

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th February 2014 in Eastington Methodist Church.

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Edwards, Corrie, Simmons, Loveridge, Cozens, Andrea Durn (Clerk), County Cllr Lesley Williams. There were 7 members of the public present. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Edis-Bates, Evans, Allen and District Cllr Stephens.
2. **Chairman's announcements:** The Chair reminded Council of the Standing Orders and that all questions should be put through the Chair, that each councillor should be allowed to speak uninterrupted, and that all items should keep to the point and be succinct.
3. **Clerks report:** The Clerk went through the issues and correspondence she had dealt with in the previous month including the preparations for budget setting and the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Clerk reminded Council of the Code of Conduct that had been previously circulated and the Standing Orders, particularly with regard to behaviour at meetings and the actions that can be taken if Standing Orders are not adhered to. She informed Council that the current Standing Orders will be reviewed this year in line with Stroud District Council's review.
4. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None.
5. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 14th January 2014:** Item 10.2.3 should read a Local Plan EIP response deadline to Stroud District Council of 28th February 2014. Cllr Corrie proposed to accept the minutes with the amendment, seconded by Cllr Edwards. Carried with 1 abstention.
6. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 6th February 2014:** The meeting notice should read 11th February 2014. The Clerk raised the written concerns of Cllr Evans that he had not abstained at item 3.1. The Councillors present at the meeting said that they had thought he had. The Clerk raised concerns about the conduct of councillors at meeting and that Standing Orders should be adhered to so that there is clarity of discussions, proposals and voting. Cllr Corrie proposed to accept the minutes, seconded by Cllr Edwards. Carried with three abstentions.
7. **Actions:** The actions from previous meetings were reviewed:
Cllr Williams responded to previous queries about the land west of Stonehouse. She said that the land has been in the Local Plan for employment use. She reported that GCC Cabinet meeting in February 2013 had recommended it for disposal. She reported that there is a proposal to improve traffic from the M5 to Horsetrough roundabout. The scheme has put forward as a major scheme but not currently being considered as a high priority. She said she did not know who the contractors are working on behalf of but Hitchins are putting in a plan for the site.
Cllr Cozens reported that the potholes have been filled on the entrance to Alkerton Farm and OHMG.
The Clerk has sent a copy of the legal notices on the burial ground failed topple test monuments to the Chair and Cllr Allen.
The Chair will send the updates to the Clerk on the Grounds Maintenance contract schedule.
Action: Chair
8. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None

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

Tom Low said he had an address for the De Lyle family and would send it to the Clerk.

Tom Low gave an update on the parishioner site meetings and views about the planning application for Millend development. The Chair said she would be liaising with Tom Low and parishioners on the EPC response to Stroud DC.

Reg Parry would like to see Millend High Path maintained. The Clerk reported that Millend High Path is a listed monument and gave an update of the work to date with the County Archaeologist and the Leyhill Project.

Paul Hibbard said that the website did not have clarity for the Swallowcroft Appeal. The Clerk explained that due to capacity issues the web site was not as current as would be wished. She explained that she would reply to any direct queries.

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Signed.....
Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....

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Ed Davis has put in a formal complaint to the Planning Inspectorate more than 20 days ago but had not as yet had a response.

Ed Davis gave a report on the fish pools on the River Frome. He asked for EPC to check if there had been a planning application notification to Stroud DC. **Action: Clerk**

Report from County Councillor Williams: There is a GCC budget meeting in two weeks with £7m taken out of the budget. The next phase is reducing funds. The Police precept increase is 2%.

She reported that there is a NHS – Joining Up Your Care project involving Social Care and Health. She urged people to look at this and complete the consultation.

Amey are the contractors who won the Highways contract. They are holding an event on 25th February 2014 at Shire Hall about their contract plans.

Stroud DC are to look at Urban Drainage Schemes particularly the River Frome.

Flooding in the county – 20 houses have been affected. This has improved from previous years.

Legislation now in place that all hard standings in driveways have to be permeable. She asked that EPC bring this to the attention of local businesses.

Cllr Edwards asked Cllr Williams if she could include the widening of footpath near Millend plus the resurfacing of Grove Lane near the turning to Nupend in her highways budget? Cllr Williams said she would include it in her discussions with GCC Highways.

A report with apology for not being able to attend the meeting was received and read out from District Councillor Stephens.

10 Resolutions

10.1 Finance

10.1.1 RFO gave an update of the 2013/14 accounts, referring to the previously circulated report (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). There will be £28,376 in current and deposit accounts after the payments for approval.

10.1.2 The list of cheques for payment for totalled £2297.89. Councillor Cozens proposed the accounts, seconded by Cllr Edwards. Carried.

10.1.3 The Clerk asked for all councillors to send her their reasons for setting the 2014/15 budgets so she can prepare an article for ECN. **Action: All**

10.1.4 The Clerk gave a report on putting the payroll out to contract and asked Council for their approval. Cllr Edwards proposed approval to get quotes and bring to EPC, seconded by Cllr Loveridge. Carried.

10.1.5 The Clerk will bring the approval of the Financial Regulations to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

10.1.6 The Clerk gave a report on the seeking of sponsorship as a funding source. Cllr Edwards gave an update on sponsorship for dog bins. He will contact Stroud DC to check if at cost. **Action: Cllr Edwards**

Cllr Simmons gave an update on an annual sponsorship for the upkeep of the Memorial cross and roundabout. She will contact local businesses. **Action: Cllr Simmons**

10.1.7 The Chair reported the discussions she had had with the Chair of E-REG following on from the presentation at the last EPC meeting where they stated they would not need the EPC grant of £2000. She asked Council to consider the approval of rescinding the grant. Cllr Edwards proposed to rescind the grant, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried.

