

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December 2012 in Eastington Methodist Church

1. **To note Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Niblett (Chair), Allen, Bullock, Edis-Bates, Edwards, Greenaway and Simmons; Mary Gribble (Clerk); Robert Powell (RFO). There was one member of the public present, Tom Low. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Evans. Cllr Cozens was not present. Apologies were sent by District Councillor Stephens.
2. **Chairman's announcements:** Chair thanked Councillors for 'stepping up' during his absence, particularly Cllr Bullock for taking the chair for the November meeting.
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings:** Cllr Bullock proposed approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 13th November 2012. Seconded by Cllr Allen and carried. The Minutes were signed as a fair record.
5. **Review of outstanding actions from previous meetings:** It was agreed that a review of the 'aged' actions would be undertaken.
6. **Changes to the order of business:** No requests were made to change the order of business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 minutes for members of the Public to speak.

Tom Low confirmed that the gate from the burial ground to the Community Orchard would be made in a similar style to the gate onto Spring Hill, and installed in the spring. It will be a single gate, that will swing open to allow disabled / buggy access.

Chair read a report from District Councillor Ken Stephens. The main points:

- SDC has confirmed its intention to return to a committee type system from the present cabinet system.
- This Thursday, the Planning Advisory committee will be discussing reports on Empty Homes in the district, and the results of the last Consultation on the Core Strategy/Local Plan.
- Cllr Stephens believes that it is clear that the 'preferred strategy' of mass building in one or two sites has not been supported in this consultation.

Chair read a report from PCSO Ward. She reported 4 thefts in November, and warned people to be vigilant. She has been trained in the use of community speed cameras, and would like to use them in Eastington with parishioners. She also has other ideas on ways to slow the traffic.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:30

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 Referring to his previously circulated report, RFO gave an update of the 2012-13 accounts. A copy of his report is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes. It is noted that Alan Loveridge has come in £35 under budget on the year's grass cutting contract.
- 7.1.2 RFO confirmed that the cheques presented for signature total £622.35. Chair proposed approval of the accounts for payment, carried. The schedule is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 7.1.3 The Eastington Community Orchard Group's request for a grant towards the purchase price of the field behind the Kings Head was considered. It was noted that the ECO Group has obtained a grant to meet the legal costs associated with the purchase, therefore the previously agreed grant for this purpose from this parish council is not required.
- 7.1.4 Cllr Edwards proposed a grant of £4000 towards the purchase. Seconded by Chair and carried unanimously.
- 7.1.5 The quote from T.W. Hawkins for grass cutting at the OHMG was considered. It was noted that they are again holding their 2010 prices. Cllr Bullock proposed acceptance of the quote from Hawkins for grass cutting at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground in 2013. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried. Chair proposed that a letter be sent to OHMGC asking that the users of the sports pitches be asked to contribute towards their upkeep. Carried.
Action: Clerk to write to the chairman of OHMGC advising that EPC will pay for the 2013 season's grass-cutting, but that it requests that the users contribute 25% of the 2014 cost, 50% of the 2015 cost, 75% of the 2016 and 100% thereafter.

Signed
Chairman/Responsible Officer

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7.2 Planning

- 7.2.1 Cllr Edis-Bates advised that the detail and raw data from the Core Strategy consultation has been made public. 85% of the respondents said that they did not agree with the proposals. There is controversy surrounding the attempt to reject the proforma responses.
- 7.2.2 Cllr Edis-Bates spoke on a presentation by CPRE and GRCC giving advice on negotiations with developers. A clear message came out that prior to the point of application a lot of influence can be exerted. Hunter Page Planning are presenting tomorrow on the Canal Corridor Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Edis-Bates noted that this council has not yet resolved to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. He confirmed that the EPC Neighbourhood Plan steering committee will continue its work.
- 7.2.3 S.12/2383/FUL. Orchard Leigh Bath Road. Demolition of existing prefabricated building and erection of new Recreation and Education Centre:
Cllr Greenaway advised that the existing building is in poor repair. It will be demolished, and the new building sited slightly further back. There are no objections from neighbours.
Cllr Greenaway proposed this council supports this application. Seconded by Cllr Simmons and carried. (Cllr Edwards abstained).

7.3 Burial Ground and Churchyard

Chair thanked Cllr Allen for her report. Cllr Allen confirmed that Cllr Cozens is working on the new specification for work to the churchyard wall. This work will be undertaken at Easter as the road will need to be closed. Following concern that some more bricks had been displaced, Cllr Allen has put out cones, and Mr Strang has asked parents to ensure their children keep away from the wall.

