

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd April 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

At 7pm, there was an introduction to prospective Councillors - Pauline Allen, Peter Edis-Bates and Mike Evans.

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Bullock, Edwards, Greenaway, Hill, Simmons, and Stephens; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). Seven members of the public were present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Souster. Cllr Cozens was not present.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:** Chair thanked the prospective councillors for attending. Chair confirmed the date for the Annual Parish Meeting: 15th May. He gave an update on the meeting at Stonehouse Town Council attended with Tom Low at which they presented part of the Don't Strangle Stroud's "Alternative Strategy" to a good reception. He encouraged EPC councillors to attend a meeting of Stonehouse Town Council for firsthand experience of a well-run Town Council meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:** Cllr Stephens on all planning matters as an SDC Member. Chair on Item 7.2.1 planning application S.12/0565/HHOLD.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Approval of the Minutes previous meeting was proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** The new actions have been completed.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** It was agreed that Items 7.3 and 8.2 would be brought forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 for members of the Public to speak.

District Councillor Ken Stephens spoke on three topics:

- The Core Strategy consultation is now closed.
- New planning regulations have been announced. The detail needs to be studied, but the consensus is that it will be harder to prevent consent.
- Changes to the benefits system have been announced which will create two classes of tenant – those in receipt of benefit will be treated differently to those not in receipt.

Peter Edis-Bates gave a summary of the recent activities of Don't Strangle Stroud (DSS). He thanked all those that have helped with the campaign. The DSS has published their Alternative Strategy and the reasons for objections to the Core Strategy on its website. ONS has published updated population data which reveal a drop in the population. DSS have retained a consultant who is looking at the implication of this change in trend on the housing requirement. Frances Roden has agreed that SDC will accept this consultant's conclusions. A member of DSS, Richard James, has put himself forward for election as District Councillor.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:46

7 Resolutions

7.3 Eastington Youth Group (EYG)

- 7.3.1 Chair confirmed that he has spoken to Mrs Harris about the request to site the POD on land purchased from her in 2009. He reminded the council that there is an uplift in the conveyancing documents for anything that needs planning permission.
- Members of the EYG committee explained that they need a base that they can use whenever they wish, and for storage of equipment. Unite has offered the units free of charge. They need to be collected as soon as possible as Unite is closing in May. The units need to be stored while the EYG plan and design the POD. EYG advised that not having premises has prevented them from applying for grants and getting CRB checks made.
- EYG confirmed that there are many aspects of this project to be considered, including consulting TEAS, insurance, security, ownership. The exact siting also needs careful thought. It was suggested that it could be on Snakey Lane itself as it would be close to the services.
- Chair proposed that EPC agreed to temporary siting of the units on parish council land, and to approach SDC to discuss the best approach to planning. Carried with one abstention.

Signed
Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.3.2 Chair proposed a special meeting of the committees of the EYG and OHMGC and the parish council to consider how best to make provision for the EYG. Cllrs Niblett, Bullock, Hill, Simmons and Greenaway, Clerk and RFO to represent EPC. Carried.

Action: Clerk to arrange this meeting.

8.2 Chair gave an update on Sophie's Pitch. The sub-group has sent the written evidence and the first instalment of the fee to the barrister, Ned Westaway. Dialogue has commenced. Ken Nicholls confirmed that there is no registered owner, and repeated his concerns that the registration process had not been correctly followed by Gloucestershire County Council.

7.1 Finance

7.1.1 Cllr Edwards proposed renewal of parish council subscriptions for the financial year 2012-13

- Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils
- The Society of Local Council Clerks
- Parish Online
- Cotswold Canal Trust
- Ramblers Association
- Open Spaces Society
- Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council

No additions or deletions to this list were proposed. The proposal to approve these subscriptions was seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried.

7.1.2 Cllr Hill proposed that EPC approves the level of pension provision for the Clerk for 2012-13, as agreed at the budget setting meeting: £1100. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried.

7.1.3 RFO gave an update of the accounts. After tonight's cheques there will be £33,095 in the accounts. There will be a reasonable surplus to take forward to the next financial year.

7.1.4 RFO referred to the list of cheques for payment. It was noted that it included a cheque to Public Law Solicitors for £600, and a re-issued the cheque to Transition Stroud (donation to the YES! Project). RFO confirmed that the cheque that was returned by the YES! Project has been shredded.

Approval of the accounts for payment was proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried. A copy of the list is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.

7.2 Planning

7.2.1 Chair left the room during this Item (interest in S.12/0565/HHOLD), and Cllr Simmons took the chair. Cllr Simmons as chair proposed support for the two applications BEFORE the council:

S.12/0366/COU. Eastington Park, Churchend. Change of use from Mixed Use C2 and sui generis Wedding Venue to Mixed Use C2, B&B use (C1) and sui generis Wedding Venue.

S.12/0565/HHOLD. Bourne Cottage, Middle Street. Erection of single storey rear extension.

Carried with one abstention (Cllr Stephens).

7.2.2 Cllr Simmons reported on the public meeting on the proposed development of William Morris House. The community currently has 31 students in its care, many of whom need one-to-one help. The proposed extension will provide more space for the students' education by providing additional workshops - it is not intended that this extension will provide for more students. Parking is to be provided within the grounds.

7.4 Emergency Planning

St John Ambulance's offer of a defibrillator and training was considered. It was agreed that this was an interesting offer, but that EPC is not in a position to take it up.

7.5 Vibrant Village of the Year, 2012

It was agreed that the EYG should be encouraged to make Eastington's entry to this competition, with the help of the Clerk and RFO, and any other assistance that EPC can provide.

Action: Clerk to liaise with EYG.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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8 Updates

- 8.1 The update on the Core Strategy was heard in the public session. Cllr Stephens proposed thanks to the sub-group who made the EPC response.
- 8.3 The fencing and gate at the allotment was discussed. Concern was raised that squaring off the line of fencing would lose an area of parish council land. Cllr Bullock offered to assist Cllr Cozens.

Any other business for the next meeting:

Chair noted that parking is not a problem in Eastington on Mondays. The hairdressers are both closed on that day, so it does appear that the problem may stem from long-term parking generated by the hairdressers. Cllr Hill has already spoken to both businesses to ask that their staff and clients park in the side car park at the Kings Head or in Victoria Drive.

Cllr Simmons brought up the development at Millend Mill. Many trees have been cleared and there is a septic tank awaiting installation. Cllr Stephens confirmed that the Conservation Officer and Tree Officer at SDC are aware of the situation and are monitoring it.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:10

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 8th May 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 2nd May 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date