10.2 Planning

10.2.1 Neighbourhood Plan: The Chair gave an update on the NDP public consultation event on 22nd February 2014 at the Community Centre, OHMG. The said all are invited and encouraged all to attend.

10.2.2 Swallowcroft: The Chair reported that there is a meeting with Neil Carmichael MP on 21st February

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2014 with parishioners. A report will be brought to the next meeting.

- 10.2.3 The Chair asked Council that the EPC Planning Consultant to put in a complaint about the Swallowcroft Hearing procedures on behalf of EPC to the Planning Consultant. Cllr Edwards proposed to accept, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried.
- 10.2.4 The Chair gave an update on the preparation by the Planning Consultant for the Local Plan's Examination in Public.
- 10.2.5 To consider the planning group's recommendations for the following applications:
The Chair gave thanks to Tom Low and residents for their work on S.13/2578/FUL and S.13/2579/LBC: Millend Mill, Millend Lane, Eastington. She gave an update on the background to the application and parishioner and SDC meetings that had been held to date. The Chair proposed that the Parish Council fully supports the residents' concerns regarding the parking and other issues that they have reported to the planning department and look forward to the Stroud DC's response to this.
S.14/0166/FUL: 40b, Broadfield Road, Eastington. Conversion of existing 3 bedroom first floor flat to form one 1 bedroom flat and one 2 bedroom flat. Recommends support.
S.14/0165/FUL: Roslyn, Claypits, Eastington. Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of proposed new dwelling and detached double garage. Recommends support noting the new entrance.
S.14/0151/FUL. Land at Tulip Cottage, Churchend, Eastington. Revised application for a replacement dwelling. Recommends: This is a long running application and this is the latest revision. We can see no reason to object but have concerns about access onto Springhill especially during school times when cars park opposite the entrance / exit is there a clear view in both directions?
Cllr Simmons proposed acceptance of the recommendations, seconded by Cllr Cozens. Carried.

10.3 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk reported that the Annual Parish Meeting had to be held by 1st June 2014. The Chair proposed that the meeting be held on 20th May 2014 and the Clerk to arrange the venue. Carried.

Action: Clerk

10.4 Boundary Review

The Clerk presented the Stroud DC's Members' Briefing on the review. Cllr Corrie proposed that Stuart Hook, Stroud DC, be invited to the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Loveridge. Carried.

10.5 Communications

- 10.5.1 The Clerk read out a request by Stroud District Council's Leader on writing to DCLG on the National Planning Policy Framework. Cllr Cozens suggested that all councillors should write to DCLG as individuals. Cllr Edwards proposed that EPC to agree with Stroud DC's leader and write to DCLG, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried.
- 10.5.2 The Clerk read out a letter from Neil Carmichael, MP offering to attend parish council meetings. Cllr Cozens proposed that the Clerk should accept the offer and send dates of the EPC meetings, seconded by Cllr Edwards. Carried.

10.6 Groups

The Chair gave an apology for a previous incorrect procedure when nominating a representative to an external group without Council approval. She proposed that a review of internal and representation at external groups be held at a business meeting to include a welcome to the new councillors on 4th March 2014. Venue to be arranged. Carried. **Action: Clerk**

10.7 World War One Centenary Commemoration

The Chair reported that she had started discussions with the Youth Group. She will also contact the School. Cllr Edwards felt that it was important that the commemoration recognised the efforts and losses made by all sides. The Clerk will check with other councils on their commemorations. **ACTION: Clerk**

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The Chair asked for all suggestions for the parish commemoration to be sent to her. **ACTION: ALL**

10.8 Groups

10.8.1 Roads and Transport Group

Cllr Corrie gave a verbal report. She is dealing with complaints on potholes with GCC. She is working with GCC on the completion of the Build Out in Bath Road with regard to visibility, lighting and widening footpath. She is chasing up the brown sign for Eastington Park. The bike racks at the Co-Op are on hold while investigative work is being carried out on land registry.

10.8.2 Churchyard and Burial Ground

No report.

10.8.3 Flood Prevention Group

The next meeting is to be arranged.

10.8.4 Allotments

Cllr Corrie has met with the Chair of the Allotments Group. She has a copy of the Tenancy Agreement. The Group now have a Treasurer. There are three more allotment holders. The Group would like an updated map of the area to include the play area. Insurance and liabilities need to be reviewed. Cllr Corrie to send a copy of the Tenancy Agreement and map of the site to the Clerk.

Action: Cllr Corrie

10.8.5 Footpaths

Cllr Edwards gave an update of actions that had been taken and were in progress around the parish. He gave thanks to GCC for their work on parish footways. He had received a letter of thanks from two grateful parishioners which was welcomed. He had met with Whitminster PC on their footpaths leaflet. He reported that he is looking at the costs for producing a leaflet for Eastington parish. He felt that parishes should work more closely together. He reminded Council that there is to be a GCC consultation exhibition at Whitminster Village Hall on 25th February 2014 on the A38 resurfacing project.

10.8.6 Community Land Trust

A meeting is to be scheduled.

10.8.7 E-REG

There was no report as the meeting had been cancelled due to a power cut.

10.8.8 Youth Services

Cllr Loveridge gave an update on the meeting she had attended with the Clerk and Stonehouse Town Council on the options for joint working on youth provision. Further research would be carried out on the options and feasibility for joint service provision.

11. Closed Session

To review matters relating to employment

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of items of employment to be discussed.

- 11.1 The Chair reported on the issues that had occurred to the delayed payment of the Clerk's salary. She proposed that the Clerk check the legalities on making representation to the bank. Carried.

Any Other Business

None

Meeting finished: 9.30pm

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 11th March 2014. Anybody with

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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 3rd March 2014.

Signed.....
Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....