

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th March 2019 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall

- Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Corrie (Chair), Bomberg, Chatterley, Farnden, Loveridge, and Simmons. **Apologies:** Cllrs Bullock and Wells.
Also present Clerk Mrs J Shirley, Planning Clerk Mrs K Hayes, District Cllr Davies, District Cllr Jones and 4 members of the public.
- Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** Cllr Loveridge declared an interest in item 9.4. Cllr Bomberg declared a personal interest in 7.1 application S.19/0291/FUL.
- Chairman's announcements** None
- Approval of the minutes of the meeting** held on 14th February 2019. It was proposed by Cllr Chatterley, seconded by Cllr Simmons and Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes of 14th February 2019.
- To review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** None.
- Changes to the order of business** None

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to address the council.

Mr Burgin was present on behalf of Cotswold Canals Trust regarding the planning application S.19/0291/FUL and available to answer any questions the councillors may have.

Mr Low spoke regarding item 11 community governance review; Keep Eastington Rural had a meeting with the Stroud DC Elections Officer and Cllr Davies. The summary of recommendation details that the parish council has an additional councillor with effect May 2020 and a minor boundary change at Oldends industrial site. The review sets out that proposals to amend the boundary between Eastington and Stonehouse were rejected by SDC at this stage. Keep Eastington Rural were disappointed about this outcome and put forward a five-year plan and referenced Hunts Grove in Hardwicke becoming its own parish after 12 years of development; likely that Great Oldbury will grow to the same size as Hunts Grove at a much quicker pace. Mr Low recommended the parish council requests a further community governance review specifically for Eastington in 2022/23 to take effect May 2024. Mr Low also recommended that the parish council requests an increase to 11 councillors to share the additional workload of the increased population, and that the parish is warded so that the two additional councillors represent Great Oldbury. Mr Low asked the Clerk to check on the trigger points for the new school and community hall to be built at Great Oldbury.

Introduction from the Neighbourhood Warden, Stroud District Council. Carol Novoth has been a Neighbourhood Warden for 11 years and now covers 13 parishes. Neighbourhood Wardens now install and fix Care Line units which enables them to meet more residents. There are four Neighbourhood Wardens currently and two additional wardens to soon be appointed, however Mrs Novoth will remain allocated to her current area. Working hours are 8am-4pm or 11-7pm and work one Saturday in 6 weeks.

Report from the District Councillors – Cllr Jones reported that the Council meeting on 21st February set the council tax with an increase of 2.99% and allocated money towards the district becoming carbon neutral. Council Tax bills are currently being sent out, some by email where householders have opted for this method. Dursley NDP has been adopted. The Chief Executive appreciated the parish tour and introduction to the parish council last month. Patrick Arran, interim monitoring officer has been appointed. Cllr Davies commented on the community governance review and agreed that Eastington should be reviewed for 2024, and suggested a residents committee/association be formed for that area.

7. Planning

7.1. Council considered the following planning applications:

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Application No:	Address	Details	EPC Comments
S.19/0244/ADV	Parcel H8 Land WoS	1 no. Fascia, 12 no. Window Vinyls, 2 no. Double sided signs, 5 no. Flags, 1 no. Triangular sign, 15 no. Tray signs, 2 no. Tension banners, 3 no. Plaques, 1 no. ACM banner, 1 no. Post Box sign and 1 no. Brochure dispenser sign (44 total).	No objection as the advertising is temporary clutter.
S.19/0230/FUL	Land At Fromebridge	Creation of new agricultural access and associated access track	Object regarding traffic safety
S.19/0291/FUL	Stroudwater Canal Phase 1B	Reinstatement of the 'Missing Mile' section of the Stroudwater Navigation and development of associated infrastructure including locks, mooring basins, car parking and cafe/leisure facilities	Councillors asked Mr Burgin questions about the application. Support (Cllr Bomberg abstained from the vote).
S.19/0392/ADV	Parcel H3 Land WoS	1 no. double-sided freestanding sign, 1 no. tension banner, 5 no. flagpoles, and 1 no. ACM freestanding banner.	Object based on highway safety, the signs will be a distraction. It was noted that these adverts were already in place.

