

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September 2014 in Eastington Methodist Church.

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie, Evans, Edis-Bates, Allen, Loveridge, Simmons, County Cllr Williams, Andrea Durn (Clerk). There were 4 members of the public present.
Apologies were received from District Cllr Stephens.
Cllr Cozens did not attend and did not send apologies.
2. **Chairman's announcements:** Cllr Bullock notified the council of a drop-in community design meeting on Standish Hospital on 11th September 2014 between 3 and 7pm. The HCA are looking to identify development partners for the site. There will be a 4 day event for stakeholders from 10th October to 13th October to discuss ideas for the site.
3. **Clerks report:** The Clerk went through the issues and correspondence she had dealt with in the previous month including supporting councillors, and the responses to parishioners on their queries. She reported that she had been very busy working on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and contract specifications.
4. **Parish Councillor vacancy:** The Clerk reported that she not received any applications for the Parish Councillor vacancy. She asked councillors that if they knew anyone who may be interested in becoming a councillor to ask them to contact the Clerk.
5. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** Cllrs Loveridge declared an interest in items 9.1.2 and 9.1.10.
6. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 12th August 2014:** The minutes were proposed for approval by Cllr Loveridge, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried.
7. **Actions from previous meeting:** The actions from previous meetings were reviewed:
Parish web site: Cllr Corrie are to review. **Action: Cllr Corrie.**
Allotments: Cllr Bullock to check access measurements **Action: Cllr Bullock**
S106: Clerk to discuss with SDC **Action: Clerk**
Play Park: Cllr Bullock advised there is a meeting next week to discuss and a report will come back to a future meeting **Action: Cllr Bullock**
Volunteer for vulnerable people: Cllr Bullock had spoken to the Bluebell Group. She advised that as the volunteer is under 18yrs that more information is needed. **Action: Cllrs Bullock and Allen**
Allotments: Cllr Bullock reported that a meeting had been held
8. **To consider changes to the order of business:** The presentation on the Cambridge Solar Farm proposal to be held before the public session.

A presentation was given by St John Hughes, Director of Cambridge Power on Hillhouse Solar Farm. He gave an outline of the planning application on the site, expected power generation, and environmental impact and mitigation. He reported of the community benefit for the 5 parishes over the next 25 years. He then answered questions from the EPC and the public. The Chair thanked him for his presentation and answering questions.

The meeting was adjourned at this point for members of the Public to speak.
Mr Parry asked the Council if it would consider putting the public session at the end of the meeting to allow the public to hear the agenda item discussions. The Chair said this would be considered.
Action: Chair and Clerk

The Clerk read out District Councillor Stephens' report: As usual I would be grateful if you could tender my apologies for the meeting as I will be at a DCC meeting at Ebley Mill.
The work on the Local Plan housing numbers as requested by the EIP Inspector continues, I wish I could say I was comfortable with this but at present I am unable to do so.
You have an agenda item on the work of the Boundary Commission. As previously reported this is because one ward in the District has gone out of the proportionality requirements. SDC recently decided to request of the Commission that the existing number of District Councillors remain the same at 51. It appears that they are 'minded to do so'. Keeping the same number does not mean

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that there will only be a little 'tweaking' of ward boundaries to ensure that all wards stay within the recommended elector/councillor ratio. All political groups within the council will be putting forward their own ideas on how the wards should be comprised. My personal opinion is that Eastington Parish Council should take part in the process as suggested in the letter you will be discussing later from the Boundary Commission. If you decide to set up a sub group to look at this then I would be very willing to contribute to that process if asked and able to attend any meetings called to make recommendations to Eastington Parish Council and if accepted to the Boundary Commission. SDC has previously requested to the Commission that the present one, two and three member Council Ward system remains. They have agreed to this but the only way this would be acceptable to the Commission was if the District Council moved from electing in thirds to a four year all out election system. The process will end with all out elections for the District Council in 2016. This council will then be in place for four years.

Cllr Evans joined the meeting at 7.47pm

County Councillor Williams gave her report. She asked if there were any areas of concern if they could be sent to her in writing so she could programme them.

The Chair raised the problems of the combined highway works of the closure of the A38 with the major water utilities work in the village. Cllr Williams asked if these problems could be sent to her in writing.

Action: Chair

Cllr Allen raised the concerns over the time taken by Amey for response to queries and issues on highway matters. Cllr Williams asked that a letter be sent to Cllr Vernon Smith and the GCC Highways Manager re the complaint on time taken for responses. She asked to be copied in to the email.

Action: Cllr Allen

9 Resolutions

9.1 Finance

- 9.1.1 The Clerk gave an update on the 2014/15 accounts including the budget and projected spend. There would be approximately £34k in the accounts after August's payments.
- 9.1.2 The Clerk went through the accounts for payment. Cllr Evans proposed to accept the payments, seconded by Cllr Corrie. Carried with 1 abstention. A list is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
- 9.1.3 The Clerk presented an anonymised report on the quotations received. A discussion was held on the costs and options. Cllr Evans proposed to accept Contractor B, seconded by Cllr Loveridge. Carried with 1 abstention. The Clerk will offer the contract to contractor B. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.1.4 Cllr Edis-Bates gave a report on the contractual procurement for the post of Editor for the NDP. He reported that Ms Davis-Berry has been agreed by the NDP Steering Group. He proposed that this appointment is accepted by EPC, seconded by Cllr Loveridge. Carried.

