

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Allen, Bullock, Edis-Bates, Evans, Greenaway and Simmons; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). There were 3 members of the public present (Tom Low, Rebecca Starr and Tim Potts), and PCSO Liz Ward. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Cozens and Edwards. Apologies were also sent by District Councillor Stephens, and County Councillor Blackburn.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:**
 - Keith Woodhead's report on the population growth and housing requirements for the Local Plan is awaited. In addition to the Hitchens proposal, plans for a retail park and sports facility are circulating. EPC is working with Cllrs Stephens and Blackburn on plans affecting this parish.
 - Email communication: Please could everyone take a second look at every email before they send it to ensure the title is relevant and the meaning is clear.
 - Disruption during meetings: Cheques will be signed after the meeting. There will be no refreshments served during meetings.
 - The Eastington Youth Group has asked for assistance with the planning of the POD. Please contact the Clerk if you are able to offer help.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** Cllr Allen declared an interest in planning application S.12/1561/HHOLD (neighbour).
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Cllr Allen, 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 review of the churchyard has been put on hold until after the Clerk's training course in cemetery management next month.
6. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None were requested.

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

County Councillor Tony Blackburn has written a strongly worded letter to GCC who had not informed him of the Hitchens proposal.

A report from District Councillor Ken Stephens was read, main points:

- Screening/Scoping request from Hitchins the builders to SDC on Land West of Stonehouse: any response from the council at this time is not proscriptive and if any other data emerges during any possible follow up by the developer this can be added at a later date.
- There will be a planning advisory committee meeting on 4th September and an extraordinary meeting of the council on 3rd October, both to look at the District's housing requirement figures. These figures have to be revised because the government has extended the plan review period from 2026 to 2031.
- The executive member for planning has stated that a decision on sites to meet our housing requirement will be deferred until next year. This will allow for other researched options to be considered.

Tom Low spoke on obtaining a second community orchard. He is in negotiation with Cottsway for the site behind the housing development at the Kings Head. The land is outside the village envelope and access will require an easement. Whether the land will be leased, purchased or a gift is part of the discussion. It is intended it will be a 'Jubilee Orchard' i.e. an orchard in perpetuity.

PCSO Liz Ward spoke about speed monitoring in the parish. In 30 minutes speed checking on Spring Hill recently she checked 70 cars, only 25 of which were travelling at 35mph or less. Letters have been sent to the drivers who were speeding. PCSO Ward then spoke on the police's initiative to involve villagers in speed checks. The police will assist, give training, and loan equipment. The checks can be undertaken anywhere in the parish. PCSO Ward circulated a sample of the letter that the police will send to those monitored speeding. Cllr Greenway asked if the actual speed recorded could be included in the letter. Cllr Evans asked which of the initiatives has proven most effective. PCSO Ward agreed to look into both these points.

Signed

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Ian Crawley gave a presentation on community land trusts (CLTs). He is a volunteer director of 'Gloucestershire Land for People', an organisation helping people set up CLTs. The scheme at Cashes Green is underway, 78 houses are to be built there. The housing built under CLTs is allocated and managed by that CLT, giving the community control. 'Rural exception sites' can be built on under the auspices of a CLT. The new administration at SDC feels that CLTs are one way to help meet the local need for affordable homes, for which there is a proven need.

Gloucestershire Land for People is working with 7 communities at the moment in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. CLTs may be as small as 2 houses, depending on the local need. He will be happy to meet a group of EPC councillors to explore the possibility of a scheme in Eastington.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:45

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 Referring to his previously circulated reports, RFO gave update of the 2012-13 accounts. He confirmed spend to date of £11,248.10. A copy of his report is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.1.2 RFO presented the accounts for payment. The schedule is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. Cllr Bullock proposed approval of the accounts for payment, including £515 for mowing village greens and other parish land, and £724 for mowing at the OHMG. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried.
- 7.1.3 RFO's response to the report from the Internal Auditor was considered. The actions recommended by the internal auditor are in hand. A reply is awaited to the question as to whether the Charlie Bullock Fund should be registered with the Charities Commission.
- 7.1.4 The ECO Group's request for the parish council to meet the legal costs involved in the transfer of the land from Cottsway to ECO Group, including the legal expenses entailed in the permissive footpath, was considered. The solicitor has indicated a 'worst case' figure of £4000 for legal fees. ECO Group wish to be the owners of the land, with the parish council taking the role of custodian trustee. ECO Group would apply to the Charlie Bullock Fund for help should Cottsway ask them to pay for the land. Cllr Edis-Bates proposed that the parish council pays the legal costs associated with the land transfer, up to £4000. Seconded by Cllr Evans and carried.

