

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall

- Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Chatterley, Wells and Simmons. **Apologies:** Cllrs Corrie, Cozens, Farnden and Loveridge.  
**Also present** Clerk Mrs J Shirley, Planning Clerk Mrs K Hayes, Mrs K O'Leary (Chief Executive Stroud District Council), District Cllr Davies, District Cllr Jones, County Cllr Williams, and 13 members of the public.
- Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** None
- Chairman's announcements** None
- Approval of the minutes of the meeting** held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019. It was proposed by Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Simmons and Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- To review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** None.
- Changes to the order of business** None

Cllr Bullock introduced Mrs Kathy O'Leary the new Chief Executive at Stroud District Council. The meeting was opened for questions and comments from the public.

Mrs Allen was disappointed that the Parish Council has not looked at the issue of heavy lorries using Spring Hill from the A419, particularly before 8am. Cllr Chatterley responded that volunteers were invited to assist with a Lorry Watch and none came forward, during the period of time Cllr Chatterley tried to organise Lorry Watch the number of lorries reported had dropped. The Council is currently looking into ANPR cameras and another council has linked the cameras with weight restriction to some success in reducing the problem in that area.

**Introduction from the Chief Executive of Stroud District Council.** Kathy O'Leary has been in post since 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and is settling in and getting to know staff and councillors. Mrs O'Leary is new to the district and is getting to know the area. Mrs O'Leary has had a tour of the parish during the afternoon. Mr Low had given Mrs O'Leary a copy of a map showing the layout of the hamlets in Eastington and highlighting the characteristics of the parish. Mrs O'Leary has a development background and been involved with neighbourhood plans etc.

Mr Low advised Mrs O'Leary that E-CLT is due some grant money that is dependent on the planning application being decided.

A resident noted that Mrs O'Leary comes from a rural background and asked how she can help to maintain the rural nature of Eastington. Mrs O'Leary responded that the parish is already doing what it can by having a Neighbourhood Plan that sits within the Local Plan.

Mrs Low noted that we do appreciate that houses are needed, but the way that things are done could be modified to improve the outcome such as the landscaping buffer around the hamlets. Mrs O'Leary will take that comment back to the District Council.

County Cllr Williams spoke about Great Oldbury (land West of Stonehouse) and is very disappointed that the network is not going to carry into Stonehouse and asked that with future developments that decent cycle ways are implemented. There is not a link between Great Oldbury and Stonehouse, however in the original plans these were in place. A bridge over the railway would be the ideal solution as the level crossing is closed for approx. 20 minutes out of every hour.

Mrs O'Leary gave an update on the Ecotricity planning application; she has had conversations with

Ecotricity in respect of the canal. The planning officers are evaluating the application and a couple of reports need further analysis. Mr Dale Vince will be invited to meet with the whole council to answer questions from members as the application has a district-wide impact. This is likely to be around April 2019. A member of public noted that it was interesting that the applicant can discuss the application with elected members that members of public do not have same opportunity. Members of public can lobby their district councillors to take forward views and concerns to that meeting. This meeting will not be open to the public and is purely as an all-member briefing on the matter.

Mrs Low asked how common it is for a proposal of this size (football stadium) and not in the local plan to even be considered; Mrs O'Leary responded that it is a balance of pros and cons.

Cllr Bullock thanked Mrs O'Leary for attending the meeting and answering questions from the public.

**Report from the County Councillor** – Cllr Williams reported that the Council held its budget meeting where there was some disruption from the public. The budget was passed, the precept increase is 4.99% (2% ring-fenced for social care). The budget councillors are allocated for highways £25k, of which £15k to be spent on capital matters with remaining £10k on cosmetic matters. Cllr Williams intends to use some of her allocation to resurface footways. £10k allocated to each district area for the county councillors to work with district councillors to utilise for the area.

A member of public asked if the spine road for Oldends would be completed, Cllr Davies responded that a planning application is expected to address this matter soon.

It was noted that some vegetation clearance works for the A419 will commence w/c 18<sup>th</sup> February in advance of the improvement works commencing on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Williams will take this up with Highways.

