

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Allen, Cozens, Edis-Bates, Edwards, Evans, and Simmons; District Councillor Stephens (arrived 9:10); Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). There were no members of the public present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Greenaway and Bullock. Apologies were also sent by County Councillor Blackburn, PCSO Ward and Phil Drew (Neighbourhood Warden).
2. **Chairman's Announcements:**
 - The next meeting of the Western Canals Consultative Committee is on 18th July at 7pm, Ebley Mill.
 - The deadline for the next edition of the Eastington Community News is 20th July. Cllr Edis-Bates and Cozens are scheduled to write on matters of interest to them (100-200 words) to keep the parish abreast of EPC work.
 - SDC are holding a Parish and Town Council meeting at Ebley Mill on 25th September, 7pm.
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 Simmons, seconded by Chair and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** The recently added actions were reviewed, all are in hand.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None were requested.

Chair read a report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn:

- He continues to press for a reduction in the speed limit Claypits Road, and seeks the parish council view.
- Still no report on the accident in Springhill.
- The verge cutting in Millend seems to have been dealt with.
- GCC have elected a committee to work with the new Police Commissioner.
- The Sellars Farm housing development has been permitted on appeal.
- Javelin Park – a date has not yet been set for the hearing.

Chair read a report from District Councillor Ken Stephens:

- Work continues on the emerging data on population figures and housing occupancy rates etc, which is being fully examined and evaluated by SDC.
- Cllr Waddington has confirmed that a proportion of the county's commercial and industrial waste may be treated at the Javelin Park facility.
- Regarding the reports in the press about a large scale development at Chipman's Platt: None of the development control team has been approached on the subject. Officers did not express any kind of support whatsoever. Indeed officers believe that this would have immense implications and they would have severe reservations on several grounds.

Chair read a report from PCSO Ward.

- Anti-social behaviour calls are down, although there has been an incident of tyre-slashing in Budding Road.
- The Police Information Point is open at Stonehouse Town Council office on Tuesdays between 11-12 am.
- The Spring Hill collision occurred when the driver lost control and hit the nearside kerb.

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 RFO presented an update of the 2012-13 accounts (report attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). After today's cheques, there will be approximately £41,000 in the bank. Spend to date is £9232.
- 7.1.2 Referring to the schedule distributed prior to the meeting, RFO ran through the list of accounts for payments. There were no questions or comments. There was one cheque in excess of £500, the payment for the grass-cutting. The accounts were approved for payment.
- 7.1.3 RFO advised that he is working to finalize his comments on the Internal Auditor's report. There are procedural points only to be addressed.
- 7.1.4 Chair proposed a donation of £25 to the Methodists in recognition of their hospitality and provision of refreshments at Parish Council meetings. Carried. [LGA 1972 s.137]

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.2 Planning

- 7.2.1 Planning application S.12/1107/T5DAY Millend Mill. Holly next to road - dismantle to ground level: This application was considered under AOB at the June meeting. Support for this application was confirmed.
- Planning application S.12/1199, Land to the Rear of the Kings Head. Removal of condition 17 (recycling facilities) from permission S.10/2070/FUL: There was no recommendation from the planning committee. Regret was expressed that this facility has been lost, with scant consultation with the parish council.
Action: Clerk to write to SDC to ask that the recycling be re-instated.
- 7.2.2 Cllr Edis-Bates reported that the Neighbourhood Planning training he and Cllr Evans attended today was informative and well-executed. It emerged during this training that it is possible to negotiate with District Councils to have the planning section of the Parish Plan adopted as a 'Planning Guidance Document'. It would not have the legislative weight of a Neighbourhood Plan, but would be used in planning decisions. To be returned to a future agenda or dedicated meeting.
- 7.2.3 Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update on the Core Strategy. There is no feedback yet from SDC. Copies of strategy papers produced by "Don't Strangle Stroud" (DSS) were circulated. These have been presented to SDC groups.
- The planning permission, granted on appeal, for Sellars Farm hinged on the lack of proof of 5 years' development land supply. This has fuelled a great deal of planning activity in the District. The DSS report evidences between 8 and 10 years' land supply. If this report is accepted it will give the district breathing space to draw up a new strategy. The strategy proposed by DSS seeks to rebalance the district, dispersing new development through all parishes to address the needs of the elderly population, developing the canal corridor to revitalise Stroud, and development to uplift Sharpness.

7.3 Roads and Transport

- 7.3.1 The report circulated by the Roads and Transport Committee was discussed, including the map obtained from Highways plotting the accidents in the parish in the last 3 years. Cllr Allen has some ideas to address the problem of speeding in the parish. One idea is to put a speed limit sticker on the wheelie bins, as this occasional reminder proves effective.
- 7.3.2 Chair proposed support for traffic calming 'build-out' at Orchard Leigh, Bath Road. Carried (2 abstentions and one against).
- 7.3.3 A financial contribution to the cost of this 'build-out' was discussed. It was agreed that it is not within the parish council remit or budget.

7.4 Footpaths

- 7.4.1 Cllr Edwards has obtained quotes for a display case for the footpaths map. The map shows the parish boundary, and all the footpaths and bridleways are marked and numbered. It was suggested that sponsorship or donations be sought. Support was expressed for pocket-sized maps to be made available in local shops.
- 7.4.2 The provision of a village display board, to be marked with points of local interest was discussed. This, and the footpath map display case to be returned to a future agenda.

7.5 Burial Ground

- 7.5.1 It was suggested that the Burial Ground Committee and the Village Greens and Churchyard Maintenance working group be amalgamated as there is confusion regarding their remits. Cllrs Allen, Cozens and Simmons agreed to an on-site meeting to assess the maintenance currently required.
- 7.5.2 The annual assessment of memorial safety was discussed. Chair proposed that the Clerk attend the 'Cemetery Management' training provided by GAPTC on 6th September, cost £120. Carried. [LGA 1972 s.111]

7.6 Communications

Cllr Allen referred to her written report, circulated prior to the meeting, and welcomed comments on the 'Information for Councillors' section on the website.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.7 Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

- 7.7.1 Clerk issued each councillor a hardcopy of the advice of SDC's Monitoring Officer regarding the disclosure of pecuniary interests (copies to be given to Cllrs Bullock and Greenaway).
- 7.7.2 All councillors, except Cllrs Edis-Bates and Evans, confirmed that their Register of Interests are up to date.

7.8 Standing Orders

To be returned to a future meeting.

7.9 Consultations

There was no volunteer to respond to Stroud District Council's Draft Gambling Act Statement of Principles.

8 Updates

8.1 Noted planning permission granted:

S.12/1107/T5DAY. Millend Mill, Holly next to road - dismantle to ground level.

S.12/1139/MINAM Land To Rear Of Kings Head Inn, Minor amendment to planning permission

8.2 Eastington Youth Group sent a written report, confirming that costed plans are in progress.

8.3 The Parish Plan was discussed in Item 7.2.2. A written report from the parish plan co-ordinator to be circulated.

8.4 Cllr Evans reported that Javelin Park is still out for consultation with the Environment Agency. The discovery of a rare bat has caused concern.

Any other business for the next meeting.

It was agreed that the use of the smaller meeting room at the Methodist Hall is suitable for normal meetings of the Parish Council. Matter to be returned to next agenda.

Cllr Cozens asked that Clerk check the progress with the 'Community Centre' sign.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9:21

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

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date