

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Hill, Bullock, Stephens, Simmons, Souster, Edwards and Greenaway; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO); Morgana Simpson (Neighbourhood Warden). Five members of the public were present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Cozens and County Councillor Blackburn.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair gave details of two forthcoming meetings – David Drew 'talking politics' and an analysis of Fukushima. He also asked for volunteers for the recording of the television politics show with Chris Brierley on 23/24 January.
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 Greenaway, seconded by Cllr Edwards and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** Cllr Bullock confirmed that the decision regarding the allotment gates had been taken back to TEAS. Chair advised that the letter to other parish councils has been drafted and issued to the committee for review. RFO confirmed that his outstanding actions are in hand.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** Cllr Edwards requested that Item 7.5 be brought forward. This was agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 for members of the Public to speak.

A written report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn was read. He referred to the motion to 'call in' the recent Javelin Park decision, and the possibility of getting a speed limit reduction through the 'Big Community Offer'.

Speaking as District Councillor, Ken Stephens spoke on three issues:

- He regrets that SDC was virtually shut for business for 2 weeks over the Christmas period.
- He continues to work with residents on the response to the Core Strategy proposals. The consultation timetable has now been published. SDC Officers will make presentations, but will not enter into debate. In response to a question regarding the recent letter from the leader of SDC, Cllr Stephens responded by saying he believes it needs analysis as he thinks it may contain inaccuracies and out of date information.
- The District Council has passed a motion opposing the Javelin Park development.

Members of the "Don't Strangle Stroud' Action Group" gave an update:

- They have obtained the 2010 Core Strategy consultation responses through a FOI request. They have calculated that only 0.67% of the population of the district made a response, and find that 100 responses were from people not living in the district.
- The population figures on which SDC base their proposals need further analysis. The latest release of data from ONS indicates a fall in working age population in the area, and growth in older people. This latest data has not been taken into account in these Core Strategy proposals.
- Communication: The Group have prepared a leaflet, which will be launched at Stroud Market on Saturday. Posters and placards have also been produced. Electronic communication is in place, via email distribution lists, website, Facebook and Twitter. A press campaign is imminent.
- The Group requested that the parish plan be produced by the end of this month.
- The Group requested that the parish council challenge the length of the consultation period.
- The Group requested that Cllr Roden be invited to attend a public meeting to answer questions.
- The Group requested that the traditional names of the hamlets are used, rather than 'West of Stonehouse'.

There was discussion whether to manually extract data from the parish plan questionnaires before passing to GRCC for automatic data extraction.

A report from PCSO Ward was read: Since December there have been 15 incidents reported to the police. 3 of these have been antisocial behaviour. The Police Information Point in the town council offices is being developed. This report was discussed, and concern was expressed that anti-social behaviour may be under-reported.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:00pm

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

7 Resolutions

7.5 Footpaths

Cllr Edwards advised the council that GCC intends to close the County Council Footpaths Department and instead use Roads and Transport to oversee footpaths. He fears this will result in a reduction in support. Cllr Edwards proposed that this council writes to GCC to ask them how the new department will operate, how the existing laws around footpaths will be enforced, the level of financial support for footpaths, and if the current legislation and rights will be changing. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried.

7.1 Core Strategy

7.1.1 It was agreed that a local public meeting with interested parties to discuss the parish council responses to the Core Strategy. The date of 31st January was agreed. Venue to be confirmed.

7.1.2 Chair confirmed that a drop in session in Stonehouse on 3rd March has been arranged. Cluster meetings for Parish and Town Councils are being arranged by SDC.

7.2 Finance

7.2.1 RFO gave an update of the accounts. The financial report circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. There will be £39,308 in the bank after tonight's cheques. The three cheques on this month's list are for salaries/expenses and hall hire.

The cheque for £2000, loan repayment by OHMGC, has been banked. There was discussion about the date that the first half of the loan repayment was made. RFO will confirm this for the next meeting.

7.2.2 Chair proposed approval of the accounts for payment, carried. The schedule is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.

