

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2011 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Bullock, Stephens, Simmons, Souster, Edwards and Greenaway; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). One member of the public was present (Tom Low). Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Hill and Cozens, County Councillor Blackburn, and Neighbourhood Warden Morgana Simpson.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:**
 - Due to the sensitivity of the item, it may be necessary to close the meeting to the public at item 7.3.3
 - The parish plan questionnaire has gone to press. Chair wishes to formally thank Clare Watkins who has led on this.
 - SDC will announce the housing allocation tomorrow. It is expected that Eastington and Cam will take the lion's share.
 - The Cotswold Canal Trust has asked the parish council for a letter of support, this will be covered under AOB.
 - There is a public exhibition for the residual waste facility (Javelin Park) from 12th to 14th November.
 - We have a new Neighbourhood Warden, Morgana Simpson.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens on all planning matters as an SDC Member. Cllr Edwards on matters involving Sophie's Pitch (near neighbour).
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 Greenaway and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** The action list was reviewed; all recent actions are in hand.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** It was agreed to bring forward Item 7.6

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

Tom Low reported on two matters:

- The Eastington Community Orchards Group has sent a letter in support of the Canal Trust's funding bid. The ECO Group hopes that it may benefit from linear orchards along the canal.
- Keep Eastington Rural are seeking local opinion on the SDC housing issue, it notes that the next 8 weeks will be critical. KER regrets EPC's decision not to extend the village envelope.

Chair referred to a written report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn, in which he mentioned the public exhibition at Javelin Park, the "big community offer" from Highways, and lack of road repairs at Victoria Drive.

Speaking as a District Councillor, Cllr Stephens mentioned today's refusal of planning permission at Sellars Farm, Hardwicke. This was refused by Members, contrary to planning officers' opinion. Cllr Stephens went on to speak on the SDC Cabinet meeting tomorrow, which will recommend 1000 – 1500 new homes 'West of Stonehouse' (from the lane to Nupend, almost encircling Nastend, to the railway bridge at Stonehouse). The Core Strategy will proceed through the public engagement process, aiming for adoption in 2013.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:24

7 Resolutions

7.6 Community Orchard

Tom Low presented Eastington Community Orchard Group's request for a permissive footpath. The primary purpose is to provide public access to the Churchend Community Orchard. It would be used by parents and children approaching the school from the northern hamlets and by parishioners wishing to enjoy the contemplative setting. Seating is planned north of the path. A Secondary purpose is to delineate the productive growing areas (to the southwest of the arc, already well planted up) from the public access areas. It was agreed that the ECO Group will provide a sign 'Permissive Footpath' to ensure that all are aware that the path is not permanent. It was agreed that wood chip is the preferred surface. Chair proposed that the parish council gives permission for a permissive footpath in wood chip. Carried unanimously. Chair thanked Tom.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.1 Finance

7.1.1 RFO presented an update of the accounts. After today's cheques there is just over £39,000 in the accounts.

7.1.2 Chair proposed approval of the printing costs of the parish plan questionnaire, £149 plus VAT. Carried unanimously. [LGA 1972 s.111].

7.1.3 Cllr Greenaway proposed a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion for a poppy wreath. Seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried unanimously. [Power of Wellbeing].

7.1.4 RFO ran through the schedule of cheques for payment. A copy of this schedule had been distributed to councillors prior to the meeting. A copy is attached to the signed Minutes.

The cheques total £1,615.56. There is one cheque over £500, the payment for mowing. The cheques include one to the Phoenix Legal Group for the fees in connection with their advice on Sophie's Pitch. A direct debit payment of £3,384.91 was made to the Public Works Loan Board on 21/10/11. Approval of the accounts for payment, including the direct debit, was proposed by Cllr Stephens, seconded by Cllr Souster and carried.

Action: RFO to circulate an update of the PWLB loans.

7.1.5 The level of Precept for 2012-13 was discussed. Concern was expressed about the unknown costs ahead. GCC and SDC are dropping services they have previously supplied which will fall to the community, and the defence of Sophie's Pitch and SDC's housing allocation could be costly. Equally, concern was expressed about asking parishioners for more money in these difficult times. Chair proposed a precept of £34,830 for 2012-13. Carried.

7.2 Planning

7.2.1 Chair reported that it had not been possible to arrange a meeting with local residents on issues contravening the IHCA at Millend. To be returned to December agenda.

