

THE PARISH OF EASTINGTON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2016 in the Eastington Methodist Church

In attendance were Cllrs Corrie (Chair), Loveridge, Simmons, Bomberg and Allen; District Councillor Davies; Julie Shirley (Clerk) and 7 members of public.

Cllr Corrie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2015 were accepted as a true record.

Cllr Corrie read out the main points of the Chairman's report from Cllr Bullock (see Appendix 1). A full version will be printed in the next edition of the Eastington Community News.

The Parish Council Finances for 2015/16 is available at Appendix 2.

Cllr Corrie introduced each of the following speakers during the meeting:

1. Tom Low – Community Land Trust

Tom gave an overview of Community Land Trusts (CLT) and explained that houses built by CLT remain in the ownership of the parish. CLTs are not for profit organisation and are based in and run by the community. CLTs develop housing and other community assets to meet the needs of the community. Communities that build affordable houses have local nomination rights, meaning that the houses are offered first to those in need within the parish. There will be a public meeting on Monday 11th July 6.30pm in the Village Hall and a Saturday drop-in on 16th July 10am to 2pm.

Q. Would the CLT look at buying properties or receiving gifted properties?

A. The CLT had looked at taking over the Kings Head House Hotel when it was at risk of closing some years ago and converting into flats.

2. Jon Nissler – Strategic Director of William Morris College

Jon gave a brief overview of the William Morris College and its background. The College supports young adults with learning difficulties through development and learning. Due to Government changes the number of students has dropped in recent years but since Jon's arrival the curriculum was reviewed and the student numbers have increased with 18 students attending from September 2016. The College is also able to offer apprenticeships. The Summer Fayre is taking place at the end of June.

Q. How do you work jointly with other Camphill Communities?

A. Completely separate from Orchard Leigh, but the WMCC has offered to work together again. Orchard Leigh provide supported living in the community with approximately one member of staff per 6 supported people. WMCC provide one to one support.

Q. Don't get to see as many of the young people walking down to the public bus now that they are transported by minibus.

A. A number of the young people have more severe needs and aren't able to use the public transport but some still do with their carers.

Q. Are you Government funded?

A. Government provides £11,000, the rest comes from the local authority.

3. Stuart Beard - Stroud District Council Neighbourhood Warden

Stroud District Council now has 7 Neighbourhood Wardens. The role is very diverse, from giving fixed penalty notices to working in the community in conducting welfare checks, supporting local events, and talks in schools. The Neighbourhood Wardens work closely with other departments at Stroud District Council, and supported the elections work. Examples of work this week include

supporting communities where travellers have set-up camp. Stuart took down 43 fly-posted signs in Eastington a few weeks ago; Starbucks are persisting in putting their signs back up but Stuart takes them down again. The Wardens can also carry out security checks in areas where people are affected by crime.

Q. What sorts of things can you give out from SDC?

A. Shed alarms, "message in a bottle" for emergency details that can be stored in the fridge (Paramedics know to check).

Q. Can we put your contact details on our notice board?

A. A leaflet will be available soon that can be displayed.

4. Tom Low – Eastington Community Orchard

Tom showed some photos of the apple day at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground. Usually take-in about a tonne of apples and make pressed apple juice (and cider!). ECO has 172 members. In 2016, the ECO Cider is sold in the Old Badger.

New orchard proposed for Brownings Close behind the houses, a plan of the orchard was shared with the meeting. Currently the land is very overgrown and will be cleared once the lease has been signed.

5. District Councillor Stephen Davies

Elected to the District Council a year ago, and then the wards were reviewed and Eastington is now part of a 2-councillor ward with Cllr Davies re-elected in May 2016. Stroud District Council signed-off the Local Plan in 2015 which includes the West of Stonehouse strategic allocation. The Local Plan has also stopped speculative development with two appeals dismissed in Eastington.

Ecotricity planning application is the next challenge for Eastington. Cllr Davies explained that Stroud District Council does not need additional employment land, more than sufficient employment land has been allocated in the Local Plan.

Cllr Corrie thanked Cllr Davies for the hard work he puts in on the parish's behalf.

