

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th April 2014 in Eastington Methodist Church.

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Edwards, Corrie, Simmons, Cozens, Evans, Edis-Bates, Allen, Loveridge, Andrea Durn (Clerk) and Ian Stuart (Planning Consultant). There were 5 members of the public present. Apologies for absence were accepted from County Councillor Lesley Williams and District Cllr Stephens.
2. **Chairman's announcements:** The Chair gave notification of a pre-planning application proposal to build 32 houses off Bath Road, Eastington. Cllrs Bullock and Simmons have met with some concerned residents who were active in a previous planning application at Swallowcroft. The developer has offered to meet with the Parish Council. A meeting has been arranged for the 16th April 2014. If the planning application is submitted then there will be a public consultation. The Chair gave notification of a planning application for a large scale development of 1350 houses plus 9.3 hectares of employment land named as West of Stonehouse although this is mainly within the parish boundary. There will be a large consultation on this as it has significant impact on the parish, particularly for the hamlets of Nastend, Nupend and Westend.
3. **Clerks report:** The Clerk went through the issues and correspondence she had dealt with in the previous month including supporting councillors, the responses to parishioners on the budget and precept setting, preparation for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, training, and refreshing and developing policies. She reminded Council that the forthcoming month will be very busy with the Annual Meetings and closing of accounts as well as holding public consultations on planning.
4. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None.
5. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 11th March 2014:** The minutes were proposed for approval by Cllr Corrie, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried with one abstention.
6. **Actions:** The actions from previous meetings were reviewed:
Cllr Edwards will not be taking the Neighbourhood Watch scheme forward. The other items are on the agenda.
7. **To consider changes to the order of business:** The Chair reported that she would bring forward agenda item 8.2.3 to before the public presentations.

8.2.3 Local Plan Examination in Public: Cllr Edis-Bates gave a summary of the 3 day Local Plan Examination in Public (EIP) at Stroud DC and introduced Ian Stuart, the EPC Planning Consultant, who represented the Parish Council at the EIP and answered the Planning Inspector's questions on the Parish Council's submission in response to the Local Plan consultation. Mr Stuart explained the objectives of the Examination and the legal principles that the Planning Inspector will be using to test the Local Plan and the implications for the parish of Eastington of large scale development.

Cllr Cozens joined the meeting at 7.20pm

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

Mr Parry raised the issue of the Allotments Tenancy Agreement and the need to review and update. He also pointed out that he had received a complaint from an allotment holder that children had been playing in the taped off area and the implications for health and safety liabilities. Cllr Cozens proposed that the Council reviews the documents. Cllr Corrie proposed the Agreement to be redrawn. The Chair asked the Clerk to action.

Action: Clerk

Mr Davies reported that he had a response from the Planning Inspectorate with regard to the Swallowcroft Appeal. The Planning Inspector has recently retired and revised instructions have been circulated to all planning inspectors regarding the cancellation of hearings. The Chair reported that there is a meeting to be held with District Cllr Stephens on 15th April 2014 to discuss next steps.

The following report from District Cllr Stephens was read to the Council:

'Along with many others of the Parish I attended the EIP of our Draft Local Plan last week. I did not manage to attend quite every minute, I missed anything after 5.00pm on the Wednesday, but attended all of the rest.

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

This new way of hearing evidence had been cited to me as not the old fashioned formula of barristers picking relentlessly at the legal minutia but more a round table informed discussion. Unfortunately the way I saw it, the one barrister present did exactly what was not supposed to happen. I think on the opening day he made what to me seemed a veiled threat to the inspector on a legal point early on in the morning and backed it up later in the day with another. This involved the exact wording of the duty to co-operate and what might happen if his opinion did not carry the day. There were three people who stated that they considered SDC had not carried out the duty correctly, the Tewksbury Borough and Cheltenham Borough officer representative comments were to me born out more from issues other than the correct interpretation of the duty and were I understand completely unexpected. The Highways agency representative seemed to be discounting the contact made through the Highways Authority and other Agents acting on behalf of SDC. The most ironic thing to me out of this was that I believed these three people were indicating that if the duty had been carried out according to how they thought it should, we would not be in any different place than we are now. Also that it was not their wish to delay or stop the progress of our plan. Unfortunately the inspector may decide to do exactly that because of their comments. I think it is fair to say that words of one syllable were exchanged between SDC and those organizations that day. We have yet to completely ascertain if the two officers mentioned above were expressing their personal views or that of the authorities they work for. I think it is fair to say that there is a lot of water under that particular bridge that has yet to flow.