**Report from the District Councillors** – Cllr Jones gave an update, £60k has been budgeted to tackle climate change. There will be an increase in investment in properties from reserves was approved. Cllr Williams was pleased that SDC is committing to go carbon neutral and asked what SDC is going to do. Mrs O'Leary responded that SDC is a facilitator and is looking at businesses and residents and likely to use the £60k to scope the work involved. Cllr Williams suggested that GCC and SDC can work in partnership on the topic.

Mr Low asked about the community governance review and asked when results of consultation will be published. Cllr Davies responded that the review will be published soon and there will be another consultation to those affected, any changes agreed to be implemented May 2020.

## 7. Planning

7.1. Council considered the following planning applications:

Application No:	Address	Details	EPC Comments
S.19/0171/ADV	Parcel H1,H2,H3,H4 Land	1 no. Fascia; 2 no. Window vinyls; 6 no. Flags; 4 no. Freestanding signs; 13 no. ACM signs (hoardings); 1 no. Tray sign; 1 no. Totem sign; 3 no. Plaques; 1 no. Post box vinyl; and 1 no. wall mounted lettering sign.	No objection.
S.19/0194/COU	Fox House, Bath Road	Change of use from agricultural land to garden use	No objection provided that householder permitted rights are removed from the land in the interests of

			visual amenity and to accord with NDP policies EP2 and EP4.
S.19/0120/FUL	Land behind Bath Road Garage	Occasional use of agricultural land for dog training up to 7 hours per week (daytime only, no weekends)	No objection subject to visiting vehicles being parked as close as reasonably possible to the highway to maintain the open aspect of the village edge without affecting residents in Pump Cottage. It is suggested that a small parking area could be demarcated with post and rail fence and a native hedge in the interests of visual amenity and to accord with NDP policies EP2 and EP4.
S.19/0224/FUL	Dovedale Bath Road	Change of use from agricultural land to domestic curtilage	No objection provided that householder permitted rights are removed from the land in the interests of visual amenity and to accord with NDP policies EP2 and EP4.

7.2. Council noted the following planning decisions issued by Stroud District Council:

Application No:	Address	Details	EPC Comments	SDC Decision
S.18/2369/FUL	Muller Severnside Dairy, Oldend Lane, Stonehouse	New building to house the chill water & glycol refrigeration plant	NO OBJECTION 13/12/18	PERMIT 25/01/19
S.18/2526/DISCON	Parcels H1-H4 Land West of Stonehouse	Discharge of Condition 37 (site execution plan)	COMMENTS 13/12/18	PERMIT 22/01/19
S.18/2362/P3Q	Agricultural building Cress Green	Conversion of agricultural building to dwelling under "permitted development"	COMMENTS 13/12/18	REFUSE 21/01/19
S.18/2447/P3Q	Land at Dutloe Farm Nupend	Change of use from agricultural buildings to dwellings	COMMENTS 13/12/18	PRIOR NOTIFICATION GRANT 25/01/19

8. **Groups / Meetings / Reports**

- 8.1 Cllr Chatterley gave a verbal report from the Getting Around Group; the Group has had a quarterly meeting with Highways and the three road safety improvements around the school are being taken forward (20 is plenty signage, reclaiming pavement along Spring Hill, line painting around the junction). The Group also had its first drop-in session today and approximately 10 members of

public attended; Cllr Chatterley has a list of issues raised to circulate and there are some short-term matters which would be easy to implement. Council noted the overnight road closures during the A419 improvements. Cllr Simmons requested that the Alkerton Cross roundabout be cleared properly and improved; Cllr Bullock responded that the Resources Committee has discussed the matter and will update Council in due course.

