

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence:** In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie, Allen, Loveridge, Simmons, Edis-Bates, Evans, Andrea Durn (Clerk) and County Cllr Williams. There were 8 members of the public present.
Apologies were received from Cllr Cozens and District Cllr Stephens.
2. **Chairman's announcements:** Cllr Bullock thanked council and the public for their kind thoughts and offers of assistance to her and Cllr Simmons. She reported that a request had been received from a parishioner for the agenda to be published 5 days before the meeting. She said she understood the request but due to the workload of the council there were times when it had to wait for important reports. She asked for the public to be given 10 minutes in the agenda.
3. **Clerks report:** The Clerk reported on another busy month. She went through the issues and correspondence she had dealt with, the supporting of councillors, and the responses to parishioners on their queries. She reported that she had been very busy working on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and West of Stonehouse planning application.
4. **Parish Councillor vacancy:** The Clerk reported that she not received any applications for the Parish Councillor vacancy. Cllr Bullock 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 item 10.1.2.
6. **Approval of Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting dated 7th October 2014:**
RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of 7th October 2014.
7. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 14th October 2014:** Cllr Allen asked that the following amendment be made to item 10.5: 'Annual topple test to be carried out in November. Clerk informed the Group that insurers require an annual health and safety check to include general issues as well as monument safety. They also require copies of reports from 2012 an 2013.'
RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of 14th October 2014 with the amendments.
8. **Actions from previous meeting:** The actions from previous meetings were reviewed:
Parish web site: Cllrs Corrie and Bullock are to review. **Action: Cllr Corrie and Bullock**
Play Park: Clerk has arranged a meeting for next week
Volunteer for vulnerable people: Cllr Allen reported that she had computer problems and will action when they have been resolved. **Action: Cllrs Allen**
9. **To consider changes to the order of business:** None.

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

Mr Low thanked Cllr Corrie for standing in as Chair.

Mr Edwards recognised the amount of work being carried out by the Council. He requested that a community Footpath Advisory Group be formed to share information on footpaths as it is a council priority objective and he feels it is important.

Mr Parry said he was pleased that the fencing around the play park and allotment was completed. He asked if a check on splinters could be done and if the next ROSPA inspection could include the fencing. The Clerk responded that this had been done.

Mr Parry raised issues with speed of traffic through the village and the size of lorries and tractors. This was also raised by Mr Edwards. Cllr Allen replied that there was no longer a Lorry Watch scheme but individuals could report any incidents.

Mr Edwards asked if the Neighbourhood Warden's details could be included on the noticeboard. Mr Niblett reported that Mrs Shirley Harris had died in September. She was the wife of Owen Harris and had donated land to the parish. He asked if the council would like to be involved in her commemoration and if it could be a future agenda item. Cllr Bullock said she would like to be involved in organising a commemoration. **Action: Chair**

Mr Niblett reported that he had made complaints to SDC on the emptying of dog bins. Mr Edwards said to contact the Dog Warden. Cllr Corrie said she would follow up. **Action: Cllr Corrie**

Mr Niblett asked if EPC reports could be put on the web site. The Clerk said that she would ask

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SDC if that was possible as it is their website.

Action: Clerk

County Councillor Williams gave a verbal report.

She said she would look into speed monitoring in the parish.

Springhill – she reported that the drains are now cleared.

Budget – She reported that GCC has to find £27m due to increased charges and reduced budget allocations from Central Government. There will be cuts to Older People services of £8m and that the Fire Service is under review needing to find £4m in cuts.

Living Wage – has increased slightly.

Javelin Park incinerator decision has been deferred to 22nd December 2014

She asked for any issues to be reported to her.

The Clerk read out District Councillor Stephens' report:

'Please could you give my apologies for the meeting as I will be at the DCC meeting.

The only things I would report, both briefly, is that:

My personal opinion is the local plan issue has entered another phase and I will be hoping to talk to representatives of both my parish councils and other local groups by the end of the week about my opinions.

I believe that the response from SDC's all party working group to the boundary commission is that Eastington Parish should be included in a new ward comprising of the Parishes of Eastington, Standish and Whitminster. I have not actually read the response as yet but I believe this is what it says. My apologies again for absence.'