Action: Cllr Bullock will enquire of a resident of Eastington if he is able to undertake the legal work to keep the costs to a minimum.

7.2 Planning

- 7.2.1 S.12/1080/HHOLD. Post House Cottage, Alkerton. Resubmission of S.11/2558/HHOLD for a second storey and single storey extensions, rear extension and rooflight.
The planning committee recommend neither support or object, but to comment only.
- S.12/1525/TCA Eastington Trading Estate, Churchend. 4x heavily leaning willow stems – remove. 2x multi-stemmed willow stands – pollard to 4ft. 7x willow stems – pollard to 4ft.
The planning committee recommend support for this application
- S.12/1535/COU. Oakdene, Westend. Change of use from agricultural to temporary caravan storage.
The planning committee recommend support for this application
- S.12/1561/HHOLD. Manor Cottage, Churchend. Erection of garden office/shed.
The planning committee recommend support for this application
- Cllr Greenaway proposed that the above recommendations were accepted. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried.
- Cllr Greenaway proposed accepting Cllr Cozen's suggestion of the name "Browning's Close" for the development at the Kings Head. This is the historic field name on which these houses are built. Seconded by Cllr Allen and carried.
- 7.2.2 Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update on the Hitchens proposal. Darryl Rogers, SDC planning officer has indicated that an Environmental Impact Assessment will be needed. The current lack of definition / detail on the plan (no detail of roads, detail of the proposed industry) makes an assessment of the impact all but impossible. Chair proposed that authority to make a response on behalf of the parish council be delegated to a group comprising himself and Cllrs Greenaway, Edis-Bates and Evans. Carried.

Signed

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7.3 Roads and Transport

- 7.3.1 Cllr Allen confirmed that the new committee is researching into what has been happening in connection with roads in the parish and defining the current issues. They plan to build on the 'tool kits' that are available, and produce a 3 to 4 years strategy.
- 7.3.2 Cllr Greenaway will respond on behalf of EPC to Gloucestershire Highways Parish Council survey, and the Local Transport Plan.

7.4 Footpaths

Cllr Greenaway offered to assist Cllr Edwards in the provision of a display case for the map of footpaths in Eastington, and other methods to communicate local walks.

7.5 Parish Council Matters

- 7.5.1 Cllr Allen proposed that EPC adopts the Code of Conduct drafted by SDC. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried. SDC's Code of Conduct was duly adopted.
- 7.5.2 Cllr Allen offered to undertake a review of Standing Orders. She will make recommendations at a future meeting.
- 7.5.4 The purchase of one or more Hand Spreaders for winter grit spreading was not supported.
- 7.5.5 Cllr Allen asked that suggestions and comments regarding the 'Welcome Pack' be sent to the Clerk.

7.6 Consultations

- Chair to respond to dog control orders consultation. The following were proposed as footpaths that the parish council recommends to have dogs kept on leads: from the school to Millend, through to Cress Green; Middle Street; Swallowcroft; 'the estate' roads (Cllr Bullock to confirm road names).
- Cllrs Allen and Greenaway to respond to the red diesel consultation concerning the use of rebated fuel for gritting in rural areas
- RFO will respond to the draft local audit bill and Payments by Parish and Community Councils and Charter Trustees.
- There was no resource to look at the proposals from town and parish councils under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

8 Updates

- 8.1 Noted planning permission granted:
S.12/0965/FUL. Hilltop Garage, Claypits. Part of garage forecourt to be a hand car wash in place of redundant car wash previously situated on site. (Retrospective application)
S.12/0749/LBC and S.12/0748/HHOLD. Nastend Farm, Nastend Lane. Extension to existing single storey wing. Existing roof to be insulated. Replace all existing windows. 2 dormer windows to be inserted into roof. Replace existing rainwater goods. Revised plans received 10/7/12.
- 8.2 There were no reports from the Neighbourhood Plan or Village Design Statement steering committees
- 8.3 Update on the Core Strategy was heard earlier in the meeting

Any other business for the next meeting. None.

The meeting closed at 9:15

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th September 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 5th September 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date