

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2011 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Hill, Bullock, Stephens, Simmons and Edwards; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO); Two members of the public were present (Tom Low and Martin Elliott). Sue Oppenheimer and Mike O'Dowd were present to make a presentation in the public session. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Souster, County Councillor Blackburn and Neighbourhood Warden Chris Acock.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair announced that SDC have advised that it is in order for EPC to co-opt a councillor following the resignation of Ian Rank-Broadley.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens on all planning matters as an SDC Member, and Cllr Cozens on Item 7.1.8 as Treasurer of OHMGC.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Bullock. Carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** The outstanding actions were reviewed.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** Cllr Edwards requested that Item 7.5 be brought forward. This was agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 for members of the Public to speak.

Ken Nicholls asked for the support of EPC in the registration of Sophie's Pitch. The definition of Swallowcroft as a 'neighbourhood' is intrinsic to the success of this registration.

Action: To be returned to August agenda

County Councillor Tony Blackburn's written report was read. There were three items:

- Sophie's Pitch is due before the registration hearing on 12th October
- There is a roadshow at Javelin Park for people to ask questions of the bidders
- Cllr Blackburn will continue to press for the road crossings at Orchard Leigh and William Morris House

District Councillor Ken Stephens spoke on the consultation on the Core Strategy. The suggested new number of residual housing units of 3119, up from 1400 under the Regional Spatial Strategy, is not considered enough change to warrant consulting again. Also a report to Cabinet recommends keeping the recently amended scheme of delegation, calling it a success. Cllr Stephens disagreed with this opinion.

Chair welcomed Sue Oppenheimer and Mike O'Dowd to the meeting, to speak on Javelin Park.

Sue gave an illustrated presentation which highlighted the inefficiencies and shortcomings of the proposed incineration plant at Javelin Park, notably:

- The savings and benefits are questionable. The heat produced will not be used as there is no local housing. The costs of waste disposal have been skewed by the landfill tax.
- Environmental impact: Lorry movements are estimated at one every 30 minutes, with an average round trip of 80 miles. There are high CO₂ emissions.
- The health risk: The polluted plume will reach at least 14 miles distant.
- Unnecessary: Waste has reduced over the last 10 years.
- Small-scale alternative solutions exist, such as Smith's at Moreton Valence.

Chair thanked Sue for this informative presentation.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:50

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 RFO gave an update of the accounts, written report attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. There have been no bankings this month. After tonight's cheques, there remains £23,508 in this year's budget.
- 7.1.2 RFOs assessments of Playgroup's accounts and review of their business plan will be returned to the next agenda.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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- 7.1.3 Chair proposed approval of the 2011-12 subscriptions to Parish Online (£24.00); the Cotswold Canal Trust (£10), and the Ramblers Association (£45.00). Carried.
- 7.1.4 Cllr Stephens proposed approval of the Clerk's attendance at the GAPTC training course on Minute Taking. Seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried unanimously.
- 7.1.5 RFO advised that the payments before Councillors are for Clerk's salary and expenses, RFO salary, PAYE, training course, two subscriptions, hall hire, and grass-cutting. The account for grass-cutting was the only payment over £500, at £520. Approval of the accounts for payment was proposed by Chair and carried. A copy of the list of cheques for payment is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.1.6 Council debated the request, brought before it by a parishioner, to pay to have the hedge cut at Sophie's Pitch (£40). It was suggested that, although the hedge is in the ownership of 9 Bath Road, it would enhance the case for the registration as a village green if EPC demonstrates its support by the cutting of the hedge. Cllr Stephens proposed that EPC pays for this 'one-off' cut at £40. Seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried with 2 abstentions.
- 7.1.7 Cllr Cozens proposed approval of extra hours for the Clerk to be spent on the Parish Plan – up to 10 hours a week at the current hourly rate. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried unanimously.
- 7.1.8 The situation regarding the VAT reclaim on the OHMG carpark resurfacing was discussed at length. Cllr Cozens reported that although the OHMGs financial projections are better than anticipated, their funds do not stretch to paying the VAT. RFO has investigated the position, and has been advised that EPC may not reclaim the VAT as it is not 'sole trustee'. An alternative is for OHMGC to register for VAT, RFO has offered to assist with this. It was suggested that OHMGC might consider transferring the ownership to EPC.
Action: RFO to meet with OHMGC to consider the options
Action: RFO to look into the position regarding reclaiming the VAT for the grass-cutting at OHMG.
Action: Schedule a review of the facilities in the village in which EPC has an interest.
- 7.5 **Footpaths**
The matter of the kissing gates provided by GCC to be returned to a future agenda when more information is to hand. Cllr Edwards confirmed that 4 gates remain in his stock.
Action: Chair to provide Cllr Edwards with the details of the problem at the Cress Green kissing gate.
- 7.2 **Planning**
Cllr Hill proposed support for application S.11/1119/FUL. Northend House, Nupend. A steel framed building, field shelter and general storage building. Change of use on four acres of land from agricultural to agricultural and equestrian joint use. Access roads from Northend House.
Cllr Hill requested that a note be added to SDC asking them to check issues around change of use. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried.
- 7.3 **Roads and Transport**
7.3.1 Response is awaited from SDC on disabled parking provision at the Co-op.
7.3.2 It was noted that the pothole survey action remains with Cllr Souster.
Action: Let Clerk know where potholes have been repaired.
- 7.4 **Eastington Youth Group**
There was discussion of the request from EYG to use the land by the allotments. Chair offered to talk to Mrs Harris regarding the current restrictions on the use of this land.
Cllr Hill proposed that EPC writes to formally thank EYG for their good works and offer assistance with their governance arrangements, and enclose a tin of biscuits. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried unanimously.
Action: Clerk to send letter and biscuits.

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7.6 Environment

The concerns regarding windborne pollens were discussed. It was noted that the crop is grown in rotation with wheat, and has been grown in Eastington for the last 25 years. Eating rape derived honey may alleviate the symptoms.

The provision of extra litter bins and dog waste bins was discussed. A financial contribution was approved in principal, providing EPC is sure the bins are in the correct location.

Action: Cllr Bullock to discuss the siting of the bins with Angie Lyes.

7.7 Burial Ground

The request to plant a Mimosa tree in the corner of the Burial ground was discussed. The donor will ensure the tree is protected from damage by deer. There will be no cost to EPC. The request was agreed in principal.

Action: Chair to pass contact details to Cllr Cozens who will arrange to meet donor

8. Updates

8.1 Noted planning permissions granted:

S.11/0890/HHOLD and S.11/0892/LBC The Nestings, Nupend, Stonehouse. Installation of solar panels on roofs of outbuildings within the curtilage of a grade 2 listed building.

S.11/1000/TCA. Meadow Cottage, Millend Lane. Reduce pollard sycamore tree and lift lower branches on ash tree.

8.2 Eastington Community Orchard (ECO).

The ECO group has received a grant of £1,500 from GCC which will enable tree planting in the autumn. There has been a high level of local support for the ECO group, and an initiative to pick excess fruit from donors has received a great deal of interest.

Any other business for the next meeting.

The casual vacancy was briefly discussed. Cllr Stephens suggested that those who have previously expressed an interest be contacted.

There has been a theft of a lawn mower.

The Eastington Youth Group has received a grant of £300.

The meeting closed at 9:20

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9th August 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 3rd August 2011.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date