

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk ~ Tel: 01453 799616

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th July 2022 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall

- 1 **Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Farnden, Devcich, Corrie and District Cllr Jones. **Apologies** noted from Cllrs Coombs and Holcombe and District Cllr Davies. **Absent** Cllrs Bomberg and Cozens. **Also present** Acting Clerk Anita Sach and 5 members of the public.
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None
- 3 **Chairman's announcements** Cllr Bullock raised concerns about the commitment of councillors as only 4 present and some apologies not being sent in response to the summons to attend. Council was barely quorate and if new councillors aren't co-opted and existing councillors do not attend, the worst-case scenario is that the District Council will have to take over the council.
- 4 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting** held on 9th June 2022 were proposed by Cllr Farnden, seconded by Cllr Bullock and Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes.
- 5 **Review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** Cllr Corrie asked for an update on the agreed plan to install reconstituted plastic benches at three locations in the parish. Cllr Bullock advised that the Clerk was investigating whether the sites would be allowed by Highways. It would be put on the next agenda for discussion/action.
- 6 **Changes to the order of business:** None

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

A Bath Road resident shared information about a recent speeding survey undertaken by the police where there was clear evidence of speeding, but the average speeds are too high for Highways to consider traffic calming or speed reduction. He had also arranged for an air pollution check to take place outside the Co-op. He also asked whether Council would consider proposing a 20mph speed limit across the parish.

It was reported that the public footpath at Swallowcroft is not passable as overgrown with brambles, and it was suggested that this should be reported using the Report It facility on the GCC website.

The bridleway behind The Chapel at Nupend was discussed as it is overgrown and impassable. The resident had been contacted asking them to cut back the trees and they have written to say that Western Power will be cutting back trees, but it is not known when. The trees are actually outside their curtilage. Cllr Devcich will contact Western Power to try to confirm a date.

Report from the County Councillor

None.

Report from the District Councillor

Cllr Jones updated Council on the political changes within council with 4 members of the Labour Group having left the party and sitting as an Independent Group, including the Leader of the Council, making the Labour Group the second highest member party in the ruling alliance. One of the consequences is that some committee membership will change. The new Monitoring Officer has been approved but no name yet publicised. The Draft Local Plan is to go for Examination in Public in October. Consultation around the future of Great Oldbury will take place soon as it is large enough to have its own parish council.

7. Planning

7.1 Council considered planning applications:

Application No.	Address	Details	Decision
S.22/1305/FUL	Shell Oldbury Chipmans Platt Stonehouse	Redevelopment of an existing petrol filling station	Concerns about reduction in number of petrol pumps which could cause increase in tailbacks on to the roundabout, something that happens already.

7.2 To note planning decisions made by Stroud District Council:

S.22/1041/HHOLD 2 Alkerton Terrace - Proposed rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion. Permitted

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S.21/2744/REM Parcel H17, H18 & H20 Land West Of Stonehouse, Grove Lane - Erection of 131 no. dwellings, landscaping, infrastructure & associated works pursuant to outline planning permission S.14/0810/OUT. Approved.

S.22/0671/HHOLD Aule Cottage, Bath Road - New 2 storey extension to rear of existing dwelling. Permitted.

S.22/0686/HHOLD Walnut Tree Cottage, Nupend - Two storey side and single storey rear extension to provide garage and pool. Refused.

S.22/0319/FUL Nastend Farm, Nastend Lane - Conversion of existing Dutch barn to provide ancillary accommodation. Permitted

The Acting Clerk reported that the appeal for the Cattery was dismissed.

8. Groups / Reports

8.1 Cllr Corrie reported on the Getting Around Group and the meeting with Highways:

There are issues with the siting of the VAS and that, as it is a mobile one, its position has to be changed every 2 weeks and battery charged every 6 weeks. Highways has suggested setting up a Community Speedwatch group so that police can train people to use speed guns and data can be passed to the police. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The hedge on the Bath Road has been cut back by Highways.

It is not possible to have a dropped curb outside Riverside Park as there are utilities right below it. Cllr Farnden suggested that the owner of the land be approached to see whether a path could be installed to one side of the gate so that residents can use it to access the existing dropped curb to cross the road.

Two bollards have been erected in Nupend but cyclists could still get through.

Kissing gate into Nupend Lane has been installed and two more will be installed in September.

£14m has been awarded to install a cycle route between Bishops Cleeve and Stroud and Cllr Devcich suggested that cycle route 45 in the parish could be included in this to be able to access Whitminster more safely. It would be a good route for commuters and local horse riders and she has approached the British Horse Society and they have written to the councillor responsible for the scheme.

