

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**HELD ON THURSDAY 24 MAY 2018
AT 7.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

MINUTES

1. In attendance were Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie, Cozens, Loveridge, Simmons and Wells; Anita Sach (Acting Clerk) and 4 members of public
2. Cllr Bullock welcomed everybody to the meeting.
3. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2017 were noted
4. To hear reports from village organisations and projects:

Cotswold Canals Trust – Ken Burgin

The canal group have been successful with in obtaining Heritage Lottery funding gaining £10 million for a £23 million project. SDC is the project leader and the CCT look after the technical side. Stage 1 will take 18-20 months which includes the design, landowner negotiations and planning permission. They are currently around £4 million short and need to find it before the end of Stage 1. The project timeline extends until 2023 and there will be a new bridge, work on the A38 roundabout with utilities and wildlife surveys to be undertaken. When it is complete it should be possible to get a boat up to Brimscombe.

The work also involves biodiversity projects, digitising the canal company archives, community engagement and training of volunteers including learning how to drive large diggers. It is envisaged that local pubs and shops will benefit and the community will benefit with more recreational space.

Eight core partners are helping to develop the canal and run it when it is open, including SDC, GCC and the Canal & River Trust.

There are 33 sub-projects in the 4 miles and detailed designs are in place with some already put out for tender. Projects include restoring locks and bridges, building 2 new locks, excavating a new channel a mile long, dredging, car parking and boat landing stages, 3 new road bridges, 1 railway bridge and 3 lift bridges, creating 'in canal' wildlife areas and major towpath upgrades. The canal will go under the M5 and the roundabout on the A38.

Eastington Community Land Trust – Tom Morrison

The ECLT is a Community Benefit Society set up in November 2016 to building affordable homes and they agreed terms with a landowner to build 23 homes to rent in Claypits including bungalows, apartments and houses. They went into partnership with the Aster Group, after a rigorous selection process, a registered provider of affordable housing. The site was identified through a selection process and because of its accessibility to the centre of the village.

The ECLT has 112 members, £10,000 in the bank, Locality grants of £44,000, EPC

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solar fund grant of £6000 and SDC funding of £29,000. They are currently at pre-application stage and the planning application should go in within a month or so, once issues such as access, drainage/utilities and legal points around the lease of the land are resolved. The Tenancy Policy is being worked on to ensure that any tenancies are for Eastington residents only and to make it possible for tenants to remain long term.

ECLT money has been spent on ground and topographical surveys, ecological surveys, air pollution reports, noise surveys, as close to the M5, acoustic reports, architectural drawings, drainage plans and highways reports.

Mr Morrison was asked by a member of the PROWD group if there was any money available to upgrade footpath EEA48 which runs along the side of the motorway. Mr Morrison that it is not part of their remit but there may be money for such projects at a later stage.

Concerns were raised about the drainage from the site as there is only a 6-inch pipe down Bath Road which already struggles to cope and the new development could create additional problems. Mr Morrison advised that they are already working on any potential drainage issues but would check the technical advice they have already received to see if there could be a potential problem.

Public Rights of Way Defenders – Bill Edwards

The group has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Ramblers Association charitable arm. The parish council had been prepared to give grants from the solar farm and Charlie Bullock funds but had not been able to agree terms with PROWD. Four kissing gates had been installed in Frocester establishing a 90-minute walk which is now totally stile free and two more installed on a local landowners land. He acknowledged the support of the Cotswold Wardens, the County Footpaths Officer and the landowner, Nick Spence. They are hoping for two more kissing gates to be funded by the parish council on the A38 at Fromebridge and Cambridge. He thanked the councillors for the support the group has received from them.

Eastington Walking Group – Bill Edwards

The group started 3 years ago to explore the local footpaths and those further afield to ensure they are well used. They hold monthly walks with participants aged from 3 years up to 78 years. Information about the group can be found on the EWG Facebook page.

5. The Parish Council Chair's report on 2017-18 was received
6. Questions from the public
None

Cllr Bullock thanked everyone for coming and also Ali and Sharon for providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.