6. Tom Low – Eastington Community News

Eastington Community News has been running for 25 years and this was celebrated with a tea party to thank all the volunteers involved in the production and delivery of the ECN. There is an online version of the ECN including "blue pages" for local trades and services. Advertising covers the costs of printing and when there is surplus income the ECN produces a colour supplement. The primary school has been asked to submit photographs for the Christmas edition. Mary Gribble has taken over the editor role. The website is growing its historical section and recent addition includes an electronic copy of the AE Keys book "History of Eastington" with kind permission of the author's nephew.

There is also the "Love Eastington" Facebook page which has a wide following and a lot of historical information has been shared on the page. The page is also useful for instant information sharing.

Q. State of roads and unkempt Alkerton Cross roundabout?

A. Eastington Approaches to Reducing Speed (EARS) works on the softer aspects of reducing speed by having village gateways, planting schemes etc. The Alkerton Cross roundabout was refurbished about 5 years ago but the plants grow and the Council is grateful to Alan Loveridge who tidies the roundabout. The Council is considering plans to maintain the Cross itself.

Meeting closed 8.35pm.

Appendix 1 - Chairman's Report:

Councillors have had another busy year and thanks are extended to those along with Parishioners who participated in opposing the planning application for 1,350 houses West of Stonehouse (the Parish Council's preferred name for this development is Oldbury End). Many of the people involved in this were also participating and attended the examination in public of Stroud District Council's Local Plan; many hours of unpaid work went into both these actions and also into our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which is almost at the referendum stage.

We are very fortunate in having employed a highly qualified clerk Julie Shirley, who has been invaluable in helping to complete among other things our NDP which has at times been frustrating and time consuming. She has also updated all the Councils policies to ensure we are fully compliant.

Planning has also been very challenging and the Council decided in July to formally adopt a planning committee so we could have public meetings and it has been very encouraging to have members of the public present and contributing to these meetings.

The other groups on the Council have also contributed to the smooth running by taking on tasks and writing reports for our monthly meetings many thanks to all concerned.

The new development at Swallowcroft is almost complete with some house already occupied. There are still outstanding issues with Millend Mill which the Council are pursuing with Stroud District Council.

The new playpark at Snakey Lane was officially adopted by the Council in June 2015. Thanks have to go to the friends of Snakey Park for all their hard work in getting this project off the ground. They still have things they want to add and thanks to the section 106 money that will be coming from the Swallowcroft development this should be possible. The friends are still taking on responsibility for regular safety checks with reports to the council.

CIlr Muriel Bullock - Chairman

Appendix 2 - Receipts & Payments Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2016

	Year ended 31 March 2016	Year ended 31 March 2015
Receipts		
Precept	60,300.00	51,588.00
Local Council Tax Support Grant	1,785.00	2,602.00
VAT refund	3,596.82	1,345.69
Burials	3,715.00	4,122.00
Bank interest received	31.44	12.97
Rent and wayleave	77.38	73.51
Donations		2,000.00
Other	11,613.77	6,995.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£81,119. 41	£68,739.17
Payments		
VAT	1,769.48	1,909.29
Hall hire	357.00	372.73
OHMG ground maintenance	1,921.02	1,865.07
Grass cutting	4,450.00	4,275.00
Office expenditure/phone	1,343.16	526.95
Severn Trent Water	44.22	36.25
Audit & legal fees	485.00	535.00
Grants and donations	574.60	150.00
Subscriptions	954.68	307.00
Training	517.50	870.50
Loan repayments	5,522.96	5,522.96
Insurance	763.36	1,106.60
Payroll services	97.30	0.00
Staff costs	16,338.21	9,229.50
Expenses: Clerk and council	585.95	1,340.55
Graveyard Burial Ground repairs	2,647.00	112.27
Footpaths and kissing gates	565.00	0.00
Planning expenses	8,485.00	7,278.98
Repair projects	0.00	4,632.25
Professional representation fund	0.00	8,560.00
NDP/Parish plan	9,356.87	
Roads and Transport	501.39	
Other	339.85	3,020.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£57,619. 55	£51,650.90