

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2022 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Corrie, Farnden, Devcich, Spencer (following co-option); District Cllr Jones; **Apologies** Cllrs Coombs and District Cllr Davies. **Absent:** Cllrs Cozens, Holcombe and County Cllr Housden; **Also present** Clerk Marianne Simpson and 7 members of the public.
2. **Declarations of interest or dispensations in items on the agenda:** None
3. **Chair's announcements:** None
4. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting** held on 8th September 2022 were proposed by Cllr Farnden, seconded by Cllr Corrie and Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
5. **Review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** Cllr Bullock noted that the previous meeting took place on the day of HM the Queen's death, so the meeting was closed to the public and only essential business was dealt with.
6. **Changes to the order of business:** None

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

A resident reported that there were several footpaths and roads that required repair. This included the footpath leading from Victoria Drive to the Co-op, which Severn Trent had dug up to repair the sewer, the surface was uneven and the path overgrown in places. Victoria Drive was poor with potholes and asked when it was due to be re-surfaced. Near the Kings Head car park, the manhole cover is raised and dangerous. The entrance to the OHMG from the main road, the first 3m before the gate is in a bad condition. Cllr Bullock said the work on Victoria Drive had been postponed when the bungalows were being built. Cllr Corrie agreed that a Highways meeting will be scheduled to discuss these issues.

A resident of Nastend reported that the Great Oldbury notice board had not been updated since June and questioned why the parish council had not submitted a report in the magazine in September. Cllr Bullock said the council was out of time to submit a report last month.

The resident also raised concerns regarding the local bridleways which are unsafe for her family to use and questioned whether Council considers that all the hamlets are being treated equally, for example Great Oldbury has had new bins installed recently. Nastend does not have a bin or a village sign. There has been a large increase in dog walkers from Great Oldbury there are often bags of dog mess left along the lanes in Nastend. Cllr Corrie said the village gateways with flower troughs are placed at the entrance to the village on the main through roads only, as a traffic calming measure. Cllr Corrie and Farnden had recently done a check around all the hamlets. They had noticed an additional grit bin was needed in Nastend, and the council can ask Stroud District Council (SDC) to install a bin, if the parish council pays for it. Cllr Devcich will raise the bridleways issues with Highways footpath officer.

Report from the County Councillor

None.

Report from the District Councillors

Cllr Jones updated Council on the political changes on the council with 5 more members resigning from the Labour Group and joining an Independent Left Group. In addition, the Vice-Chair of Council has also stood down. Two inspectors have now been appointed to the Local Plan enquiry due to its complexity and it now requires SDC to carry out a further 4-week consultation on technical documents submitted earlier in the summer. The consultation is only for those who responded previously. The documents being consulted on relate to Transport, Infrastructure, Accessibility and Viability. It is likely the Local Plans will be adopted early next year. A bid to build a Nuclear Fusion plant at the sites of the Berkeley and Oldbury power stations has been unsuccessful. SDC prosecuted a tenant who assaulted an SDC staff member, and the tenant was jailed for 6 weeks.

7. Council considered an application for co-option to fill one of the Casual Vacancies.

The council had received an application for co-option onto the parish council. The application had been circulated to councillors and the Clerk confirmed that the candidate was eligible to stand and had signed the eligibility form. The council unanimously approved the co-option of Mr Clive Spencer. Mr Spencer signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

8. Planning

8.1 Council considered Planning applications:

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Cllrs Corrie, Farnden and Devcich reported that they had had problems with accessing the SDC planning portal. Clerk to notify SDC and request extensions to planning applications as needed.

Application No.	Address	Details	Comments
S.22/1993/TCA	Cleeve Cottage Eastington	T1 Multi Stemmed Ash - dismantle to ground level. T2 Cherry - fell and remove	Support.
S.22/1952/FUL	Land At M5 Junction 13 West Of Stonehouse Eastington	Proposed access and parking associated with the training pitches approved under application S.21/1739/FUL	Cllr Bullock commented that the entry and exits points were difficult to understand. Cllr Devcich noted that the parking had been relocated to avoid the Roman Villa and the pitches have been moved slightly. Council agreed to ask Helix transport consultants to assess this application.
2022/0578/EIAS	Land At Frocester	EIA Screening Opinion Request for a proposed solar farm	Cllr Bullock noted that the entrance to the site is opposite the Eastington farm shop. There will be a lot of heavy vehicles during construction and will likely travel down Bath Rd. Council to request information on the construction traffic management plans and the hours of operation. There is also the Landscape angle from Snakey Lane and Cam Peak. There is also concern for the birds who will be affected by the solar panels.

