

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th November 2022 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall

- 1. Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Coombs, Farnden, Devcich and District Cllr Davies. **Apologies** Cllrs Corrie, Cozens, Holcombe, Spencer, and District Cllr Jones. **Absent:** County Cllr Housden; **Also present** Clerk Marianne Simpson and 9 members of the public, including the architect and developer of the Great Oldbury Community Facilities.
- 2. Declarations of interest or dispensations in items on the agenda:** None
- 3. Chair's announcements:** Cllr Bullock noted that it is Remembrance Sunday this weekend and, as the Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Bullock will be laying a wreath and suggested other Councillors may want to attend the service at St Michaels & All Angels Church at 11:45am. Cllr Bullock also requested any contributions for the Eastington Community News be submitted early next week.
- 4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting** held on 13th October 2022 were proposed by Cllr Devcich, seconded by Cllr Farnden and Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
- 5. Review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** None.
- 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 asked for an update on the installation of a VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) to reduce traffic speeds. Cllr Bullock said a meeting is scheduled with the Local Highways Manager. The mobile VAS must be moved every few weeks so 2 suitable locations are needed. The parish council has 1 location and is consulting on a second location. The residents can put forward locations for assessment. Another resident asked whether Stagecoach had considered adding the Alkerton bus stop to bus route 64. The Clerk had had no response. District Cllr Stephen Davies will contact Stagecoach.

Joyce Clifford, the architect designing the Great Oldbury Community Facilities, presented the plans for the Great Oldbury Community Hall and the Changing Rooms which will be sited next to the playing fields. The area will include parking, a play area to cater for several age groups and a landscaped grass area. The parking will include disabled parking, cycles, and motorcycles. The orientation of the Hall will enable the playground area to be viewed and is south facing. The Hall includes a kitchen and outside space for seating. Flexibility, storage, toilets, an office. There will be 8 changing rooms to accommodate 4 teams. The buildings are close together and will be brick built and the design is in keeping with the school. Ed Argent from the Developer Robert Hitchins was also present to answer questions. There was some concern regarding the parking provision. Stroud District Council (SDC) had asked the architects to reduce the parking from 60 spaces to 35 cars spaces and 4 disabled spaces, plus cycle rack to improve landscaping and sustainability. There is a good cycle and public footpath network. The community will be involved in the play areas design. The Halls will be run by a paid manager and cleaner and groups of volunteers. Cllr Bullock thanked Joyce and Ed for attending.

Report from the County Councillor

None.

Report from the District Councillors

Cllr Jones had sent a written report prior to the meeting. Cllr Davies summarised the main issues.

Stroud District Council (SDC) last month elected a new Vice-Chairman, Cllr Norman Kay, following the resignation of Cllr Trevor Hall. Long service awards were presented to three members of the Stroud Youth Council, all of whom have completed 5 years on the Youth Council. A Motion to declare a cost-of-living emergency was passed, with the call for the CEO to write to the Prime Minister and both the District's MPs, calling for financial support for those that are in need and a commitment to improve energy efficiency and home insulation to help towards zero carbon target by 2050. The Council approved its response to the cost-of-living emergency by allocating a budget of £100.000 to go towards helping with various measures eg Warm Spaces, Community Hubs and similar supporting items. This will work in tandem with the County Council's allocation of £123.000 to SDC for October to March next year. This County money is on top of the £129.000 it awarded to SDC earlier in the year for Household Support. Another Motion regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Points across Council-owned car parks was passed. This includes at least 2 EV charging points in each car park, with other sites being looked at. Residents should be able to park free of charge. A Community Governance Review to create a new parish, similar to Hunts Grove, on the Great Oldbury development is being consulted on. Also, in that consultation will be included measures to increase the numbers on some Parish Councils, including locally, Eastington and Frampton. The Review results will come into effect at the 2024 elections. Cllr Jones and Davies have written in response to the EIAS application for the Frocester Solar Farm. Cllr Davies is meeting with the Solar Farm developer tomorrow.

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7. Planning

7.1 Council considered Planning applications:

Application No.	Address	Details	Councillor comments
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	Object with comments and attach the completed Transport Report.
S.22/2280/TCA	Land Associated With Dower Cottage Spring Hill	Works to trees near the roadside on the north side of Mill End Lane.	Support, the trees do need to be cut back.
S.22/2302/VAR	Land At 24 Swallowcroft Eastington	Section 73 Application for Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Planning Permission S.21/2746/FUL (construction of detached dwelling) to shift the footprint of the dwelling 1.5m towards the front of the plot	Object with comments.
S.22/2328/HHOLD	Walnut Tree Cottage Nupend Stonehouse	Two storey side & single storey rear extension to provide garage & bedroom.	No comment.

S.22/1952/FUL - Council had employed a transport consultant to assess this application as it was concerned about the safety of the proposed access and the need for adequate parking provision. A draft report had been circulated and awaiting full report tomorrow. It was noted the proposed practice pitches are described as ancillary to the consented football stadium on the northern side of the road and cannot exist independently of the main activity it is intended to support.

