

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th February 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Bullock, Edwards and Greenaway; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO) and Village Agent, Sue Colquhoun Two members of the public were present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Hill, Simmons, and Stephens, Neighbourhood Warden Morgana Simpson and County Councillor Blackburn.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair gave condolences to Ken Nicholls whose wife has recently passed away. Several announcements followed:
 - Chair thanked Cllrs Bullock and Stephens and Clerk for attending the recent meeting with Mike Muston.
 - Chair thanked Cllrs Cozens, Bullock and Greenaway and Clerk for their work in arranging the public meeting on 31st January.
 - As no requests regarding the budget were forthcoming, a separate meeting will be arranged.
 - GAPTC can accommodate only 4 delegates per parish at the training course on 27th February. Cllr Souster had already indicated that he will step aside if the training was over-subscribed.
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 Greenaway, seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** Cllr Bullock advised that she has spoken to the Dog Warden who has confirmed that she may go ahead and install the signs as required.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 for members of the Public to speak.

Chair read a written report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn. Cllr Blackburn encourages parishioners to make comments on SDC's Core Strategy consultation, GCC's libraries consultation and the planning application from Balfour Beatty/Urbaser at Javelin Park.

Martin Elliott spoke on the repairs required to the fencing at the allotments and the new gate. He supports the idea of moving the location of the gate to the edge of the field to make the top end of the land traffic-free. He has met Cllr Edwards and Mr Loveridge at the field to discuss this proposal. Mr Loveridge has given a quote for this work to EPC.

Village Agent, Sue Colquhoun outlined her work as Village Agent. There are now over 30 Village Agents, covering the whole of Gloucestershire. They are employed by GRCC and funded by the NHS Trust. They provide advice and assistance to older and disadvantaged people, helping them to access services and welfare support such as arranging hospital transport.

Chair thanked Sue on behalf of the parish for her work.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:30

6 Resolutions

6.1 Core Strategy

- 6.1.1 Chair recapped the actions the parish council has taken. Responses to our letter to all parishes in the District are coming in, most are supportive to EPC's view. "Don't Strangle Stroud" have built up a great momentum and are applying political pressure. They have written an alternative strategy based on the demographic projections of an increasingly elderly population. They argue that this demographic 'time bomb' means that the focus should not be on job creation, but on retirement housing.
- 6.1.2 The main points from the public meeting were discussed: the low response to the previous consultation, the demographic effects of the ageing population, the feeling that SDC view the proposed strategy is viewed as a *fait accompli*.
- 6.1.3 The next step is to meet Cllr Tait and continue to push for a dispersal strategy, asking that dispersal is centred on the 12 biggest parishes in the District.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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6.2 Finance

- 6.2.1 RFO presented an update of the accounts. After today's cheques there will be £37,797 in the accounts. A copy of the financial report is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. The report lists the percentage spend against each budget item.
- 6.2.2 Cllr Cozens proposed approval of the annual renewal of membership of GRCC (£25.00). Seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. [LGA 1972 s.143]
- 6.2.3 Chair proposed approval of the printing costs of charts for the parish plan. Carried. [LGA 1972 s.111]
- 6.2.4 RFO ran through the accounts for payment, a copy is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. Included on the schedule are the payment to Mike Muston for his professional fees and the £75 donation to the YES! Project. Cllr Bullock proposed approval of the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Cozens and carried.
- 6.2.5 It was agreed that RFO will email a draft budget to all councillors for consideration. A meeting to agree the 2012-13 budget was set for 21st February.

6.3 Village Greens

The date of 28th February was agreed to meet to review the history of this application. Chair to be joined by Cllr Greenaway and Clerk at this meeting. Cllr Edwards resigned from the sub-committee.

6.4 Burial Ground

Mr Hathaway's request to have a gate installed at the burial ground was discussed. Cllr Cozens agreed to put together a costed proposal to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Cozens to prepare the proposal for the March meeting.

6.5 Allotments

- 6.5.1 Cllr Cozens proposed approval for The Eastington Allotment Society (TEAS) request for 30' of additional land. Seconded by Chair and carried.
- 6.5.2 Cllr Cozens proposed approval for TEAS request for poly tunnel, subject to location and planning permission. Seconded by Chair and carried.
- 6.5.3 The proposal by Cllr Edwards to re-position the gate was discussed. Visibility was raised as a concern. Cllr Cozens confirmed that the brambles would be cut back. The diagram circulated by Cllr Edwards prior to the meeting was amended to indicate the path from the proposed gate to the 3 metre track. Chair proposed acceptance of this amended proposal. Carried.
- 6.5.4 The quote to supply a new gate and make repairs to fencing was discussed. It was agreed that the materials may need to be upgraded or increased. Chair proposed acceptance of the labour costs of £200, and delegation of authority to spend up to £500 on materials to Cllr Cozens.
- Action:** Cllr Cozens to arrange a site meeting with Mr Loveridge and commission the work up to the spending levels agreed.

6.6 Owen Harris Memorial Ground

- 6.6.1 RFO confirmed the date of the first instalment of the repayment of the £4000 loan to OHMGC. The paying in book shows the £2000 cheque was paid in on 13/1/11.
- 6.6.2 Cllr Bullock proposed approval of the cost of a sign to the Community Centre. Seconded by Chair and carried.
- 6.6.3 Cllr Cozens confirmed that the sign will be mounted on the 'Footpath' sign on the opposite side of the road to the OHMG.

6.7 Roads and Transport

It was agreed to place in abeyance the Highways Community Offer to speed up the process to get a TRO for the blue badge parking at the Co-op. An appeal for consideration of less able bodied residents will be written for the Community News.

6.8 Consultation arrangements and Emergency Plan Meeting

- 6.8.1 Cllr Bullock agreed to attend Nailsworth Town Council's meeting to consider proposals for better consultation arrangements with SDC.
- 6.8.2 It was agreed that the flood wardens should be asked if they wish to attend the Emergency Planning Workshop on 8th March.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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6.9 Jubilee Celebration

It was agreed that a meeting should be called for all interested parties and village groups.

7 Updates

7.1 Chair confirmed that the Parish Plan committee had met, and suggested that Councillors write introductions on their areas of authority for the Parish Plan

7.2 Planning permissions noted:

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.

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

S.11/0923/FUL, John Stayte Services Ltd, Puddlesworth Lane. Proposed commercial units.

S.11/2341/LBC, Westend Courtyard, Westend Farm, Grove Lane. Internal and external alterations to 2 barns to enable light industrial and office use.

S.12/0044/TCA. Brook Cottage, Churchend. Works to pollard tree and yew bush.

Any other business for the next meeting: None

The meeting closed at 9:07

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 21st February 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date