Action: Cllr Bullock will ask Mr Loveridge to put a barrier and 'keep out' signs in place.

7.4 Roads and Transport

- 7.4.1 Chair thanked Cllr Allen for her report. Cllr Allen advised that Cllr Cozens and Dale Haines have been asked keep snow clearance/gritting activity logs this winter.
Action: Clerk to circulate the 'To Grit or Not to Grit' advice note.
Cllr Allen spoke on the importance of local plans for emergency situations, particularly people living alone. The village agent has information that this council can use when it builds its emergency plan next year, including a contact in GCC that will help with leaflet preparation.
- 7.4.2 The problems in Nastend Lane (potholes and lack of bridge barrier) have been dealt with by Highways.
- 7.4.3 It was agreed that the standard of workmanship on the road repairs at the Kings Head is unacceptable.
Action: Clerk to write a formal letter of complaint to GCC Highways.

7.5 Footpaths

- 7.5.1 Cllr Edwards confirmed that the Co-op's landlords have given permission for the noticeboard to be installed on their wall. They reserve the right to reconsider this provision in the future.
Cllr Edwards proposed that this council accepts these terms. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried.
The provision of smaller maps on footpaths to be returned to the March agenda.
Action: Clerk to write to the Co-op.
- 7.5.2 Cllr Greenaway confirmed that he has copies of two circular walks prepared some years ago which can be published on the website. Two other walks are available in draft. The 'sunken lane' walk was discussed. It was agreed that it needs to be made safer for pedestrian use. The Footpaths Committee will meet again in the new year to take this forward.
- 7.5.3 Cllr Edwards proposed that authority be delegated to the footpaths committee to spend £850 on the noticeboard, publication of circular walks and provision of smaller noticeboards around the parish. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway and carried.

7.6 November 2012 Floods

- 7.6.1 Verbal reports were given on recent flooding. It was noted that flood defences installed by some householders in Middle Street had proved effective. However, an increasing quantity of water draining from the landowner's field is increasingly flooding the garden and main paths to 3 cottages in Middle Street and threatening to inundate another. The floodwater is supposed to flow across the same landowners land towards Bath Road -if the drains and ditches were kept open. Concern was expressed about the poor maintenance of ditches and inconsiderate driving causing waves of water. It was agreed that the Flood Group should meet again; Cllr Niblett gave a confidential file on flooding in Eastington to Cllr Allen.
Cllr Allen spoke about a letter that Slimbridge Parish Council has sent to local landowners reminding them of their riparian responsibilities.

Signed

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7.6.2 It was agreed that the Flood Group would take up Neil Carmichael's offer of help.

Action: Clerk to write to thank Neil Carmichael for his offer

7.6.3 The Flood Group report was taken with Item 7.6.1

7.7 Identification Badges

Cllr Greenaway spoke on the value of identification badges. He believes that they present a professional image and help when councillors are at local events or talking to people about planning matters.

Cllr Greenaway proposed that identification badges for parish councillors are procured. Seconded by Cllr Allen and carried.

Action: Clerk to obtain prices.

7.8 Consultation

It was decided that this council did not have the resource to respond to Gloucestershire County Council's consultation on 'The Statement of Community Involvement'.

8 Updates

8.1 Noted planning application withdrawn: S.12/1620/FUL. Land On The North West Side Of Millend Row. Erection of 3 dwellings.

8.2 Noted planning permission granted: S.12/2132/HHOLD. Lindine, Nastend Lane. Proposed front, side and rear extension and carport (Revised Plan Rcvd. 05.11.2012).

8.3 Cllr Edis-Bates confirmed that the employment section of the parish plan has been drafted. The spreadsheets have been updated with the additional feedback; there is nothing to hold back the other contributors from completing the remaining sections.

8.4 The OHMGC plans for a new changing facility were discussed. It was agreed that a representative from this council (as this council is custodial trustee) should attend discussions between the OHMGC and Stroud Football Club. Cllr Bullock offered to do take this on.

Action: Clerk to write to OHMGC to ask for an update, and request that Cllr Bullock is included in the meetings with Stroud FC.

Any other business for the next meeting

Cllr Edwards asked that his name be taken off the list of cheque signatories.

The meeting closed at 8:55

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8th January 2013. 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 January 2013.

Signed

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date