

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Cozens, Hill, Bullock, Stephens, Simmons, Souster, and Greenaway; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). Six members of the public were present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Edwards, County Councillor Blackburn and Morgana Simpson (Neighbourhood Warden).
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** The April meeting will be brought forward to the 3rd April to avoid a clash with Easter. Prospective parish councillors will be invited to the April meeting.
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 14th February meeting was proposed by Cllr Bullock, seconded by Chair and carried. Approval of the Minutes of the 21st February meeting was proposed by Cllr Souster, seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** Chair has given the dog fouling signs to Cllr Bullock. A site meeting will be arranged regarding the gate to the Orchard / Burial Ground.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None were requested.

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

Sue Whaites and Tina Smith of the Eastington Youth Group brought the news that Unite has offered them four units (similar to portacabins), free of charge. They will need to be transported to Eastington, clad, roofed and fitted out internally. Tina asked if the units could be stored temporarily on the land adjacent to the allotments. Sue explained that the units do not require a concrete base, and will be covered with blue sheeting. EYG may be applying for a grant from the Charlie Bullock Fund as they believe they meet the requirements for the use of this Trust - the units will be available for use by the wider community, and they have in the order of £2000 in hand from fundraising activities. EYG will insure the units.

The councillors were unanimous in their support for the temporary storage of these units on the parish council land by the allotments.

Sarah Spence requested the Parish Council permit Playgroup to install a sign to advertise Playgroup on Alkerton Green. It would be 100 x 75cm, standing on 2 posts.

Tom Low gave a presentation on the Core Strategy. He pointed out a major flaw in SDC's statistical analysis. SDC has assumed that household size will continue to fall and therefore they plan for more houses. However, since 2000, household formation has been static. The working age population will be fairly stable over the period that the new strategy will cover; the growth will be in older people. The aging population will need more nursing homes, and smaller dwellings.

Chair thanked Tom, and commented that SDC should ask parishes if they can take additional housing. He confirmed that EPC has been granted a 2 week extension to respond, giving a new deadline of 2nd April.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:50.

7 Resolutions

7.1 Core Strategy

- 7.1.1 Chair proposed that a 'Core Strategy' sub-group be convened, consisting of himself, together with Cllrs Hill and Greenaway, supported by Clerk. Carried.
- 7.1.2 Chair proposed that power be delegated to the Core Strategy sub-group to make EPC's response to the Core Strategy Consultation. Carried.

7.2 Finance

- 7.2.1 RFO gave an update of the accounts, including current and projected spend. A copy of his report is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. There will be £37,090 in current and deposit accounts after the payments for approval. There was one cheque over £500, for administrative costs.
- 7.2.2 Cllr Cozens proposed approval of the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. A copy of the list of cheques for payment is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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- 7.2.3 The requests for donations received were considered. RFO confirmed that there is £475 set aside for donations, and that reserves could be used if an amount in excess of this was agreed.
- Stroud and District Citizens Advice Bureau: Cllr Hill proposed a donation of £50. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried.
 - The Gloucestershire Chest Fund: Cllr Simmons proposed a donation of £25, seconded by Cllr Stephens and carried.
 - Playgroup: It was agreed that more information was needed.

Action: Clerk to write to Playgroup

7.3 Planning

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

S.12/0154/FUL Bath Road Garage. Siting of a portacabin to be used as garage office.

Cllr Simmons proposed that EPC supports this application, but suggests that SDC consider it a temporary measure. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried.

S.12/0380/HHOLD and S.12/0381/LBC. Manor Cottage, Churchend. Erection of extension.

Cllr Simmons proposed that EPC returns 'no comment' on this application. Seconded by Cllr Hill and carried.

7.4 Burial Ground

Chair proposed that space is allocated behind the row of cremated remains in the 'C' section of the Burial Ground for the row of graves commencing grave space 91, and that the remainder of the 'C' section to be re-allocated for graves. He further proposed that allocation be made for two rows of cremated remains after the row commencing with grave space 82. Carried.

7.5 Community Centre

Playgroup's request to install a 'Playgroup' sign on Alkerton Green was discussed. Cllr Hill proposed that Playgroup be asked to consider a similar sign, in the same location as the 'Community Centre' sign. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried.

Action: Clerk to ask Playgroup to discuss this proposal with OHMGC, then bring this back to EPC.

8 Updates

- 8.1 Chair gave an update on the Parish Plan. The data has been extracted from the questionnaires by Jan Low, and circulated to all Councillors. An introduction now needs to be written, this task to be shared among the parish councillors e.g. the social aspects covered by Cllr Bullock, the planning issues by Cllrs Simmons and Hill.

The questionnaire has revealed a wish for an additional 100 houses in the parish in the Core Strategy period, and the Council has heard the "Don't Strangle Stroud" call for accommodation suitable for our aging population. Chair asked the Councillors to feed back their thoughts on:

- the wish to have another care home in Eastington;
- engaging a Land Agent;
- extending the village envelope;
- creation of a new hamlet.

- 8.2 Chair gave an update on Sophie's Pitch. The papers have been sent to the Barrister. The developer has consulted on whether grasscrete or plastic should be used for the driveways.

- 8.3 Noted planning permission granted:
S.11/2357/FUL. Green Farm, Alkerton. Installation of stand alone solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment with a maximum array height of 2.6m.

- 8.4 Noted planning permission withdrawn:
S.11/2558/HHOLD. Post House Cottage, Alkerton. Second storey and single storey rear extension.

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8.5 Roads and Transport:

- the repeated digging up of the road in the centre of the village has been investigated by Cllr Blackburn. John Kay has responded.
- the request for a crossing at Orchard Leigh continues to be pursued by Cllr Blackburn.

8.6 Burial Ground: site meeting to be arranged. Options include a post and rail fence, or to organise parking in Churchend for the gravedigger.

Any other business for the next meeting.

Cllr Cozens asked if the parish council has a parish map. Chair confirmed that the maps are with Cllr Edwards.

Cllr Souster advised that he is in discussion with Mark Hemming, the Tree Officer at SDC regarding the trimming of the large willow tree at Millend, and the trimming back of the hedge.

The meeting closed at 9:35.

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 3rd April 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 28th March 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date