

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th October 2011 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Hill, Bullock, Stephens, Simmons, Souster, Edwards and Greenaway; County Councillor Blackburn, Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO); no members of the public were present. Apologies for lateness were accepted from Cllrs Hill and Stephens. Apologies for absence were accepted from Neighbourhood Warden Chris Acock.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair thanked Cllrs Hill and Simmons for joining him in representing the Parish Council at the quiz. He welcomed Cllr Greenaway to the Parish Council.
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 previous meeting was 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:** An extension to the date for the review of the Standing Orders was agreed. Clerk to chase up the blue badge parking at the Co-op.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** It was agreed to bring forward Item 7.7

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 for members of the Public to speak.

County Councillor Tony Blackburn advised that:

- GCC Highways will consider our request for speed limit reductions in the 2012-13 budget.
- He has spoken to neighbours of John Stayte's. They expressed concerns regarding the extra traffic that will be generated by their proposed development. Measures to ameliorate the problem are being sought. He will ask Stayte's to reduce their hedge to assist visibility at the junction.
- He attended the recent Highways Information evening. Highways' budget is tight and there will be work they will not be able to undertake. They will assist communities in 'self-help'.
- He will attend the Sophie's Pitch registration meeting tomorrow.
- He will support our request for Blue Badge parking at the Co-op.

District Councillor Ken Stephens advised that SDC are visiting the potential sites for the new housing allocation. The sites in Eastington are off Springhill and at Nupend/Nastend. He will continue to act on behalf of the Parish Council in line with its stated objectives.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:25

7 Resolutions

7.7 Footpaths

- 7.7.1 Cllr Edwards confirmed that the kissing gate had been installed on EEA66 at a cost 25% below the County Councillor's contractor. Cllr Souster proposed approval of the installation costs (£75), seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried unanimously.
- 7.7.2 Cllr Edwards agreed to mark kissing gates electronically on the "Parish On-line" plan.

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 RFO gave an update of the accounts. He confirmed that the second half of the Precept has been received. After approval of today's account there will be £44,042 in the bank. A surplus of over £4000 is projected.
- 7.1.2 Chair proposed approval of Cllr Greenaway's attendance at the 'Being a Good Councillor' training, (£75.00), and RFO's attendance at the 'Setting Your Budget' training (£40). Carried unanimously. [LGA 1972 s.111].
- 7.1.3 RFO ran through the accounts on the list for payment (schedule distributed prior to the meeting). Approval was proposed by Cllr Bullock and seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried unanimously. [LGA 1972 s.111]. There was one cheque over £500 in payment for the grass cutting and kissing gate installation, £595. Cllr Bullock brought to the attention of the meeting that, in order to comply with Data Protection law, the salaries of named individuals should not be mentioned on the cheque list. RFO will review the way the list is presented. Cllr Bullock also raised concerns about pension provision for the Clerk. Matter to be returned to the agenda in April 2012 when the Government is expected to issue clarity around the responsibilities of employers to provide pensions.
- 7.1.4 Chair proposed approval of £23.03 to cover costs of refreshments at EYG / Parish Plan meeting of 22/09/2011. Carried unanimously. [LGA 1972 s.111].

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.2 Planning

7.2.1 The issues contravening the IHCA at Millend were discussed. Cllr Stephens advised that SDC's Tree Officer has visited the site and noticed dead and diseased trees and re-planting.

Action: Chair and Cllr Edwards to arrange meeting with local residents to review the evidence.

7.3 Village Green

7.3.1 Cllr Edwards proposed a resolution to seek possessory title of Sophie's Pitch after it is registered as a village green. Seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried (Cllr Hill abstained).

7.4 Roads and Transport

7.4.1 GCC's response to EPC's pothole survey was discussed. Cllr Blackburn agreed to follow this up with John Kay. Cllr Greenaway advised that complaints made by the Cyclists Touring Club get a swift reaction from GCC. It is noted that the resurfacing of the Claypits road is due this financial year.

7.4.2 Cllr Hill proposed a resolution to accept an additional three tons of salt from GCC Highways, to be stored at Green Farm. Seconded by Cllr Souster and carried unanimously. Concern was shared that GCC will not pay for the costs of spreading the salt. Cllr Blackburn agreed to take this matter up with Highways.

Action: Clerk to contact GCC regarding the financing of the salt spreading.

7.4.3 The 'shared space' option to improve safety on narrow roads without pedestrian footpaths was discussed. There was some agreement that excessive signage is not desirable in our rural location. Physical barriers and driver education were generally favoured.

Action: Chair to work with Cllr Blackburn on this matter, to be returned to a future agenda.

7.5 Litter

7.5.1 Locations for additional dog waste bins at the top of Spring Hill, Cotswold Avenue and Victoria drive were proposed by Cllr Bullock. It was agreed that the people within 25 metres of the proposed locations need to be happy with them. Cllr Bullock will obtain written confirmation from those thus affected.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for costs of purchase and installation

It was further agreed that a larger litter bin is needed outside the Co-op.

Action: Cllr Bullock to approach the Co-op to request they install a larger litter bin.

7.6 Broadband

An update has been circulated. Cllr Greenaway was verified as the new contact person. Cllr Cozens reported that Arlingham's wireless system is performing well.

7.8 Hedges

The problem of overgrown hedges in the parish was discussed. Cllr Hill suggested that a note be sent to households with overgrown hedges, asking them to arrange for their hedges to be cut back. The note to include an offer of low-cost maintenance.

7.9 Parish Plan

Cllrs Bullock, Souster and Simmons offered to join the review of the parish plan questionnaire.

9. Updates

9.1 Noted planning permissions granted:

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

S.11/1697/TCA, The Hawthorns, Millend Lane. Felling and removal of goat willow, thin crown of field maple, reduction of damson sucker.

9.2 A meeting has been arranged for 21st October at 2pm with Inspector Kirk Harrison to discuss the anti-social behaviour problem.

9.3 Cllr Bullock gave an update on EYG. Forthcoming activities include a 'fright night' at Over, ECO Group apple week and tubing. The youth bus continues to visit weekly, and work on the POD continues. The next litter pick is 12th November.

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9.4 RFO has produced figures in response to the FOI request. Chair and Clerk will finalize and send the response.

Any other business for the next meeting:

Cllr Edwards requested that the use of footpaths be mentioned in the parish plan questionnaire.

Cllr Greenaway will write an introduction for the broadband questionnaire to be published in ECN.

Cllr Cozens asked if Highways might provide signage to the Community Centre.

RFO has received the paperwork to request the 2012-13 precept. He will circulate his thoughts on the level of precept required for the next financial year.

The meeting closed at 9:05

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

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date