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

Application S.18/2326/REM – Parcels H11 & H12 WoS Reserved matters. PERMIT 25/02/19
 Application S.18/2752/HHOLD – St Catherines, Bath Road proposed extension. PERMIT 13/02/19
 Application S.18/2279/FUL – Land south of Puddleworth Lane new agricultural barn. PERMIT 13/02/19

8. Groups / Meetings / Reports

- 8.1 Cllr Chatterley gave a verbal report from the Getting Around Group; the group held a drop-in event last month and is now looking into the points raised and will be put to Council for consideration in due course. The Group is also looking at crossing options for Alkerton Cross and will discuss further with Gloucestershire Highways before putting to the parish council. The next drop-in event is on 17th May at 6.30pm (venue to be confirmed).
- 8.2 No update from the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group. A resident has volunteered to help with the burial ground and Cllr Corrie will discuss with the Group.
- 8.3 Council discussed recent councillor training received from GAPTC; this was a new course trialled on Eastington Parish councillors. The activity carried out was interesting and helped councillors explore the various legalities, however, felt it could have been more varied with some correct legislative references to make it harder/more in-depth for councillors to consider. The pace could have been faster and covered more legislation and less static to get councillors moving around. Would have liked more discussion on why the legalities with perhaps another activity. Would have been useful to cover roles of others eg Monitoring Officer. **Action: Clerk to feedback to GAPTC.**

9. Finance / Procedure

- 9.1 Council received the latest bank reconciliations (February) and budget versus spend report for the 2018/19 accounts.

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- 9.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for the Clerk and Planning Clerk for February 2019.
- 9.3 Council received the staff timesheets for February 2019 (confidential and not for circulation).
- 9.4 Council agreed improvements to the Alkerton Cross roundabout at a cost of £280 (gravel, bark, weed membrane, new plants). Cllr Simmons abstained. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.5 Council agreed replacing the Clerk's laptop with newer model at a maximum cost of £500. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.6 Council appointed GAPTC to carry out the independent audit for 2018/19 at a cost of £225. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.7 Council confirmed the annual play inspections will be carried out by RoSPA in April 2019 at a cost of £68.50 + VAT per site, any additional items over five per site charged at £3.50 + VAT per additional item.
- 9.8 Council confirmed the annual membership of CPRE at a cost of £36.
- 9.9 Council confirmed the annual membership of Gloucestershire Playing Field Association at a cost of £50.
- 9.10 Council discussed running community first aid training courses in conjunction with Gloucestershire County Council (free of charge to attendees). Parish Council agreed to pay the village hall hire fees, and Cllr Bomberg volunteered to take forward promoting the training sessions. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Bomberg.**
- 9.11 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

Invoice Date	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Budget
28/02/19	Salaries & Expenses	Payroll & Expenses	£1677.25	£4.50	£1681.75	Parish Admin

- 9.12 Council approved the accounts for payment:

Invoice Date	Payee	Details	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Budget
ONLINE PAYMENTS						
05/03/19	HMRC	PAYE & NI February 2019	£419.64	£0.00	£419.64	Parish Admin
15/02/19	GAPTC	Annual Subscription 2019/20	£390.18	£0.00	£390.18	Subs
04/03/19	GAPTC	Councillor Training	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	Training
01/02/19	Eastington Village Hall Charity	January 2019 hall hire	£22.75	£0.00	£22.75	Parish Admin
08/02/19	CPRE	Annual Membership	£36.00	£0.00	£36.00	Subs
25/02/19	Glos Playing Field Assoc	Annual Membership	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	Subs
DIRECT DEBITS:						
28/02/19	NEST	Pensions for February 2019	£109.37	£0.00	£109.37	Parish Admin
19/03/19	Vodafone UK	Parish Mobile	£31.86	£6.37	£38.23	Parish Admin
TOTAL					£1216.17	

Cllrs Corrie and Farnden will authorise the online payments.

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

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11. Council discussed the draft proposals in the community governance review (consultation closes 6th May 2019); Council agreed to respond with the following points:
- Preference for an increase to 11 councillors to avoid tied votes and ensures less use of the Chairman's casting vote (more democratic)
 - Request for another community governance review for Eastington in 2022 specifically for Great Oldbury
 - Request for Eastington to be warded. **Action: Clerk** to put on April's agenda for further discussion and to prepare some options in consultation with the Elections Officer.

Members of public left the meeting.

12. 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.

Confidential matter was discussed and a way forward agreed.

Business for next meeting:

Annual Parish Meeting arrangements

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Notice: The next meeting of Eastington Parish Council will be on Thursday 8th April 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 3rd April 2019.