8.2 Council considered the Revised Consultation on a Planning or Associated Application S.22/1645/REM at Parcel H13 And H14 Land West Of Stonehouse, Grove Lane, Westend, Stonehouse. Reserved Matters in Respect of Erection of 216 no. Dwellings, Landscaping, Infrastructure & Associated Works Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission S.14/0810/OUT. It was previously considered by council in August and there were concerns regarding the block of flats which were originally planned at the front of the site on the roundabout. The Council requested it went to DCC and SDC agreed to that. The planning consultant for the developer held a meeting with Cllrs Coombs, Bullock, and several Great Oldbury residents. They explained the revised plans to move the block of flats away from the roundabout. The revised application has relocated the flats further back within the site. The parish council was concerned some Great Oldbury residents were not aware of the revised consultation. Clerk to forward to Cllr Coombs to request this is circulated.

8.3 Council noted planning decisions made by Stroud District Council

Application No.	Address	Details	Decision
S.22/1621/FUL	Millers Cottage Bath Road Eastingto	Retention of lean to and addition of carport onto garage. Change of use of small area of land from agriculture to residential	Permitted
S.22/1666/HHOLD	35 Victoria Drive, Eastington	Erection of single storey rear extension	Permitted
S.22/0273/FUL	Eastington Trading Estate, Churchend	The erection of 2 no. industrial units (Use Class E(g)(ii) (Research and Development of Products or Processes), Class E(g)(iii) (Industrial Processes) and B2 (General Industrial)	Permitted

9. Groups / Reports

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- 9.1 Council received an update from the Getting Around Group: Cllr Corrie and Farnden did a drive round to check the grit bins and noted the numbers and where they are sited. They thought another grit bin was needed in Nastend with agreement from residents for its siting. Clerk to provide a map of the grit bins. Cllr Devcich reported that she attended a Pass Wide and Slow Ride last month in Fampton to raise the profile of riders along roads. It went well and there were 15 people on horses, bikes and on foot. The leylandii trees by the Chapel and Bridleway Cottage in Nupend is to be cut down to clear the overgrown bridleway. A farmer has tentatively agreed permissible access to the Standish bridleway from Great Oldbury provided funding is available to install a footbridge across his stream to divert a footpath. However, it is early days and the GCC footpath officer is to visit the area to look at it. The footbridge will be in Eastington parish and the permissive bridleway will be in Standish. Cllr Farnden noted permanent bollards have been concreted in at the end of the cycleway at Nupend Lane. Clerk to schedule a highways meeting with the Local Highways Manager and invite Cllr Devcich.
- 9.2 Council received an update from the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group: The burial ground has been cleared and bins emptied and is looking tidy. The Churchyard bin needs emptying.
- 9.3 Updating the constitution and rules governing the allotments in Eastington is deferred until the next meeting. Cllr Bullock and Devcich to meet with the allotment committee. Cllr Bullock said the council, as the landowner, is trying to free up some allotments as there is a waiting list and there were concerns raised. Members of the allotment society reported that the allotments are different sizes, and they will hold an AGM soon and revise the constitution if needed.
- 9.4 Council received a written report on the Great Oldbury Group from Cllr Coombs prior to the meeting. County Cllr Nick Housden had attended the Great Oldbury virtual meeting on Monday and the main point of discussion was residents' concerns over speeding on Great Oldbury Drive. Cllr Coombs and another resident had completed an application for funding from the GCC community speed watch scheme in August, the results of this should be through imminently and will provide additional support, in the meantime Robert Hitchins have also put up more signs and residents will be writing to the developers to ask for them to consider what additional safety measures can be put in place. To complement this Stagecoach have also updated their bus systems to ensure drivers are staying within the 20mph limit and they can monitor this via onboard systems.
- 9.5 Council received an update from the Great Oldbury Community Hall Group. The architects have come back with a draft design which looks good and they were meeting the SDC planners today to discuss the proposed plans. Cllr Bullock said it was important to get Great Oldbury residents involved in the community hall.
- 9.6 Council considered clearance of the bridleways in the parish, particularly Nupend and Nastend and notices to warn drivers of bridleway crossings. Cllr Devcich to ask GCC highways and the footpath officer if signs can be erected.
- 9.7 Council considered a request which was submitted by a resident for yellow lines on Victoria Drive opposite the Badger Inn. If cars are parked at the corner, it is very difficult to pull out of Victoria Drive as it is difficult to see traffic coming up or down the main road. The centre line also needs re-painting. There is also an issue when turning into Cotswold Avenue when cars are parked on the left. This will be taken up with Highways.
- 9.8 Consider disabled provision within the village. This is from a letter from the local Member of Parliament (MP) who has forwarded funding opportunities if parishes want to improve disabled access, eg in play areas, or mobility kissing gates on footpaths. Deferred to the next meeting.
- 9.9 Council approved a request from Alkerton FC to erect a sign of their logo at the entrance to the OHMG.