- 8.2 Cllr Wells gave a short update from the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group; the churchyard bins need regularly emptying. Council noted that 4 headstones have been permanently made-safe by a local stonemason at a cost of £320+VAT.
- 8.3 Council received the notes of the Strategic Planning Group meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February, for information.
- 8.4 Council received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, for information

**9. Finance / Procedure**

- 9.1 Council received the latest bank reconciliations (January) and budget versus spend report for the 2018/19 accounts.
- 9.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for the Clerk and Planning Clerk for January 2019.
- 9.3 Council received the staff timesheets for January 2019 (confidential and not for circulation).
- 9.4 Council considered the one quote received for the new memorial garden and agreed that every effort has been made to obtain 3 quotes and resolved that the contract be awarded to Glebe Contractors for £4,700+VAT. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.5 Council considered the one quote received for the roadside verge grass cutting and agreed that every effort has been made to obtain 3 quotes and resolved that the contract be awarded to Glebe Contractors for £395+VAT per cut and agreed that 2 cuts be undertaken in the first year. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.6 Council approved the bench design for the memorial garden, to be purchased and maintained by the families. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.7 Council agreed to the annual membership of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management at a cost of £90 per year. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.8 Council agreed the Clerk's attendance at the one-day training at SDC for Health & Safety on 12<sup>th</sup> March at a cost of £59. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.9 Council agreed the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC national conference 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> October at a cost of £375+VAT plus travel expenses. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.10 Council ratified the move from DropBox to Microsoft 365 at an annual cost of £79.99 (which includes use of Microsoft apps compared to £79 with DropBox for storage only)
- 9.11 Council approved the revised housing needs survey questions and covering letter following advice from E-CLT.
- 9.12 Council reviewed the following policies:
- Community Engagement Policy (no suggested amendments)
  - Complaints Policy (no suggested amendments)
  - Equality Policy (no suggested amendments)
  - Information Security (no suggested amendments)
  - Website Policy (no suggested amendments)
  - Publication Scheme (minor amendments)
- 9.13 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

Invoice Date	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Budget
28/01/19	Salaries & Expenses	Payroll January (JS) & December (AS & KH) 2018 & Expenses December 2018	£1663.69	£0	£1663.69	Parish Admin

- 9.14 Council approved the accounts for payment:

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Date .....

Invoice Date	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Budget
<b>CHEQUE PAYMENTS</b>						
14/02/19	ICCM	Annual membership	£90.00	£0.00	0	C&BG
<b>ONLINE PAYMENTS</b>						
05/02/19	HMRC	PAYE & NI January 2019	£428.84	£0.00	£428.84	Parish Admin
26/01/19	WaterPlus	Burial standpipe	£17.53	£0.00	£17.53	C&BG
12/01/19	Eastington Village Hall Charity	November & December hall hire (2 invoices)	£70.00	£0.00	£70.00	Parish Admin
30/01/19	Ransome Memorials Ltd	Re-fix 4 memorial headstones	£320.00	£64.00	£384.00	C&BG
01/10/18	Abbey Loos Ltd	September hire / collection	£19.00	£3.80	£22.80	Play Park
31/12/18	Smith's (Gloucester) Ltd	Burial ground bin emptying	£8.01	£1.60	£9.61	C&BG
<b>DIRECT DEBITS:</b>						
21/01/19	NEST	Pensions for January 2019	£109.37	£0.00	0	Parish Admin
19/02/19	Vodafone UK	Parish Mobile	£31.86	£6.37	0	Parish Admin
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>£932.78</b>	

Cllrs Chatterley and Bullock will authorise the online payments.

10. Council received a list of the previous month's correspondence for information.

Cllr Bullock gave an update regarding the Alkerton Cross roundabout and it needs further weedkilling plus new bark and new gravel to curb the weeds. The condition of the shrubs will also be looked at. This will be discussed further at the next council meeting. **Action: Clerk** to add to agenda.

11. Separate business

**Pursuant to 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting.**

- o Council discussed the Planning Clerk's temporary contract which expires on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. It was agreed to offer a permanent zero hours contract up to 10 hours per week. It was further agreed to purchase a parish council laptop/tablet for use by the Planning Clerk. **Action: Clerk** to purchase the equipment to a maximum of £500. There was a discussion about updating the Clerk's laptop which is now over 4 years old. To be considered at a future meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

**Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 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 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

Signed .....

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Date .....