

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 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 no members of the public present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Cozens and Edwards. Apologies were also sent by District Councillor Stephens, County Councillor Blackburn and PCSO Ward.
2. **Chairman's Announcements:**
 - The Methodists have thanked this council for its donation
 - The SDC Town & Parish Council Forum is on 25th September
 - Reminder: all councillors need to complete their register of interests
 - There has been criminal damage at the Community Centre.
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 Bullock, seconded by Cllr Evans and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting:** The details of the solicitors firm that may assist with the second community orchard have been passed to Tom Low.
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.

Chair read a report from County Councillor Tony Blackburn:

- The GCC cabinet are not waiting for the planning committee hearing due in December for the Javelin Park incinerator but are to authorise signing the £500m contract with Urbaser on 12th September. Cllr Blackburn will be there to query this and the arrangements to compensate those adversely affected by the scheme, but likely to go through.
- Cllr Blackburn continues to pursue the "build out" at Orchard Leigh and speed limit reductions.

Chair read a report from District Councillor Ken Stephens

- The first meeting of the new Planning Advisory Panel has taken place. The item discussed was a paper to the Executive on a revised housing number requirement. The new proposal is that a minimum of 9260 houses are required up to 2031. Projected backwards this is some 7700 until 2026. There is also a sliding scale upwards with a reserve provision proposed. I suggested that a downward scale also be considered due to past performance. An extraordinary meeting of council will discuss the issue on 3rd October. This will follow the executive meeting of the 13th September. The new figures mean that SDC would have a 6.5 year land supply. These new numbers will I understand see both potential building sites and method of delivery re-visited by council.
- Recent new statements on planning by the government have yet to be fully assessed by SDC officers. My first reaction is that they, in my opinion, do not improve local control or decision making on planning issues and are more helpful to developers than local residents/neighbours.
- Members of Stroud's Youth Council were present at the recent Planning Advisory Panel. One of them said that on a visit to the UN in Geneva it was stated that by the year 2050 it is estimated that there will be 1 billion environmental refugees in the world.

Chair read a report from PCSO Ward. There was one report of an attempted break in Swallowcroft fortunately they did not manage to get into the house; 1 report of Items taken that were left out for scrap; damage to the OHM hall.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:15

7 Resolutions

7.1 General Power of Competence

Chair proposed the resolution that Eastington Parish Council meets the statutory requirements for the General Power of Competence. Carried unanimously.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date

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7.2 Finance

- 7.2.1 RFO gave an update of the 2012-13 accounts. There will be £38,300 in the accounts after today's cheques; the council is well inside budget at this time. The budget for the grass-cutting may be overspent by the end of the season due to the climate this year. £250 loan repayment has been banked (loan made by the Charlie Bullock Fund). When the accounts of this council and the Charlie Bullock Fund are separated this £250 will be transferred to the Charlie Bullock Fund.
- 7.2.2 Council considered the accounts for payment, schedule distributed prior to the meeting. There was concern that the Ramblers subscription had more than doubled this year and exceeded the budget allowed. It was agreed that this cheque should not be signed, but further information sought via Cllr Edwards. Cllr Edis-Bates proposed approval of the remaining accounts, seconded by Cllr Greenaway. There was one cheque over £500, in payment for grass-cutting.
- 7.2.3 The level of reserves was reviewed. It was agreed that the potential for calls on funds could include (but is not limited to) a large-scale development in the parish which would need planning advice, the possibility of a Community Land Trust, the winter plans, and the churchyard wall. It was felt that. Cllr Allen proposed that the current level of reserve is appropriate, to be reviewed again when the 2013-14 budget is set. Seconded by Cllr Bullock and carried.
- 7.2.4 The requests for grants was considered at length. After much debate, Chair proposed the following, which were carried unanimously:
- Sue Ryder: £25
 - Open Spaces Society: £25
 - Village Hall: £200
 - Bluebells: £25
 - Citizens Advice Bureau: zero
 - Royal British Legion poppy appeal: £50

7.3 Planning

- 7.3.1 Application S.12/1569/VAR, Tulip Cottage, Churchend. Removal of condition 11 from planning permission S.09/2136/FUL.
Cllr Simmons proposed that this council objects to this application, seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried.

Chair left the meeting after Item 7.3.1, Cllr Bullock took the Chair.

- 7.3.2 Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update on the Core Strategy / housing developments.
- Developers are moving ahead in the current 'planning vacuum'.
 - SDC have taken 2000 homes out for the planning period to 2031.
 - Keith Woodhead, a consultant retained by SDC, has reviewed the 16 responses to the Core Strategy consultation that were passed to him by SDC. It is noted that 14 of those responses are from developers. DSS has scrutinised Mr Woodhead's report, and asked him to make corrections to it.
 - Neil Carmichael, MP, has asked a question in parliament about the housing numbers.
 - DSS are working with the Canal Forum to develop the canal corridor to provide employment opportunities.
 - David Drew seeks to concentrate on using planning to bring wealth to Stroud by enhancing employment opportunities.
 - The new planning framework requires that local information is used in planning – the data showing that single-person occupancy is not going up in this area should be used in planning decisions.
- 7.3.3 Cllr Evans reported on links with a developer who is producing a template for a neighbourhood plan. Matter to be returned to November agenda for further update.

7.4 Roads and Transport

- 7.4.1 Cllr Allen referred to the draft 'Winter Plan' that had been circulated. This is an adaptation of Bisley's plan. The roads and transport committee are meeting John Kay shortly to take this forward. Cllr Allen would like to replace the lidless grit bins with lidded bins, and obtain a hand-spreader.
Action: Clerk to obtain prices for lidded grit bins
- 7.4.2 Cllr Greenaway agreed to respond on behalf of this council to the GCC Highways consultation on developments of 5 or less dwellings.

Signed
Chairman/Responsible Officer

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8 Updates

- 8.1 Noted planning permission granted:
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.
S.12/1525/TCA, Eastington Trading Estate, Churchend. 4x heavily leaning willow stems - remove. 2x mutistemmed willow stands - Pollard to 4ft. 7x willow stems - pollard to 4ft
- 8.2 Clerk referred to her circulated notes on the cemetery management course. The management of the burial ground is fairly well on course, although some updates and changes are needed. A meeting to discuss the management of the burial ground was agreed for 24th Sept.

Any other business for the next meeting.

Cllr Bullock advised that Stroud Football Club have offered to join forces with Eastington Youth Group to work together on the POD. Discussions are on-going.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting between EYG, OHMGC and the parish council to discuss

Cllr Allen confirmed that she would be attending a meeting on the flood risk in Gloucestershire.

Cllr Allen asked for the dog bins in Eastington to be mapped.

Cllr Allen gave advance apologies for the February and March 2013 meetings.

Cllr Evans gave apologies for the October meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:40

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9th October 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 3rd October 2012.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date