For me as a long-time resident of and District Councillor for Eastington I thought our Parish was head and shoulders above any other Parish in the District in trying to ensure that our green and pleasant parish remains as such and not sacrificed to building, concrete and tarmac. Watching the front line 'Team Eastington' (Peter Edis-Bates, Mike Evans, Daniel James, Ian Stuart, Richard Fordham, and Tom Low) supported by the Parish Council and other residents present, going toe to toe with a veritable battery of developers and their highly paid consultants was to me the highlight of the whole process. Looking across at the developer/consultant side, as I was, I could see in the eyes of those opposite something that looked to me, approaching hate at the way their position was technically dismantled. It is very difficult if not impossible to describe the two sides of the room and the atmosphere in it. The way I saw it, on one side there were people trying to produce a way forward for our district to grow and expand in a controlled equitable manner, and on the other side people only interested in the profit column of their companies with no regard whatsoever for how that happened. Whereas the case as put by Eastington was technically researched and based, all I heard from the developers was, our opinion and our interpretation etc etc. In my opinion they think they have divine right to build as many houses as they want, wherever they want and the governments legislation supports that view and we should just keep quiet about it and let the 'professionals' get on with it.

If the worst happens and they are allowed to do just that, and the question is asked across the district, 'what did you do to try and stop this?' Eastington can point to the performance of 'Team Eastington' and say we did all that was possible in the situation. I know that to compete in this sort of arena, at the level we did, against the developers and their consultant's costs money and I can only thank the Parish Council for doing all it could to protect our Parish and Rural way of life. I know that what happened last week was the product of literally thousands of hours of work and significant expense not only by the council but by others as well. I have spent many, many, years of my life trying to protect our Parish from whole scale development across all of the Parish (especially during this present Local Plan compilation) and I personally consider the money expended by the Parish Council to be well spent. The work does not stop here, it will continue and I will endeavour to play my part in it as well as I can.'

The Council thanked District Cllr Stephens for his report.

8 Resolutions

8.1 Finance

Signed.....
Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

8.1.1 RFO reported that the end of year reconciliation would be circulated once the bank statements have been received. **Action: Clerk**

8.1.2 The list of cheques for payment totalled £1621.90. Councillor Evans proposed the accounts, seconded by Cllr Cozens. Carried.

Cllr Edwards left the meeting at 7.50pm.

8.1.3 The Clerk introduced the Financial Regulations as proposed by the internal auditor. It was suggested that the document is dated when accepted. Cllr Evans proposed to accept the financial regulations, seconded by Cllr Allen. Carried.

8.1.4 The Clerk introduced the updated Standing Orders model from NALC. She asked that the document be reviewed and any comments to be sent to her for her to collate for the Business Meeting. The revised Standing Orders will be brought to the May meeting. **Action: ALL**

8.1.5 The Clerk introduced the training schedule. There was a discussion on the need for a team building workshop and the Clerk was asked to research some facilitators and bring details to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

The following training was approved:

Clerk: Quotes, Tendering and Contracts. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Corrie. Carried.

Clerk: SLCC Conference. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Corrie. Carried with 1 abstention.

Cllrs Bullock and Simmons: Legal responsibilities. Proposed Cllr Loveridge, seconded Cllr Corrie. Carried with 1 abstention.

Cllrs Loveridge, Corrie and Simmons: Being a Better Councillor. Proposed Cllr Cozens, seconded Cllr Corrie. Carried.

Clerk: Minutes. Proposed Cllr Loveridge, seconded Cllr Evans. Carried.

8.1.6 The Clerk reported on a meeting that she had had with the Chair and Stroud DC on updating the list of project aspirations in case of Section 106 Agreements. Cllr Cozens asked that more information be circulated to all councillors for discussion at the Business Meeting. A proposed list will be brought to the next EPC meeting. **Action: Clerk**

8.2 Planning

8.2.1 Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update on the NDP. The feedback forms from the public consultation event have been analysed and a report had been produced for discussion at the NDP Steering Group on 17th April 2014.