Cllr Loveridge left the meeting at 8.17pm.

- 9.1.5 The Chair reported on the quote received on the burial ground path from the grounds maintenance contractor. Cllr Allen raised a number of queries. The Chair asked that this item to be deferred to the next meeting for Cllr Allen to research further. **Action: Cllr Allen**

Cllr Loveridge returned to the meeting at 8.21pm

- 9.1.6 The Clerk reported on the training schedule and budget. The proposal of 2 places for the Planning conference at £65 each and 2 places at the Village Greens course were discussed. Cllr Loveridge proposed to accept the training schedule, seconded by Cllr Evans. Carried.
- 9.1.7 The Chair said the Resources Group would discuss the timings of the EPC meetings and proposed that this item to be deferred to a future meeting. Carried. **Action: Resources Group**

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- 9.1.8 The Chair said subscriptions would be discussed at the Resources Group meeting and proposed this item to be deferred to a future meeting. Carried. **Action: Resources Group**
- 9.1.9 The Clerk went through the report previously circulated on the amendments to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the requirement to update the Standing Orders. Cllr Evans proposed to accept the amendments to the Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Loveridge. Carried. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Loveridge left the meeting at 8.30pm

- 9.1.10 The Chair reported on the changes required to the grounds maintenance contract and the extra cost for the play park grounds maintenance. Cllr Evans proposed to accept the changes and the cost, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried.

Cllr Loveridge returned to the meeting at 8.34pm

9.2 Planning

- 9.2.1 Bath Road: The Chair reported that SDC intend to reject the current planning proposal.
- 9.2.2 Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update on the NDP. He reported that a questionnaire to all households will be sent out shortly, the results of which will form the NDP. The questionnaire responses will provide vital evidence for completion of the NDP. He reported that there will be a public drop-in session on 27th September 2014 at the Village Hall for parishioners to see the displays and ask questions of the Theme Leaders with another opportunity to complete the questionnaire. The Editor had been appointed and a draft framework for the Plan was agreed. A meeting with SDC to engage in the process was being arranged. Any comments on the NDP to be sent to Cllr Edis-Bates.
- 9.2.3 Fish Pass: The Chair reported that a complaint had been made to SDC by a parishioner on the channel impact on Tilly Brook. No response had been received to date.
- 9.2.4 Planning Legislation changes: The Chair referred to the proposed changes that had been previously circulated. The Chair proposed to discuss further with Cllr Edis-Bates and the planning consultant to respond by the deadline of 19th September 2014. **Action: Chair and Cllr Edis-Bates.**
- 9.2.5 The Planning Group recommended the following application actions:
S.14/1979/DISCON: Tulip Cottage Churchend, Eastington, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3RX. Discharge of conditions 5, 7 and 8 from planning permission S.14/1228/FUL. Noted.

9.3 Logo

Cllr Edis-Bates presented the enhanced and digitally friendly logo for EPC which would be used on the NDP and other publications. He gave thanks to parishioner Ian Rank-Broadly for his work on this. Cllr Simmons proposed to accept the logo, seconded by Cllr Loveridge. Carried.

- 9.4 The Chair reported on the Accessible Britain Challenge. Council discussed the implications and how it could take part. The Chair proposed to take part in the challenge, seconded by Cllr Simmons. Carried.

9.5 Boundary Commission new Stroud Ward Boundaries

The Clerk presented a report on the proposed changes to the boundaries. The Chair proposed to set up a sub-group consisting of the Chair, Cllr Evans, Cllr Loveridge to meet with Cllr Stephens. Cllr Edis-Bates asked to be invited to the meeting. Carried.

9.6 Play Park Project

The Chair reported that there is a meeting next week with the Play Project Group and a report will be brought back to the next meeting.

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9.7 Groups

9.7.1 Roads and Transport Group

Cllr Allen presented her report. EGG had been renamed to be EARS (Eastington Approaches Reducing Traffic Speed). The next meeting is 3rd October 2014 and includes one person from each hamlet. An article on EARS will be written for the next ECN. **Action: Cllr Allen**

The Roads and Transport Group would like to be renamed the Getting Around Group. The Clerk advised that the Roads and Transport Group agree their revised Terms of Reference and bring to a future EPC meeting. **Action: Cllr Allen**

Cllr Allen notified EPC that '20 is Plenty' signs had been put up in Middle Street.

9.7.2 Allotments

Cllr Corrie gave a verbal report. There had been more incidents of criminal damage and that these will be reported to the PCSO.

9.8 Planning notices

The Council noted the following decisions:

S.14/1049/OUT - Land At, Bath Road, Eastington. Proposed residential development of up to 30 dwellings. Refusal.

Any Other Business

Topple test – October/November 2014

Meeting finished: 8.59pm

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14th October 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 6th October 2014.