10. Finance / Procedures

- 10.1 Council approved the September bank reconciliation and budget vs spend.
- 10.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for September 2022
- 10.3 Council received the staff timesheets for September 2022 (confidential and not for circulation)
- 10.4 Council considered setting up a fund for people facing financial challenges in the colder months. Council agreed to set up a fund for exceptional circumstances. Action: Cllr Corrie to draft a policy for consideration at next month's meeting.
- 10.5 Council considered the new maintenance charges for the CCTV at the OHMG. The OHMG pay half the costs. Council agreed to the increased charges.
- 10.6 Council noted that the first draft of the 2023-24 budget will be presented at the next meeting and the Council's Committees and Working Groups are requested to submit their budgets for inclusion.
- 10.7 Council noted PWLB repayment of £2761.48 will be paid on 21 October 2022.
- 10.8 Council noted that the External Audit 2021/22 has been completed with no items for action.
- 10.9 Council considered an application received to the Solar Grant Fund. The Clerk outlined the application from a young Scout Leader from Eastington who is raising funding to travel to the World Scout jamboree in July 2023. Clerk to ask her to attend the next meeting to discuss her application.
- 10.10 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
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26/09/22	Salaries & Expenses	Salaries & Expenses August 2022	£1137.74	£0	£1137.74	Admin
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10.11 Council approved the accounts for payment:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
19/10/22	HMRC	PAYE & NI September 2022	£378.61	£0	£378.61	Admin
02/10/22	Village Hall	Hall hire 14 July, 11 August, 8 September (£14x3)	£42.00	£0	£42.00	Admin
29/09/22	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Limited assurance review of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2022	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00	Audit
DIRECT DEBITS/STANDING ORDERS UPDATE						
21/09/22	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 Licenses	£39.80	£7.96	£47.76	Admin
03/10/22	Grapevine Telecom	Office mobile	£39.99	£7.99	£47.98	Admin
14/09/22	NEST	Clerk's pension September 2022	£112.99	£0	£112.99	Pensions

The Clerk advised that invoices had been received from PATA Payroll Services July-Sep £37.95, Alan Loveridge for the grass cutting £1085, and TDP Ltd for 3 benches £1338.63. As these payments are already agreed, they will be paid now and ratified at the next meeting.

Cllr Corrie and Bullock to do the banking.

10.11 Payments received: Precept (half) £48,540. Memorial fee (Coleby) £79.

11. Council noted the request from SDC for street naming and property numbering for the development at Parcels H17, H18 And H20 Great Oldbury, Stonehouse. Any ideas for a new theme for the street naming, previously surnames of veterans were used. District Cllr John Jones suggested field names. Cllr Devcich to research the names of fields and Cllr Bullock to raise it at the next Great Oldbury meeting to see if they have any suggestions.
12. Council considered the civility and respect project. Council agreed to look into signing up to it.
13. Council noted the SDC Cycling and Walking event on Friday 18th November at Ebley Mill with information on how to identify and implement walking and cycling projects, how the District and County councils can help in this process (such as potential funding options and technical help), and the role Town and Parish councils can play in increasing the uptake in cycling and walking as a travel option. Council not able to attend.
14. Council noted Gloucestershire County Council are rolling out a programme of EV charging points across the county and would like suggested locations for assessment. Council felt there were enough EV points at the Shell garage and there were no suitable places in Eastington.
15. Council considered the Gigaclear site request to place a cabinet on Alkerton Green to enable fibre broadband throughout the village. Gigaclear are working to the BDUK Fastershire program to undertake the upgrade of the telecoms infrastructure in rural Gloucestershire to allow residents access to an Ultrafast Fibre Network which is future-proofed for the next 50 years. To undertake this upgrade they need to locate a cabinet on land which has easy access to the WPD Electricity network and this area of land does offer that whilst also keeping it a reasonable distance from residences. This will allow Gigaclear to provide the whole of Eastington with fibre broadband speeds up to 900Mbps. They try to make the positioning of cabinets as discrete as possible and the west perimeter of this land offers some screening. Councillors had concerns about the size of the cabinet and about it being located on the Green. Clerk to ask Gigaclear to look for other locations.
16. Council received an update on the Community Governance Review. SDC have a meeting at the end of October and will likely agree to launch a Community Governance Review. This includes Eastington parish because the future of Great Oldbury, as it expands, is under review. It could become its own parish, stay within Eastington or become part of Stonehouse Town Council or the area could be split into wards. There will be 2 phases of consultation, where the parish council and residents can respond. They are specifically looking at the Great Oldbury area so it is important the parish council responds.
17. Council noted correspondence previously circulated.

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.

Meeting closed at 21:06