7.2.2 Cllr Simmons was confirmed as EPC delegate to SDC's Town and Parish Council meeting on 6th December.

7.2.3 SDC's e-planning consultation process was discussed. It was agreed that plans that needed to be studied at the meeting would be downloaded onto the laptop and a projector borrowed.

7.2.4 The planning committee's recommendations for the following applications were presented by Cllr Simmons:

- S.11/2085/FUL. Leahug Farm Nupend. Installation and operation of a solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment with a maximum array height of 2.6m and a maximum installed capacity of 50kW. The planning committee recommend no comment.
- S.11/2108/TPO. Orchard Cottage Millend Lane. Fell ash tree. The planning committee recommend support, noting that the address is incorrectly stated, and that the ash tree is missing from the plan.
- S.11/2121/HHOLD. Roslyn, Claypits. Single storey side / rear extension and two storey side / rear extension. The planning committee recommend support.
- S.11/2159/AGR. Newhouse Farm Bristol Road, Cambridge. Proposed new agricultural building. The planning committee recommend no comment.

Chair proposed that the planning committee's recommendations be accepted. Carried (Cllr Stephens abstained).

7.3 Village Greens

7.3.1 EPC has been advised that it would cost in the region of £10,000 to obtain possessory title of Sophie's Pitch. It was noted that regardless of ownership, village greens are protected under legislation. Cllr Stephens proposed this council investigates options for registration of title to Sophie's Pitch.

Action: Clerk to commence investigations with Land Registry.

7.3.2 Cllr Greenaway proposed EPC joins The Open Spaces Society, cost £52.00 for the first year. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried. [Power of Wellbeing].

7.3.3 Chair advised that the developer has dug up the turf and replaced it with a quantity of stone. EPC has been advised that GCC are not the enforcing authority. Cllr Stephens proposed that authority is delegated to Cllrs Niblett, Greenaway and Edwards to spend up to £1000 on enforcement of Section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857. Seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.4 Roads and Transport

7.4.1 Cllr Souster reported that GCC has advised that a pothole must be 4" deep before they will repair it. Patching work is scheduled on the road to Claypits which will necessitate road closure.

7.4.2 The spreading of road salt following cut backs in this service by GCC Highways was discussed.

Action: Clerk to write to GCC Highways to investigate the liability if this work is not undertaken, or if undertaken inadequately.

7.4.3 The request for a disabled parking bay outside the Co-op was discussed at length. The actions this council has already undertaken were reviewed, including seeking parishioners' views in the forthcoming parish plan questionnaire and an article in the Eastington Community News. There was concern over the delay, and mindful of the need to make provision for disabled residents, Cllr Bullock proposed that a parking bay be provided on the road within the current parking spaces. Seconded by Chair and carried.

7.5 Litter

Cllr Bullock's work on this is on-going, to be returned to the December agenda.

7.7 Consultations

Authority to respond on behalf of EPC to the Neighbourhood planning groundwater consultation was delegated to Cllr Greenaway. Cllr Hill to be asked if he would like to respond to the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service integrated risk management plan consultation.

9. Updates

9.1 Noted planning permission refused:

S.11/0615/FUL, Land Adjacent To South View, Old Bristol Road, Newtown. Construction of 13 houses with associated parking.

9.2 Following the recent meeting with Inspector Kirk Harrison regarding anti-social behaviour, Cllr Stephens is awaiting a response from Phil Sullivan. Cllr Stephens has been contacted by residents reporting violent behaviour, he advised they contacted the police.

Cllr Bullock will keep a log of anti-social behaviour, noting whether it was direct evidence or a report.

Action: Clerk to ask that the Mobile Police Station parks in the Victoria Drive car park in future.

9.3 Cllr Greenaway gave an update on broadband progress. He has written a piece for the Eastington Community News to introduce the broadband survey. His investigation into the wireless option are on-going. Rev Amys has agreed access to the church tower.

9.4 RFO will make the final additions to the recent FOI request.

AOB

Authority was delegated to the Chair and Clerk to write a letter supporting the Canal project

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the home addresses of all SDC Councillors, expressing Eastington Parish Council's position on the proposed siting of 1000 plus homes 'West of Stonehouse'. Authority to write this letter was delegated to Chair and Cllr Greenaway.

The meeting closed at 9:15

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

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date