

## EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Bullock, Stephens, Simmons, Souster, Edwards and Greenaway; County Councillor Blackburn; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO); Morgana Simpson (Neighbourhood Warden). Six members of the public were present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Hill.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** None
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens on all planning matters as an SDC Member. Cllr Cozens on planning item S11/2357/FUL and agenda item 7.3.3.
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:** None were requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 for members of the Public to speak.

Mr Paul Smith clarified his position regarding the development at 9 Bath Road. He advised he had not intended to cause upset or controversy or to take any amenity away, but to work in the best possible way. He explained that the grass had been removed as it was being chewed up during the building process, and causing mud on the road. With hindsight, he realizes that consultation would have helped the situation. He confirmed that grasscrete was to be laid (he brought a sample of this material) and that at the end of the works the Green would look the same as it had before. He believes that the 'shared space' concept, as discussed at the Commons and Rights of Way Committee, will work well in this location.

Chair thanked Mr Smith for coming to this meeting, and for his offer to meet a sub-committee of the parish council to discuss this further. In response to a question from Cllr Bullock, Mr Smith confirmed that there would be no residents parking on the village green.

Members of the activist group against the proposal to build 1500 houses 'West of Stonehouse' confirmed that letters have been written, including a FOI request, and more are in the pipeline. Publicity, including a placard programme, leaflets and website are ongoing. Ian Carmichael MP and Cllr Lesley Williams have undertaken to support the group. A meeting has been arranged with Pete Gilbert (SDC Planning). SDC's Core Strategy Consultation online document bank is being reviewed, and many anomalies and flaws are coming to light.

Chair thanked them for their work, and for updating the Parish Council.

Clare Watkins, the Parish Plan Co-ordinator, confirmed that every resident of Eastington had been given a copy of the parish plan questionnaire. There has been a good level of return in some places. An escalation is needed to deal with the outstanding questionnaires. When all the questionnaires are in, GRCC will extract much of the data through an 'auto read' process, and get this data back to us in 10 days. Where comments have been written on the forms, these will have to be transcribed manually.

Chair thanked Clare for her work.

Morgana Simpson introduced herself as the new Neighbourhood Warden. She explained that she covered a wide variety of roles for the District Council, and encouraged people to contact her with any problems. Chair welcomed her to the area, and thanked her for attending this meeting.

County Councillor Tony Blackburn spoke on several areas:

- The County Council had set a draft budget for the next year, a 2.5% increase.
- The Libraries consultation has stalled, but will re-start in the spring.
- The application for development at Sellars Farm has been declined. Eastington may be able to benefit from this campaign in its fight against the Core Strategy proposals.
- Eastington should consider what it wants from Highways 'Big Offer', but warned that a financial contribution would be expected.
- The final bidder for the Javelin Park waste disposal site will be decided tomorrow.

Signed .....

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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Speaking as a District Councillor Ken Stephens:

- Added his thanks to Clare Watkins for her vitally important work.
- Advised that the Core Strategy consultation will be delayed. He continues to work to expedite the 5 year supply of housing. Many existing planning consents are not deliverable, he will bring this matter up with Pete Gilbert. He remarked that it had taken longer to debate 2 relatively minor applications in the Development Control Committee today than it had taken to debate the allocation 'West of Stonehouse'.
- Spoke of the Lorry Watch scheme which has lost GCC focus. Sgt Smith at Stroud has asked that reports of lorries contravening the restriction be made directly to him.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:40

## 7 Resolutions

### 7.1 Parish Plan

- 7.1.1 The feedback had been heard during the public session. Chair commented that the information obtained will give the Parish Council the confidence to know that it is going in the right direction.
- 7.1.2 Cllr Stephens proposed payment of £6 per hour for data entry from the parish plan questionnaire. Seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried unanimously. [LGA 1972 s.111]

### 7.2 Core Strategy

- 7.2.1 Cllr Cozen proposed that Mike Muston be appointed as Eastington Parish Council's planning consultant. Seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried unanimously. Chair confirmed that EPC would share information with KER and the activist group.
- 7.2.2 Cllr Greenaway reported on the recent SDC Parish Forum meeting: The tone of the meeting was conciliatory; the planners were keen to point out that the Core Strategy proposals are not a 'done deal'. There appeared to be a lack of in-depth understanding on the part of SDC planners as to how the decision had been reached.
- 7.2.3 Chair confirmed that a further meeting dedicated to the Core Strategy would be convened early in the New Year. It was noted that other villages have shown interest in the dispersal option.  
**Action: Contact other parishes to seek their viewpoint, and what level of development they would be prepared to accept**