7.2.3 Cllr Stephens proposed approval of the fees (£185 + VAT) for the internal audit to be carried out in February. Seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. [LGA 1972 s.111]

7.2.4 A donation to 'Youth Exploring Sustainability' was discussed. It was agreed that this is a worthwhile project. Cllr Bullock proposed a donation of £75 for this year. Seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried. [Power of Well-Being]

7.2.5 Cllr Bullock advised that Mr Loveridge is happy to install the dog fouling notices on lampposts. Cllr Bullock will liaise with Alex Davies regarding the number to be installed. Excess stock of notices will be returned to SDC.

7.2.6 The request for a financial contribution to 'Keep Our Village Tidy' signs for Grove Lane was discussed. It was agreed that the relevant local businesses should be asked for a contribution towards costs where appropriate.

Action: Cllr Bullock will contact Morgana Simpson for more detail of the location for the signs. Matter to be brought back to future agenda.

7.3.7 RFO offered to prepare a framework for the 2012-13 budget. He remarked that only 15% of the council spending is discretionary. There was some discussion around the suggestion to simply add 5% to the previous year's budget, but it was agreed that the budget demands careful consideration as it is likely that there will be increasing financial burdens on the council as other bodies cut back on their service provision.

Action: Budget-setting to be given 30 minutes on the February agenda. If the budget is not agreed in that period then an additional budget-setting meeting will be scheduled.

7.3 Planning

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

S.11/2438/HHOLD and S.11/2439/LBC. Somerlea Nastend Lane. Demolition of existing single garage and shed and erection of double garage.

S.11/2558/HHOLD. Post House Cottage Alkerton. Second storey and single storey rear extension.

Cllr Simmons proposed that the council supports both applications (with the proviso that SDC deal with the listed building aspect of S.11/2439/LBC). Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried. Cllr Stephens abstained.

7.3.2 Chair gave a brief update of issues contravening the IHCA at Millend. There is some photographic evidence to hand, but this needs to be verified before proceeding.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

7.4 Village Greens

(NB: It was noted that this Item should be entitled 'Village Greens and Open Spaces')

7.4.1 Cllr Edwards proposed approval of the cost of repairs to the fence between the allotments and the sports field, £22.50. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried. [LGA 1894 s.8.4]

7.4.2 Cllr Edwards proposed approval of the cost of replacement wooden gate to the allotments field, £431.26. Seconded by Cllr Souster and carried. [LGA 1894 s.8.4]

Action: Cllr Edwards to check with Cllr Cozens if there is a serviceable existing gate that can be repaired and re-hung.

7.4.3 Chair gave an update on the meeting with Paul Smith and Aqua.

7.6 Owen Harris Memorial Ground

7.6.1 It is noted that OHMGC have now repaid the £4000 loan in full.

7.6.2 The sign to the Community Centre was agreed in principle.

7.6.3 It was agreed that the location and mounting of this sign needs careful consideration.

Action: More detail to be brought back to the next meeting.

7.7 Jubilee Beacon Celebration

It was agreed that the arrangements should be taken forward.

Action: Clerk to write to interested parties, and to publicise via an article in the ECN.

7.8 Consultations

The GCC budget consultation was discussed. Due to pressure of other commitments, there was no volunteer to make a response on behalf of the parish council.

8. Updates

Noted planning permissions:

S.11/2121/HHOLD Roslyn. Single storey side / rear extension and two storey side / rear extension.

S.11/2256/DISCON. Laurel Cottage, Middle Street. Discharge of conditions 6 and 8 from planning permission S.09/1239/HHOLD.

S.11/2401/DISCON Land To Rear Of Kings Head Inn. Discharge of conditions 2, 3, 6, 7 and 13 and approved application S.10/2070/FUL - Erection of 7 dwellings.

S.11/2188/COU Westend Barns, Westend Farm, Grove Lane. Change of use of Dutch barn and 2 adjacent barns to B1 light industrial and office use.

S.11/2562/DISCON Land Comprising Former, 9 Bath Road. Discharge of condition 2 from appeal decision S.08/0634/FUL. (Roofing materials)

Any other business for the next meeting:

Cllr Greenaway will look at the implications of the licensing application from Eastington Park.

The meeting closed at 9:23

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th February 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 8th February 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date