

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th August 2011 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Hill, Bullock, Stephens, Simmons and Souster; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO); One member of the public was present (Ken Nicholls). Apologies were accepted from Cllr Cozens, County Councillor Blackburn and PCSO Ward.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair announced that Colin Frith is very poorly. The parish council wish him well, he made an invaluable contribution to the parish council, particularly in the recent land transactions.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens on all planning matters as an SDC Member.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Cllr Bullock and seconded by Cllr Hill. Carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** The VAT reclamation issue has been superceded. RFO confirmed that it is in order to reclaim the VAT on the grounds maintenance at the OHMG. Cllr Stephens advised that the RSS issue has been covered by his articles in ECN, but the matter needs to be kept in mind and a meeting convened on the next round of consultations.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None requested

The meeting may was adjourned at 7:17 for members of the Public to speak.

Speaking as District Councillor, Ken Stephens commented that under the present scheme of delegation, the application to demolish the Stonehouse Youth Centre and erect 8 houses on the site would not have been brought to DCC. Stonehouse Town Council had objected to the application, but this did not trigger referral to DCC. The application was brought before the DCC by agreement, and was unanimously refused by Members. Cllr Stephens looks forward to the time when the views of the public and elected Members are at the fore of the decision making process.

Ken Nicholls brought a copy of the QC's report on Sophie's Pitch. Ken asked the council for its support in recognising Swallowcroft as a coherent neighbourhood. Cllr Stephens confirmed his support as District Councillor.

Chair read a report from PCSO Ward. She reported ten incidents of anti-social behaviour and one burglary in the village. A SARA plan has been set up in response to the high level of anti-social behaviour. A bike post-coding event will be arranged for the end of August, and the Bobby Bus or Neighbourhood Watch van will visit the village soon.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:30.

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

7.1.1 Referring to his previously circulated report (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes), RFO confirmed that £31,486 remained in the accounts after this evening's cheques. The projection for the grass-cutting costs gives some cause for concern as depending on the weather, the cutting may need to continue into November.

Action: Cllr Hill to discuss with Mr Loveridge

7.1.2 RFO ran through the list of cheques. The payments are for Clerks salary and expenses, RFO salary, Moore Stephen's account, Mr Loveridge's mowing and one-off cutting of the hedge at Sophie's Pitch. The cheque for Mr Loveridge is the only one in excess of £500, at £560. Approval of the accounts for payment was proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes).

7.1.3 RFO's assessments of Playgroup's accounts, review of their business plan, and consideration of Playgroup's application for a grant was deferred to the next meeting.
RFO will keep Chair and Cllr Souster informed of progress.

7.1.4 Cllr Stephens proposed this council sponsors 'Eastington Youth Group' T-shirts for use at the fete, 40 T-shirts at £5 each. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried unanimously. [Power of Well-being].

7.2 Planning

7.2.1 SDC's suggestion of public speaking at DCC was discussed. Cllr Stephens explained the comments and issues put forward by the facilitators of a recent training day for DCC Members with regard to issues around public speaking at DCC meetings. He also explained the position the political group to which he belongs had taken on the issue at DCC.

Signed

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It was agreed that the comment put together by Cllr Hill would be forwarded to SDC, and confirmation given that EPC's previous objection to the current scheme of delegation is unchanged.

Action: Clerk to send comment to SDC

7.2.2 To ratify the planning committee's recommendation for the following applications:

S.11/0615/FUL. Land Adjacent to South View, Old Bristol Road, Newtown. Construction of 13 houses with associated parking (additional information received 6th July 2011). **OBJECT – no change to current position**

S.11/1209/HHOLD. Hill View, Bath Road. Proposed loft conversion and extension over existing garage. **SUPPORT**

S.11/1291/DISCON. Millend Mill. Discharge of conditions 2,3,4,8,10,11,12,18,20,21,22 and 23 to application S.08/08462/FUL and conditions 3,4,5,6,8,9 to application S.08/0463/LBC. **SUPPORT, asking that plans to manage the traffic are made.**

S.11/1402/DISCON. Eastington Court Spring Hill. Discharge of conditions 2, 3 and 5 relating to application S.11/0159/FUL. **ASK SDC TO CHECK**

S.11/1426/VAR. South View, Old Bristol Road, Newtown GL10 3RW. Variation of conditions relating to application S.08/1159/FUL. **SUPPORT, WITH THE RE-STATEMENT OF CONDITION ON ORIGINAL PLANNING PERMISSION**

S.11/1445/FUL Victoria Inn, Alkerton Rd. Replace pitched roof over existing kitchen area. New cedar cladding over render to rear. Removal of existing porch and erection of single storey extension to form new kitchen area. Extension to existing car park. **SUPPORT**

The recommendations above were proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried with one abstention (Cllr Stephens).

