

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September 2011 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Bullock, Simmons, Edwards; Mary Gribble (Clerk) and Robert Powell (RFO). No members of the public were present. Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Hill, Stephens, and Souster, County Councillor Blackburn and PCSO Ward.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** None
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** None
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 9th August was proposed by Cllr Bullock, seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 6th September was proposed by Chair and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** RFO advised that the invoice for the Nupend telephone kiosk electricity usage has been sent to John Darwent.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None requested.
7. Cllr Bullock proposed that Derek Greenaway be co-opted to fill the vacancy that has arisen following the resignation of Cllr Ian Rank-Broadley. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried unanimously.
Action: Clerk to advise SDC of co-option. Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed before or at the next meeting of Eastington Parish Council.

Chair read a written report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn, concerning the pending changes to the bus routes. Chair remarked that Cllr Blackburn had responded promptly to our request for assistance regarding Sophie's Pitch, and had written a strongly-worded letters to those concerned.

8 Resolutions

8.1 Finance

- 8.1.1 RFO referred to his monthly report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting together with the schedule of cheques for payment (copies attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). Just over £14,000 has been spent to date, and a reasonable surplus is anticipated. There has been no income this month.
- 8.1.2 Chair proposed approval of Cllr Bullock's attendance at the 'Being a Good Councillor' Training, £75.00. Carried unanimously. [LGA 1972 s.111]
- 8.1.3 RFO presented the accounts for payment totalling £2513.72. The £200 grant to Eastington Youth Group was amended to be paid to Tracey Haines as EYG's bank account is not yet set up. Payments over £500 were for Clerk's salary (which included a tax refund), £724.30 to TW Hawkins for grounds maintenance and £520 to Mr Loveridge for mowing.
RFO also presented a separate list of payments made by EPC on behalf of the Charlie Bullock Trust. RFO explained that this payment is being made by EPC as the bank account for the Trust has not been yet been set up. The list comprises two cheques: a loan of £1000 to Eastington Community Orchard Group and £19,600 to Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity (a loan of £10,000 plus grant of £9,600).
Approval of these accounts for payment was proposed by Cllr Edwards, seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried unanimously.
- 8.1.4 The request under the FOI regarding reserves and projects was discussed. It is thought that how parish councils are equipped to meet the demands of Localism underlie this request, which has been made to all parishes in Stroud District. A list of recent projects came readily to mind: the purchase of the allotment field, the purchase and installation of the kissing gates, the defence against the relocation of Stroud RFC, and the planting on Alkerton Cross roundabout were among the recent projects mentioned.
Action: RFO to extract the details of the reserves for the last 5 years, Clerk and Chair to work together on the reply to this FOI request.

8.2 Planning

- 8.2.1 Planning application **S.11/0923/FUL** John Stayte Services, proposed commercial units, was discussed at length. It was agreed that the new use would mean increased numbers of pedestrians and heavy vehicles sharing the road. Puddlesworth Lane has no pavement, and the visibility for those turning into Puddlesworth Lane is restricted. There would be support for this application if the issues of safety at the road junction were dealt with by a revised plan. Following a revised plan to deal with the road safety issues, EPC would like to define the extent of the industrial development proposed by this application as the limit for this area. This would create an envelope for the industrial units in this area. Chair proposed that EPC objects to this application on road safety grounds. Carried (Cllr Cozens abstained).

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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- S.11/1697/TCA** The Hawthorns Millend Lane. Felling and removal of Goat Willow, thin crown of Field Maple, reduction of damson sucker. Chair proposed support for this application, carried unanimously.
- 8.2.2 The new process for e-consultation – paper free unless it is a major application – was agreed: Clerk to issue email alerts, directing Cllrs to the website; comments returned to EPC planning secretary; planning secretary to decide if a special meeting needs to be convened. Chair proposed this process be agreed, seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried.
Action: Clerk to re-send the links to Parish Online
- 8.2.3 Concern was shared regarding the tardy response to parish concerns regarding tree felling in the Conservation Area. Cllr Cozens proposed that EPC writes a strongly worded letter to Phil Skill, copying David Hagg, expressing EPC's concerns about the tree felled in Oliver's Orchard, and the apparent disparity in enforcement of Conservation Area rules. Proposal seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried.
Action: Clerk to write letter.
- 8.3 **EPC Policy Objectives**
The proposed amendments to the EPC Policy Objectives were discussed. Cllr Bullock proposed the agreed amendments and additions, seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried with one abstention (Cllr Edwards). Objective A10 and C1 were duly amended, and Objective A11 was added.
Action: Clerk to circulate the amended Policy Objectives to all Councillors.
- 8.4 **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**
A meeting between Playgroup, OHMGC, the EYG and ECO, to be chaired by Cllr Niblett was agreed. Meeting to be scheduled for a Tuesday evening at the OHMGC.
Action: Clerk to arrange meeting, booking the upstairs room at the Community Centre.
- 8.5 **Stroud News and Journal's proposed move to Tetbury**
Chair proposed that EPC writes to SNJ thanking them for their response, and for their support in reporting stories of importance to Eastington.
Action: Clerk to write to editor of SNJ
9. **Updates**
- 9.1 Cllr Bullock gave an update on Eastington Youth Group's success at the Fete. They raised over £1,400 – all agreed this is a great achievement, and one to be proud of. EPC re-affirmed its support for the EYG.
- 9.2 Chair gave an update on progress with the Parish Plan. Clare Watkins (Parish Plan co-coordinator), Clerk and Elin Tattersall (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) have met to work on the questionnaire. The questionnaire will be circulated to EPC for review.
- 9.2 EPC noted planning permissions granted:
S.11/1042/FUL William Morris House, Chipmans Platt, Eastington. Single storey extension to existing office and reception
S.11/1209/HHOLD Hill View, Bath Road, Eastington. Proposed loft conversion and extension over existing garage.
S.11/1426/VAR South View, Old Bristol Road, Newtown. Replacement of extant permission S.08/1159/FUL for alterations and extensions to existing dwelling.

Any other business for the next meeting.

Cllr Cozens raised the issue of the overgrown hedges along Millend Lane.

Action: Cllr Bullock will bring the overgrown hedge at the Glebe Field to the attention of the PCC.

Action: Hedge owners to be contacted regarding their plans for hedge maintenance.

The meeting closed at 8:20

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th October 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 5th October 2011.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date