

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th October 2013 in Eastington Methodist Church.

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Allen, Simmons, Greenaway, Edis-Bates, Evans, Andrea Durn (Clerk), Robert Powell (RFO) and County Cllr Lesley Williams. There were 4 members of the public present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Edwards, Cozens and District Cllr Stephens.
3. **Chairman's announcements:** The Chair asked that if there were any nominations from the Council to form a team for the Eastington Village Quiz on 18th October 2013 to let her know.
4. **Clerks report:** The Clerk went through the issues and correspondence she had dealt with in the previous month including a letter from the Reverend Ameys, the issues raised were included in the agenda.
5. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None.
6. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 10th September 2013:** Cllr Evans proposed that they be accepted, seconded by Cllr Allen with one abstention. Carried.
7. **Actions:**
The tree surgeon has put in an application to carry out tree surgery on the tree in the burial ground for October 25th 2013.
The Clerk is to circulate the list of training courses attended **ACTION: Clerk**
The insurance and asset register review is on the agenda
Charlie Bullock Fund documents is on the agenda
The annual budget meeting is on 15th October 2013 at the Eastington Community Centre, OHMG
Javelin Park appeal is on the agenda
Stroud Local Plan Pre-Submission consultation is on the agenda
GRCC Pre-Application Community Involvement Protocol is on the agenda
Play Group equipment is on the agenda
Community Alternative Renewable Energy Sources Project is on the agenda
8. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at this point for members of the Public to speak.

Ed Davis said that the Planning Inspector had cancelled the site meeting at Swallowcroft and will arrange a meeting with interested parties.

Report from County Councillor Williams:

Two significant items on the Labour Manifesto are now in progress. The Living Wage report has now been to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for consideration with a supplementary paper giving various options of how this could be introduced. Of these options the one that found most favour would be to give a supplement to a number of GCC employees which would bring them up to the Living Wage and this will now go to Cabinet for consideration.

The second item is considering moving to a Unitary Authority and a working group has been formed to look at the feasibility of unitary working arrangements. This is an ambitious piece of work and will take into account the views of all stakeholders, the range of working arrangements and shared services that are currently in existence. Much has changed since unitary working was last considered. The working group will report to OSCM by March 2014.

As part of the Government's Troubled Families Initiative, Gloucestershire has its own scheme called Families First. I recently spent a morning with a Family Support Worker visiting a family which has been included in this initiative to see how it works and get the views of the family. I understand that after a difficult start a solid relationship has been forged and the mother happy to receive the support. This scheme recognises that preventative methods are highly effective – particularly when adolescents are prevented from becoming involved with the criminal justice system.

The Council is now in the process of producing a budget that has to take into account a reduction of around £25million in 2014/15. We have yet to see the measures due to be put into place. The Conservative manifesto promised a council tax freeze for the next two years so the opportunity to raise extra funds from this source is very unlikely. Government has also directed that the New Homes Bonus

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

will be top sliced to be managed by the LEP – which is managed by a group of people who do not have any elected members, apart from the Leader of the Council, and therefore lacks accountability.

Happy to answer any questions.

7 Resolutions

7.1 Finance

- 7.1.1 RFO gave an update of the 2013/14 accounts, referring to the circulated report (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). There will be £44655 in current and deposit accounts after the payments for approval and receipt of the half year precept and grant. The spend is £39753.75 including £20000 taken out of reserves. There is approximately £27k available from the budget.
- 7.1.2 The list of cheques for payment totalled £4759.88.
- 7.1.3 There are direct payments for the parish mobile phone and for PWLB for the OHMG and allotments.
Finance agenda items 7.1.1; 7.1.2 and 7.1.3 were proposed by Cllr Greenaway, seconded by Cllr Evans. Carried.
- 7.1.4 Cllr Evans proposed the payment of the village hall invoice for the E-REG meeting on 23.09.13. Seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried.
- 7.1.5 Cllr Edis-Bates proposed that the Clerk plus one councillor to attend the Localism and Neighbourhood Planning Conference on 24.20.13. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway. Carried.
Cllr Evans proposed the Clerk to attend the Strategic planning and budget setting course, seconded by Cllr Allen. Carried.
- 7.1.6 Cllr Simmons agreed the purchase of publications: Local Government Administration 9th edition and Local Councils Explained. Seconded Cllr Edis-Bates. Carried.
- 7.1.7 The Clerk asked that there be a review of the asset register and insurance. Cllr Simmons proposed that she work with the Clerk on the review, seconded by Cllr Edis-Bates. Carried.
- 7.1.8 The Clerk queried about registering the Charlie Bullock Fund with the Charities Commission and HMRC. The Clerk will check the legislative and best practice requirements. **ACTION: Clerk**
- 7.1.9 The RFO is still waiting for the banking documents for the Charlie Bullock Fund. **ACTION: RFO**
- 7.1.10 It was noted that the national pay award for all Clerks is 1% backdated to 1st April 2013. **ACTION: RFO**
- 7.1.11 It was noted that there was not a requirement by Stroud District Council to hold an election for the councillor vacancy and that the Council can co-opt as a casual vacancy. **ACTION: Clerk**
- 7.1.12 As preparation for the budget meeting the RFO will circulate the draft budget. He stated that 80% of the budget is committed. Councillors to send their 'wish list' to RFO in preparation for the meeting. **ACTION: All Councillors**