8.2 Cllr Farnden reported on the Churchyard and Burial Ground: The flowers have been cleared and the wall repairs around the churchyard are nearly complete.

8.3 The renewal of the rent for Coneygree Orchard was discussed and will be extended by another 10 years the grave digger has said that there is no reason yet to extend the burial ground by 2 to 3 rows.

8.4 Cllr Corrie provided an update on the management of allotments in Eastington. There is an anomaly with households having more than one allotment, ie husband and wife. She suggested that the Constitution and rules need updating and the allotment tenants will be advised and invited to participate. Cllr Devcich will review the Constitution.

8.5 To receive a report from the Great Oldbury Group. None

8.6 To receive an update from the Great Oldbury Community Hall Group. Cllr Bullock advised that architects have been appointed and are asking for a meeting in early August. Cllrs Bullock, Corrie, Devcich and Farnden will suggest some dates.

8.7 Council considered applying to the GCC £600,000 fund to improve road safety; deadline 31 August. Council suggested that a suitable project would be the installation of a pathway at Riverside Park so residents can access the dropped curve and the Clerk will be asked to progress this.

9. Finance / Procedures

9.1 Council approved the June bank reconciliation and budget vs spend.

9.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for June 2022

9.3 Council received the staff timesheets for June 2022 (confidential and not for circulation)

9.4 Council considered the repair of the skate ramp, which has a hole in the concrete at the back and will ask the contractor to go ahead at a cost of £150.

9.5 To update on access to the burial ground water meter so a revised bill can be issued. Cllr Cozens was not present to discuss the location of the water meter so it was agreed that the Clerk should insist that the bill will not be paid until a meter reading takes place.

9.6 Council agreed the appointment of the burial ground path contractor, Option 2; their revised quote include installation of a weed membrane.

9.7 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
28/06/22	Salaries & Expenses	Salaries & Expenses May 2022	£1283.64	£0	£1283.64	Admin

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27/06/22	NALC	How to update Neighbourhood Planning Policies - Cllr Bullock	£32.44	£6.49	£38.93	Training
27/06/22	NALC	How to update Neighbourhood Planning Policies - Cllr Devcich	£32.44	£6.49	£38.93	Training
21/06/22	Royal Mail	Postage - deed			£3.45	Admin
10/06/22	Land Registry	OHMG playing field plan			£6.00	Legal
10/06/22	Land Registry	OHMG playing field title			£6.00	Legal
07/07/22	Amazon	Printer ink + notebook	£46.28	£9.26	£55.54	Admin

9.8 Council approved the accounts for payment:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
19/07/22	HMRC	PAYE & NI June 2022	£532.45	£0	£532.45	Admin
10/05/22	PATA	Payroll services Apr - June	£30.45	£0	£30.45	Admin
11/06/22	Village Hall	Hire on 12 th May PC meeting	£14.00	£0	£14.00	Hall hire
02/07/22	Village Hall	Hire on 23 rd May Internal controls meeting	£14.00	£0	£14.00	Hall hire
02/07/22	Village Hall	Hire on 9 th June PC meeting	£14.00	£0	£14.00	Hall hire
30/06/22	Smith's (Gloucester) Ltd	Empty burial bin £11.07 Annual duty of care £55.00	£66.07	£13.21	£79.28	Burial ground
DIRECT DEBITS/STANDING ORDERS UPDATE						
22/06/22	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 Licenses	£46.50	£9.30	£55.80	Admin
01/07/22	Grapevine Telecom	Office mobile	£39.99	£7.99	£47.98	Admin
14/05/22	NEST	Clerk's pension May 2022	£113.85	£0	£113.85	Pensions

The Acting Clerk advised that invoices had been received from Alan Loveridge for the grass cutting - £1085 and Dale Haines for planting up the gateways - £470 and, as these payments are already agreed, they will be paid now and ratified at the next meeting.

9.9 Council noted the payments received: Burial fees £380.

10. Council noted that there are 3 Casual vacancies.

11. Council agreed to hold a council meeting in August

12. Council noted correspondence received including a letter from a Swallowcroft resident who is asking if the PC-owned hedge on the triangle of grass can be cut back. It is overgrown and too high and blocks light into their garden. Council discussed the issue as the bush is not actually owned by them but the contractor trims the sides as a courtesy. Council noted that the bush is actually owned by the resident and is not the responsibility of the council to reduce it in height. The Clerk will be asked to respond to the resident.

Notice: 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 at clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2046.