7.3 **Environment**

7.3.1 The provision of additional litter and dog bins was discussed. Several sites have been suggested. It was agreed that the neighbours must be consulted. Cllr Stephens proposed a rolling programme, providing and installing two per year, subject to the proviso of need and suitable places for installation. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried unanimously.

Action: Cllr Bullock to confirm the priority placement for the first two bins, and liaise with Mr Loveridge regarding fixing of the signage.

Action: Clerk to seek financial assistance from SDC.

Action: Clerk to write to Youth Group to thank them for their litter-picking work.

7.3.2 Cllr Stephens agreed to be the EPC representative for Glosvain.

7.4 **Sophie's Pitch**

Chair proposed that EPC writes a letter to GCC confirming that it recognises Swallowcroft as a neighbourhood. Carried unanimously.

Action: Clerk to write to GCC

7.5 **Diamond Jubilee**

Chair proposed that EPC writes to the village organisations asking them if they have any proposals to celebrate the jubilee. Carried.

7.6 **Stroud News and Journal**

Opinion was divided over the suggestion to write to SNJ regarding their proposed move to Tetbury. Cllr Souster proposed that EPC writes to express disappointment in the move away from Stroud, and concern that local news will not be reported fully. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried with one objection.

Action: Clerk to write letter to SNJ

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7.7 Consultations

Authority to respond on behalf of EPC Stroud District Council car park review was delegated to Cllr Souster, and to Gloucestershire's Highways survey to Chair.

7.8 Standing Orders

Cllr Hill offered to review the new Model Standing Orders against the existing Standing Orders, working with Clerk.

Action: Cllr Hill to a set of proposed adaptations to EPC for discussion and ratification.

8. Updates

8.1 Eastington Youth Group Update

Cllr Bullock was pleased to tell EPC that the POD idea is taking shape - sponsorship is being sought with a terrapin manufacturer in Stonehouse. Work is ongoing on the Youth Group policies and CRB checks. The Youth Group are in dialogue with SDC and the police regarding the anti-social behaviour problem. The visits of the Youth Bus have been a great success.

The whereabouts of the £200 awarded by SDC to Roma Hall for litter-picking has not yet been confirmed.

8.2 Footpaths Update

Chair confirmed that Cllr Edwards has advised that GCC are funding the recent installation of kissing gates in Nupend. Four kissing gates remain in EPC stock. Chair suggested that the siting of these remaining gates be included as a question in the parish survey.

Action: Inclusion of siting of kissing gates in parish survey to be discussed with Cllr Edwards

8.3 Noted, planning permissions granted:

S.11/1119/FUL. Northend House, Nupend, Stonehouse. 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.

S.10/2464/VAR Land At Alkerton Farm, Bath Road, Eastington. Removal of Condition 7 of application S.10/0151/FUL (footpath provision).

S.11/0563/FUL. Land At Alkerton Farm, Bath Road, Eastington. Eastington Parish Council. Erection of two houses to replace redundant cottages. Revised access arrangement following planning permission S.10/0151/FUL.

S.11/1039/FUL. William Morris House, Chipmans Platt, Eastington. Proposed temporary compacted gravel car park for 16 cars and cycle track for students use. Corrected plan received 2/8/11.

Any other business for the next meeting.

The anti-social behaviour in the village continues to give grave concern. There is a perceived lack of action by the police.

Action: Clerk to request a meeting be set up between EPC representatives, the Youth Group and the Stonehouse police Inspector, to discuss the best way forward to tackle the anti-social behaviour problems in the village.

The meeting closed at 9:12

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th September 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 7th September 2011.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date