8.2.2 Swallowcroft: The Chair reported that there is a meeting with District Cllr Stephens and Swallowcroft parishioner representatives on 15th April 2014.

8.2.4 Cllr Simmons proposed acceptance of the following planning applications as per the report:
S.14/0076/HHOLD: Pitchtop, Millend Lane Eastington. Erection of one bedroom annex to rear of garage for on site accommodation for a live in carer. Recommend Council support.

S. 14/0651/VAR: William Morris House Chipmans Platt Eastington. Variation of condition 1 of permission S.09/1070/FUL to extend period for which the portacabins can be on site from 5 to 8 years. Recommend Council support.

S.14/0635/HHOLD: Beech Cottage, Old Bristol Road, Newtown, Stonehouse. Erection of "tandem" double garage to side of property. Recommend Council supports.

S. 14/0498/LBC: Brookhill House Millend Lane Eastington. Listed building consent. Renovation, restoration, extension and conversion to semi derelict listed buildings at Brookhill House. To provide residential annexe and studio, garaging and workshop space.

Cllr Simmons proposed acceptance of the recommendations, seconded by Cllr Cozens. Carried.

8.3 Groups

The Clerk to arrange a business meeting on 14th April 2014.

Action: Clerk

8.4 World War One Centenary Commemoration

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- 8.4.1 The Chair had bought poppy seeds to plant on the Commemorative Cross. She will discuss with the Community Orchard Group on planting a tree(s) on Alkerton Green or in the Community Orchard. **Action: Chair**
Cllr Corrie had discussed with the Head of the local school on a commemorative project. He will discuss further with Cllr Corrie at the next school term. **Action: Cllr Corrie**
- 8.4.2 Cllr Simmons reported on the progress with cleaning the commemorative cross which is a listed monument. She will report back on further progress. **Action: Cllr Simmons**

8.5 Groups

8.5.1 Roads and Transport Group

Cllr Allen presented her report. She asked that copies be made available to the public at future meetings. **Action: Clerk**
A parishioner consultation of the Build Out in Bath Road will be carried out next month. She asked that councillors to send her their comments. **Action: ALL**

8.5.2 Churchyard and Burial Ground

Cllrs Allen presented her report. She reported that there was a broken boundary fence at the burial ground. Cllr Cozens will provide quotes on installing a gate and renewing the fence. **Action: Cllr Cozens**

8.5.3 Flood Prevention Group

There were no comments on the report.

8.5.4 Allotments

Cllr Corrie reported that the Group were carrying out administration. The drop off has to be sorted as a matter of urgency and will be meeting Cllr Cozens to resolve. **Action Cllrs Corrie and Cozens**

8.5.5 Footpaths

Concerns had been raised regarding parking on Alkerton Green when there were football matches in progress. The Chair will raise at the next OHMG meeting. **Action: Chair**

8.5.6 Community Land Trust

No report.

8.5.7 E-REG

No report.

8.5.8 Youth Services

The Chair reported that there will be a meeting with Stonehouse on May 20th 2014. A report will be brought to the EPC meeting. She reported there is a meeting on 10th April 2014 to discuss the project progress, the next steps and the budget. A report will be brought back to the next EPC meeting.

8.6 Planning notices

The Council noted the following decisions:

.S.14/0166/FUL - 40B Broadfield Road, Eastington, Stonehouse Conversion of existing 3 bedroom first floor flat to form one 1 bedroom flat and one 2 bedroom flat Permission

S.14/0213/CPL - Weir Bypass Channel, Churchend, Eastington. To attach an aluminium fish pass to the existing weir at Churchend. Permission

S.14/0214/CPL - Weir Bypass Channel, Churchend, Eastington. Modifications to existing weir and installation of a pre-barrage immediately downstream of the weir. Permission

Any Other Business

The Clerk reminded Council that the next meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Council and to send nominations for Chair and Vice Chair to her by 5th May 2014.

Meeting finished: 8.55pm

Signed.....
Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th May 2014. 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 5th May 2014.

Signed.....
Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....