10 Resolutions

10.1 Finance

- 10.1.1 The Clerk gave an update on the 2014/15 accounts including the budget and projected spend. There would be approximately £21k in the budget after October's payments.
- 10.1.2 The Clerk went through the accounts for payment. She reported that an invoice for planning services had been received after the payment schedule had been circulated. Cllr Bullock wanted to review the invoice and proposed to defer to an extraordinary meeting.
RESOLVED: to accept the payments schedule. A list is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes.
RESOLVED: the Chair called an extraordinary meeting to discuss and agree the payment of planning services. **Action: Chair and Clerk**
- 10.1.3 Cllr Corrie presented the proposed Grants Policy. A discussion was held on the payment cycle of grants.
RESOLVED: To accept the Grants Policy
- 10.1.4 The Chair asked if the Dignity at Work Policy could be deferred so she could have more time to review it. Cllr Evans proposed that it be included on the agenda of the December meeting.
RESOLVED: Deferred to the December meeting
- 10.1.5 The Chair asked if the Grievance Policy could be deferred so she could have more time to review it. Cllr Evans proposed that it be included on the agenda of the December meeting.
RESOLVED: Deferred to the December meeting.
- 10.1.6 The Clerk referred to the training schedule that had previously been circulated and the recent notice of a Localism and NDP conference at the Royal Agricultural University in November.
RESOLVED: There were no requests for training.
- 10.1.7 Cllr Allen gave feedback on the Open Spaces and Village Greens training course she had attended with the Clerk.
- 10.1.8 Cllr Allen presented the report that had previously been circulated of the list of contractors quotes and the NDP budget available which had been analysed by Mr Low and the Getting Around Group. The report had been circulated to the NDP Steering Group for discussion and recommendations, of those that had replied the majority had recommended Contractor C. Cllr Allen proposed that

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Contractor C's quote be accepted. A discussion was held on the budget availability, reducing the cost by separating traffic measurement and road design into differing stages and using EPC Roads and Transport budget to contribute to the cost as the NDP budget was in deficit by £1k, the use of NDP budget contingency, and NDP Steering Group agreement.

RESOLVED: To accept Contractor C based on the quote received.

Cllr Edis-Bates wanted it minuted that he was against this and thought that the work could be done in a more effective way that would result in better value for money.

Cllr Evans wanted it minuted that he agreed with Cllr Edis-Bates and felt that the credibility of the report was at risk.

10.1.9 The Chair proposed that a donation of £50 be made to the British Legion for Remembrance Day. A discussion was held on the amount to donate as it is the centenary since the start of WW1.

RESOLVED: A donation of £100 is given to the British Legion from the Grants budget as per S.137 Local Government Act 1972. **Action: Clerk**

10.1.10 The Chair reported that she would like to defer the Terms of Reference so she can discuss with the Planning Group and bring to the December meeting.

RESOLVED: To defer the Terms of Reference to the December meeting. **Action: Planning Group**

10.2 Planning

10.2.1 NDP: Cllr Edis-Bates reported that the questionnaire had been completed and analysed. The report was currently being reviewed by the theme leaders and incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan. SDC have recruited a NDP Officer who will be coming to the next meeting. Planning consultant has advised that housing sites be consulted on which is being discussed by the NDP Steering Group.

10.2.2 West of Stonehouse planning application: The Chair reported on the multi-agency group consisting of parish and town councils plus campaign groups has been formed. Cllr Edis-Bates gave an update on the Local Plan and housing numbers being discussed by SDC.

10.2.3 The Planning Group recommended the following action:

S.14/2285/HHOLD: 2 The Cross, Alkerton Road, Eastington. New entrance and window at the front and reinstate original roof over bay window at the rear. Erection of garden room. Propose to accept.

RESOLVED: To accept the Planning Group's recommendations.

10.3 Request for Footpath Advisory Group

The Chair reported that a number of parishioners had contacted her with a view to forming a Footpath Advisory Group. Cllr Corrie reported she would be the EPC contact if the group requires council advice or support.

10.4 Allotment Tenancy Agreement

The Clerk reported that the Tenancy Agreement and the plan had been updated to reflect the boundaries of the allotments and the play park. This had been approved by the Chairman of The Eastington Allotment Society. The Clerk thanked Mr Dalby of EYG who had updated the plan.

RESOLVED: To accept the updated Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

10.5 Canal Restoration Project

The Chair asked Mr Low to present the report which had been previously circulated. Mr Low presented the report and said that there were no financial implications for EPC in being a partner and asked for a representative from the council attended the partnership meetings. The Chair proposed she would attend the meeting on 4th December 2014 and that attendance could be rotated in future.

RESOLVED: EPC to be a partner in the canal restoration project and that the Chair will attend the partnership meeting.

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10.6 Groups

10.6.1 Getting Around

Cllr Allen presented her report that was previously circulated. There were no questions.

10.6.2 Church and Burial Ground

Cllr Allen presented her report that was previously circulated. There were no questions.

Cllr Allen reported on the Flood Prevention Group. The SDC Sustainable Drainage Officer is reviewing the impact of hills run off and drainage. Cllr Allen will be visiting Snowhill Nature Reserve to learn more of the project. There were no questions.

10.6.3 Allotments

Cllr Corrie presented her report that was previously circulated. There were no questions.

10.7 Planning notices

The Council noted the following decisions:

S.14/2207/HHOLD. Alkerton Court Cottage, Alkerton. Two storey rear extension to building. Permission.

S. 14/1475/DISCON: Discharge of conditions 2,3,4,10,11,14,17,18,19,20 and 21 from planning permission S.13/2578/FUL. Split decision for consent and refusal.

S.14/1479/DISCON: Discharge of conditions 5,7,and 8 from planning permission S.14/1228/FUL.

Any Other Business

None

Meeting finished: 8.52pm

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Tuesday 9th December 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 1st December 2014.

Signed.....

Chairman/Responsible Officer

Date.....