellent standard.

7.2.5 Receipt of the grant application from Playgroup was acknowledged. RFO will seek further information from Playgroup in accordance with EPC's grant application criteria, including their accounts, costs of staff training, business plan and clarification of their plans to return to profitability.

7.3 Pension provision for the Clerk

7.3.1 Chair confirmed that pension provision was agreed in advance of the new legislation, and a decision on the level of provision for 2011-12 is due. Chair proposed an increase half-way between the CPI and RPI, which translates into a pension provision of £1050 for the year 2011-12. Carried.

7.4 Planning

7.4.1 S.11/0219/FUL. Oliver's Orchard, Millend Lane. Retention of existing covered storage area with storage container, construction of access and turning circle and erection of poly tunnel. The planning committee objects to this application on grounds that it would harm the character and appearance of the area.

S.11/0563/FUL. Land at Alkerton Farm. Erection of two houses to replace redundant cottages. Revised access arrangement following planning permission S.10/0151/FUL. The planning committee supports this application.

S.11/0607/HHOLD. The Elms, Middle Street. Erection of extension above existing ground floor. Demolition of existing porch and erection of new porch/bay window to allow extension of lounge area. The planning committee supports this application.

Chair proposed that EPC supports the applications for Land at Alkerton Farm and The Elms, and objects to Oliver's Orchard. Carried.

7.5 Environment

7.5.1 The matter of the incinerator at Javelin Park was adjourned to a future meeting pending further information.

7.5.2 It was agreed that as the two letters this Council has written to the Shell Garage have not elicited a response, Cllr Rank-Broadley will speak to the Neighbourhood Warden and the Environmental Health Department.

7.5.3 Cllr Rank-Broadley has been in touch with the Street Lighting team at GCC, they are willing to discuss the level of street lighting with the parish.

Action: Cllr Rank-Broadley to take this issue forward.

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7.6 Roads and Transport

7.6.1 It was agreed that Councillors would report local potholes to GCC Highways.

Action: Clerk to re-circulate the Highways contact details and reporting process.

7.6.2 The condition of the pavement from Claypits to Fromebridge was discussed. This will be added to the EPC priority list.

7.7 Footpaths

7.7.1 Cllr Broadley proposed that £500 be approved for the installation costs of kissing gates from stock. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried. [Highways A 1980 ss.43,50].

7.7.2 RFO confirmed that £500 remains in the budget for new gates.

7.8 Consultations

Chair proposed a resolution to support the call for SDC to adopt a consultation policy with Parish Councils. Carried.

8. Updates

8.1 **Youth Provision:** This was dealt with in the public session

8.2 **Nastend Conservation Area:** Cllr Rank-Broadley advised that despite a personal appeal to Frances Roden, the Nastend Conservation Area is unlikely to proceed.

8.3 **Broadband:** Chair reported that Arlingham are working with Loop Scorpio and are achieving considerably improved speeds. EPC would need to know that enough residents would be interested, at a cost in the region of £9.50pcm for 2MB and £15pcm for 5MB.

Action: Cllr Cozens to draft article for ECN to assess the level of interest.

8.4 Planning permissions granted noted:

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

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

S.11/0185/HHOLD. 3 Hillview Cottages, Middle Street. Two storey extension

11/0004/STREG3 Stroudwater Interchange, Fromebridge, Whitminster Erection of salt storage dome and associated works

AOB:

Cllr Simmons will ask Mr Loveridge to weed the roundabout (this is part of the contracted work).

The meeting closed at 9:45

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10th May 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 4th May 2011.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date