7.2 Planning

- 7.2.1 The following planning group recommendation's was considered for the following application:
S.13/1831/VAR 1 Alkerton Grange Cottages, Alkerton, Eastington. The Planning Group raises no objections and supports this application for renewal.
S.13/1891/HHOLD South View, Nupend, Stonehouse. The Planning Group notes the nature of this application and makes no comment.
S.13/1984/TPO The Clerk had raised this application with the Arborists and StroudDC as the information is incorrect and it is being clarified therefore the Planning Group could make comment.
S.13/2058/FUL Leahug Farm, Nupend, Stonehouse. The Planning Group recommends accepting this application.
The recommendations were proposed by Cllr Greenaway, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried.
- 7.2.3 Javelin Park: The Clerk gave feedback on the pledges made to date from other councils. It was proposed by Cllr Edis-Bates to increase EPC's donation to a total of £2000 towards the cost of the appeal. Seconded by Cllr Allen with one abstention. Carried.
- 7.2.4 Stroud Local Plan consultation: Cllr Edis-Bates gave feedback from a constructive meeting he attended with Stroud DC and interested organisations. He pointed out that the deadline for the Pre-

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Submission Consultation was 16th October 2013 and the response had to be on the legal compliance and soundness of the Local Plan. The Clerk is seeking clarification on the definitions. Cllr Edis-Bates proposed to circulate drafts to the Council as the response develops for comments to be sent back to him. The response would be put as the first item on the EPC agenda for 15th October public meeting. Seconded by the Chair. Carried. **ACTION: Cllr Edis-Bates**

7.2.5 GRCC Pre-Application Community Involvement Protocol consultation: Cllr Edis-Bates proposed to recommend to adopt this protocol to maximise the dialogue with prospective developers and express the wish to incorporate the views of the Parish Plan and the emerging Neighbourhood Plan within this dialogue/protocol with developer. Seconded by Cllr Greenaway. Carried.

7.2.6 Neighbourhood Development Plan: A discussion was held on the process for developing the NDP. The Chair proposed she would form a group consisting of Councillors and Parishioners be formed with the view of taking the NP forward. She would then contact GRCC on advice on developing a plan and their availability for a meeting. **ACTION: Chair**

7.2.7 E_REG: The report from E_REG was too late to be reviewed at the meeting. It was felt that the project looks interesting particularly with regard to possible benefits to the parish and is timely to be considered as part of the budget and planning for the next year but that more information was needed before any money should be spent on the project Cllr Evans proposed to investigate the project further, contact E_REG for more information and report back to a future EPC meeting. Seconded by Chair. Carried. **ACTION: Cllr Evans**

7.2.8 Polling Place Review: A discussion was held on the use of the village hall as a polling station. The Chair proposed to respond to the consultation. Carried. **ACTION: Chair**

8. Updates

8.1 Roads and Transport Group

A report had been previously circulated. A discussion was held on the best time for community engagement and the consensus was a Saturday morning was preferable. No other questions to the report.

8.2 Churchyard and Burial Group

A report had been previously circulated. There were no questions.

8.3 Flood Prevention Group

A report had been previously circulated. A query was raised about an agreement to pay for a meeting room for the group. The Clerk will check previous minutes. **ACTION: Clerk**
Cllr Allen is to ask the group to send copies of the minutes to the Clerk in future for circulation. She is also to clarify with the Internal Drainage Board on their enforcement criteria and procedure.

ACTION: Cllr Allen

8.4 Play Group Equipment

The Chair was asked by Mark Cousins, Chair of OHMG Management Committee, for a letter from the Parish Council giving permission to remove the equipment.

8.5 Neighbourhood Development Plan Photography Workshop

Cllr Edis-Bates gave feedback to the course which went through photography techniques and advice on using photographs against neighbourhood planning criteria. The course was felt to be a good networking opportunity.

8.6 Community Land Trust

The Chair reported that there is to be a public meeting on 17th October 2013. She encouraged everyone to attend.

8.8 Planning notices:

The following planning application decisions were noted:
S.13/1214/FUL: Land on the North West Side of Millend Row, Millend Lane, Eastington. Erection of 3 dwellings. Refusal.

The public left the meeting at 8.55pm

9. Closed Session

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Council considered a report from the RFO on the retirement benefits of the previous Clerk. The Chair proposed to accept the recommendations as proposed. Carried. **ACTION: RFO**
The Chair proposed that the Policy and Resources Group review the staffing arrangements for the replacement of the RFO. Carried. **ACTION: Chair**

Any Other Business

There were no items.

Meeting finished: 9.05pm

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 12th November 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 Monday 4th November 2013.

Signed.....
Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....