### 7.3 Finance

- 7.3.1 RFO advised that after today's cheques, £37,936 remains in the accounts, £12,658 is available in the budget for the rest of the year.
- 7.3.2 RFO presented the list of accounts for approval, totalling £15521.53. Noted: cheque over £500: payment of ground maintenance at the OHMG, £724.30. Approval of the accounts for payment was proposed by Cllr Cozens, seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried. A copy of the schedule is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.3.3 The quote for the 2012 grass cutting at the OHMG sports field was discussed. It was agreed that the standard of work and the price quoted were good (the price is being held for the second year). Cllr Edwards proposed that EPC accepts this quote. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried. (Cllr Cozens abstained).
- 7.3.4 Cllr Edwards confirmed that he is satisfied with Mr Loveridge's grass-cutting during 2011. It was noted that there has been an overspend of £40 on the contract, Cllr Edwards will discuss this with Mr Loveridge. RFO will send copies of the invoices to Cllr Edwards.  
**Action: Clerk to write to Mr Loveridge to thank him for his work, and confirm that the contract will continue in 2012.**
- 7.3.5 A donation to Open Spaces Society was discussed. Cllr Edwards proposed a modest donation, but was not seconded. Donation to be reconsidered in March 2012.

### 7.4 Planning

- 7.4.1 To ratify the planning committee's recommendation for the following applications:  
S.11/2188/COU Westend Farm, Grove Lane. Change of use of Dutch barn and 2 adjacent barns to B1 light industrial and office use, and S.11/2341/LBC. Westend Farm, Grove Lane. Internal and external alterations to 2 barns to enable light industrial and office use.  
The planning committee recommended support for these applications.

Signed .....  
Chairman/Responsible Officer

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S.11/2357/FUL. Green Farm Alkerton. Installation and operation of solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment with a maximum array height of 2.6m and a maximum installed capacity of 50kW. The planning committee recommended 'no comment' for this application.

S.11/2362/FUL. Eastington Court Churchend. Revised application following approval S.11/0159/FUL for combining Snowdrop and Primrose Cottages to form a single dwelling house, including modifications to the dormer window, and construction of a replacement dwelling slightly to the rear of the existing stables. The planning committee recommended objection to this application, and asked that SDC ascertain the current usage of the site.

Cllr Simmons proposed that the parish council accept these recommendations. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried (Cllrs Stephens and Cozens abstained).

7.4.2 The update of issues contravening the IHCA at Millend was deferred to the January meeting.

7.4.3 Cllrs Niblett, Cozens, Souster, Greenaway and Simmons and Clerk wish to attend the Neighbourhood Planning training 27/2/12 at OHMG.

### 7.5 Village Greens

7.5.1 Seeking possessory title of Sophie's Pitch was deferred to a later date.

7.5.2 The enforcement of Section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857 was deferred to a later date. [Both items were due for discussion at a meeting earlier today which was cancelled due to ill-health].

### 7.6 Roads and Transport

7.6.1 Cllr Souster asked Clerk to write to GCC to ask if they are currently monitoring the volume of traffic from M5 to Oldends Lane, and to share with us any historic information regarding the traffic flows.

7.6.2 Cllr Souster asked Clerk to write to SDC to enquire about the impact of this traffic on business currently, and what steps they will be taking to improve the situation in the future.

**Action: Clerk to write to GCC and SDC**

### 7.7 Allotments

Chair proposed that authority be delegated to Cllr Edwards to spend up to £100 to get the gate to the pond enclosure repaired as a matter of urgency. Carried.

**Action: Cllr Edwards to ask Mr Loveridge to undertake this work, providing that his quote is within the delegated spend.**

The muddy condition of the entrance gateway to the allotments was discussed. It was agreed that as the land had been drained at some expense, and putting down a hard surface would impair this and simply move the problem across the field, TEAS will be asked not to drive onto the field when it was muddy.

**Action: Cllr Bullock to take this decision back to TEAS**

The condition of the fence between the allotments and the playing field was discussed. Some posts need to be replaced, and the wires tightened.

**Action: Cllr Edwards to ask Mr Loveridge for a quote for the fence repairs**

### 7.8 Consultations

Chair proposed that authority is delegated to Cllr Greenaway to respond on behalf of EPC to the Technical reforms of Council Tax consultation. Carried.

## 8. Updates

8.1 Note planning permissions:

Land to Rear of Kings Head. S.10/2070/FUL. Erection of 7 affordable dwellings.

Millend Mill, Millend Lane. S.11/1318/DISCON. Discharge of conditions 3,4,5,6,7,8,9 of consent S.08/0463/LBC

Signed .....

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

Orchard Cottage, Millend Lane. S.11/2108/TPO. Fell ash tree.

Newhouse Farm, Bristol Road, Cambridge. S.11/2159/AGR. Agricultural prior notification for the erection of a covered area.

8.2 Noted planning application withdrawn, 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.

8.3 Chair confirmed that the response had been sent to FOI request.

### AOB

Cllr Stephens requested that Clerk write to congratulate the organisers of the village Christmas party.

Signage for the Eastington Community Centre to be considered at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:15

**Councillors are reminded that if a matter has not been specified in the public notice, no formally binding decision can be taken on it.**

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012. 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 4th January 2012.

Signed .....

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date .....