

# **EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Email: [clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk)

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall**

- 1 Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Chatterley, Corrie (Vice-Chair), Cozens, Farnden, Simmons and Wells. There were four members of the public present. Also present County Cllr Lesley Williams, District Cllr John Jones and District Cllr Davis (arriving at 7.55pm), and Parish Clerk Mrs J Shirley. Apologies received from Cllr Bomberg and Cllr Loveridge.
- 2 Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.** None.
- 3 Chairman's announcements:** None.
- 4 Approval of the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017:** RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
- 5 Outstanding actions from previous meeting:** None.
- 6 Changes to the order of business.** Item 9.8 brought forward to before item 7. The District Councillors report was moved to later in the meeting pending Cllr Davis' arrival.

The meeting was opened up for Public question time.

Mr Bill Edwards (Public Rights of Way Defenders) addressed the meeting regarding item 9.8 concerning the project to replace the stiles with kissing gates and thanked the Council for the grants. Mr Edwards asked the Council to pay for the gates in order to reclaim the VAT, and for the Council to authorise the Clerk to pay invoices promptly so that contractors do not wait a month for payment. Mr Edwards also asked that the Council continues a kissing gate budget in addition to the grants awarded to PROWD. The Chairman explained that these points will be answered when item 9.8 considered.

Mrs Ann Pitcher noted that the developer carried out a survey of bridleway usage at West of Stonehouse to support the planning application; Mrs Pitcher asked if this included weekends and queried whether the survey was a true representation as she knows someone that uses it with horses at least 3-4 times per week. The application is due for consideration by the Parish Council at the next Planning meeting.

**To receive a report from County Councillor Lesley Williams:** Cllr Williams noted that the traffic was very bad at the start of the week due to a combination of roadworks taking place at the same time. Cllr Williams asked if anyone had responded to the County Council budget consultation, and urged everyone to look at the consultation. The Lengthsman scheme should continue and the Councillors will have £10,000 to allocate to Highways improvements in their Wards. There is also a Community Chest per County Councillor to use over a 3-year period for activity schemes etc. Mr Edwards asked if other parish councils look at the GCC website more than Eastington Parish Council. Cllr Williams responded that she didn't know. District Cllr Jones spoke about the Grove Lane speed limit emails that he has copied to Cllr Williams and asked if she could raise it with Highways.

### **Item 9.8 brought forward: To consider the possibility of the Parish Council managing the stile replacement project in conjunction with PROWD and agree methodology.**

The Council considered the request from Mr Edwards to pay for gates in order to reclaim VAT. It was explained that the Council can only reclaim VAT on assets that the Council purchases and owns. There was a lengthy discussion exploring other options including the Parish Council managing the project and owning the kissing gates; Mr Edwards withdrew his request for the Parish Council to manage the project and asked instead that the grant monies be released to PROWD immediately as the condition attached to the funding has been met. Members of PROWD present at the meeting expressed concern regarding the signatories on the PROWD bank account and also the inability to

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reclaim VAT, an amount equal to 4 kissing gates. Council took a vote and decided that the matter cannot be resolved given the various issues, vote was 5 in favour of the matter being unresolved, 2 abstained. Cllr Chatterley asked if PROWD was a constituted group, it is not. The matter is to be considered further at a future meeting with proposals to be circulated ahead of the meeting.

## **7. Planning**

- 7.1 The Council received an update from the Clerk regarding the West of Stonehouse “strategic buffer” issue. Residents have access to a Barrister who specialises in planning law who has offered to represent the parish in a judicial review at a maximum cost of £5,000. The Parish Council pledged £1,000 towards the Barristers fee, and also agreed to appoint our Planning Consultant to review the West of Stonehouse information at a maximum cost of 1.5 days work. **Action: Clerk.**

## **8. Groups / Meetings / Reports**

- 8.1 Cllr Corrie noted that the next meeting of the Getting Around Group is on 15<sup>th</sup> February with Highways and will conduct a “drive around” on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February with Cllr Wells. Councillors requested to email any highways issues to Cllr Corrie to raise at the meeting.
- 8.2 Cllr Wells gave an update from the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group; the wreaths and foliage are to be removed.
- 8.3 The Council received the notes of the latest meeting of the Strategic Planning Working Group for information.
- 8.4 The Council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January for information.
- 8.5 Eastington Community Land Trust annual general meeting feedback deferred to next meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned to receive a report from District Councillors:** Cllr Jones gave an update from the Development Control Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> January, application S.17/0095/REM was approved with delegated authority to officers to sort out final details. Wheel-washing facilities will be provided on site to keep the roads clean and the water used for the washing facilities will not be allowed to drain onto the road/into existing drainage.

Cllr Davis gave an update on the Subscription Rooms, no further progress and to be discussed again at a future meeting.

## **9. Finance / Procedures**

- 9.1 The Council received an update on the 2017/18 accounts including bank reconciliation.
- 9.2 The Council approved virements to the following budgets: Loan repayments (£300), Audit Fees (£125), Litter/Dog Bins (£385), total £810 from general reserves. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.3 The Council approved the payment of Clerk’s expenses for December 2017 which will be paid with January payroll.
- 9.4 The Council received the Clerk’s timesheet for December 2017.
- 9.5 The Council approved the final draft budget for 2018/19 with a precept of £70,580, which represents a 0.53% increase on an average band D council tax property. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.6 The Council agreed meeting dates for 2018.
- 9.7 The Council agreed to the renewal of the eastingtonndp.co.uk domain at a cost of £18.16+VAT. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.8 The Council agreed to the purchase of external storage box for AED at a cost of £450+VAT, to be met from donations received. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.9 The Council agreed the electricity installation of the two AEDs at the Old Badger and Churchend. The Council instructed the Clerk to explore all cost-effective options to provide an electricity supply at Churchend and if necessary authorised a maximum of £500 for a trench/mole to be dug. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.10 The Council confirmed renewal of the Ramblers membership at a cost of £62; it was further agreed that the magazine to be placed in the phone box library for all to enjoy. **Action: Clerk.**

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9.11 The Council approved the accounts for payment, schedule circulated prior to meeting:

Invoice Date	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Budget
<b>CHEQUE PAYMENTS</b>						
18/11/17	Eastington Village Hall Charity	Hall Hire October £35 Hall Hire November £21	£56.00	£0	£56.00	Hall Hire
<b>ONLINE PAYMENTS</b>						0
27/12/17	Salaries & Expenses	Payroll Dec 2017 & Expenses Nov 2017	£1232.84	£0	£1232.84	Parish Admin
05/01/18	HMRC	PAYE & NI payments to HMRC for Dec 2017	£263.66	£0	£263.66	Parish Admin
15/12/17	PATA (UK)	Payroll Services Oct-Dec 2017	£22.50	£0	£22.50	Parish Admin
29/12/17	Helix Transport Consultants Ltd	Burial Ground Vehicle Access survey	£145.17	£0	£145.17	C&BG
<b>DIRECT DEBITS:</b>						0
30/12/17	NEST	Pensions for December 2017	£107.60	£0	£107.60	Parish Admin
19/12/17	Vodafone	Parish Mobile	£31.00	£6.20	£37.20	Parish Admin
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>£1864.97</b>	

Cllr Bullock and Cllr Corrie will authorise the online payments.

## **10 Correspondence**

10.1 The Council received a list of correspondence received for information.

10.2 The Council nominated Cllr Cozens to be considered for attendance at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2018. **Action: Clerk.**

Meeting closed 8.40pm.

**Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018. 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 9am on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.**

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