- For highway safety reasons, detailed in the report, the proposals are expected to result in the closure of the layby on the southern side of the A419. The absence of suitable alternative lorry parking is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 109.
- The lack of a proposed ban on right-turning traffic from the A419 travelling in the southeast direction, may result in an unacceptable highway safety issue and a severe cumulative impact and, therefore, be contrary to NPPF paragraph 111.
- the absence of the access improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users expected to result from S.19/1418/OUT, sustainability, in transport terms, falls substantially short of what was previously considered a requirement for development on the application site. This is considered to be contrary to NPPF paragraph 112.
- By providing only enough parking for anticipated use means that there is no contingency, if for instance car occupancy rates are lower than 1.4, attendees will need to look for off-site parking.

S.22/2302/VAR – Council noted that to shift the footprint of the dwelling 1.5m forward would result in the corner of the property being further forward on the bend which may lead to reduced visibility around the bend. Unacceptable design for the building to be set forward of neighbouring properties. The porch is proud of the front line of the neighbouring property so aesthetically it looks odd. The original planning consent showing the end of the porch in line with the neighbouring property, and the house itself being set back, was a much better design.

7.2 To note planning decisions made by Stroud District Council

Application No.	Address	Details	SDC Decision
S.22/1891/FUL	Shire View Paddock, Nupend, Stonehouse	Retrospective application for the erection of an agricultural barn	Permission
S.22/1305/FUL	Shell Oldbury, Chipmans Platt, Stonehouse	Redevelopment of an existing petrol filling station	Permission

7.3 To consider the Great Oldbury Community Hall plans and the running of the hall. Cllr Bullock encouraged the Great Oldbury community to get involved. Cllr Coombs noted at the Great Oldbury meeting there was a greater willingness to take things on. Some progress is being made and if the boundaries change there is likely to be more interest. All councillors approved the plans for the Great Oldbury community hall and changing rooms, but were concerned that the number of parking spaces had been reduced.

7.4 Street Trading Application for a catering unit - Layby at Blunder Lock, Eastington. The council considered this application and resolved to approve it for a trial period of 3 months as there were concerns about litter.

8. **Groups / Reports**

8.1 Cllr Farnden gave an update from the Getting Around Group.

There is a meeting with the Local Highways Manager on 21st November and a list of issues will be addressed.

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Cllrs Farnden and Corrie will do a drive around prior to the meeting.

8.2 Council received an update on the provision of general bins and grit bins in the parish. Two new rubbish bins have been requested for Nastend and 1 new grit bin at the bottom of the hill.

8.3 Cllr Farnden and Corrie updated on the maintenance of the defibrillators. A full check of the defibrillators has been carried out and all batteries checked. It was noted that there is no wall sign above the defibrillator at the Travelodge in Great Oldbury. Clerk to enquire with the defibrillator provider. Council agreed to purchase another defibrillator for Nupend to be located in the Nupend phone box.

8.4 Cllr Farnden had cleared the flowers from the Churchyard & Burial Ground. The overgrown ivy and sycamore saplings by the Church need clearing. Clerk to arrange.

8.5 Cllr Combs reported on the Great Oldbury Group meeting. Speeding issues are a concern. The developer has provided '20 is plenty' signs. An application to the GCC Community Speedwatch fund was made in August, but no response yet. One resident is collecting signatures on a petition to see what else can be done. Lorries are travelling too fast. Another resident is attending a course on how to use speed guns. A small neighbourhood watch group has noted problems with people checking car door handles.

8.6 Cllr Devcich met up with the PROW officer regarding the clearance of the bridleways in the parish and notices to warn drivers of bridleway crossings.

8.7 Cllr Devcich reported that 2 new kissing gates have been installed in Nupend.

8.8 Council considered disabled provision within the village. Cllr Farnden asked if there was any disabled parking at OHMG. There was a need for a crossing on Spring Hill for users of disabled scooters and some signs to warn drivers.

9. Finance / Procedures

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

9.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for October 2022.

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

9.4 Council considered setting up a fund for people facing financial challenges in the colder months. Item deferred to next meeting.

9.5 Council considered funding a Christmas meal at the local pub for the Bingo and Chat wellbeing group for 20 people at £25/head. Cllr Devcich proposed support, Cllr Coombs seconded, all approved, except Cllr Bullock who did not take part in the discussion.

9.6 Council considered projects for inclusion in the 2023-24 budget.

9.7 Council considered re-surfacing part of Snakey Lane. Cllr Devcich suggested Cllr Spencer assess the track for repairs.

9.8 Council considered repairs to the play area fencing and recommendations from the RoSPA report. Clerk to obtain quotes.

9.9 Council considered cleaning the bus shelters at Claypits, opposite the Badger, and by the Canal. Cllr Devcich recommended a maintenance contract to clean every 6 months. Clerk to obtain a quote from a local window cleaner.

9.10 Council approved a donation to the Royal British Legion for the poppy wreath of £150.

9.11 Council noted the Hill House solar farm community benefit fee due is £7911.62, a 12.6% increase from last year.

9.12 Council considered an application received to the Charlie Bullock Fund. Council agreed to award a grant of £1500 towards the cost of the Eastington Community News (ECN) newsletter.

9.13 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
26/10/22	Salaries & Expenses	Salaries & Expenses September 2022	£1205.91	£0	£1205.91	Admin
11/10/22	Trade & DIY Products Ltd	2x Dale Bench 1.2m 1x Dale Bench 1.5m and 3 anchor kits	£1115.52	£223.11	£1338.63	Getting around group
12/10/22	A Loveridge	October grass maintenance	£1085.00	£0	£1085.00	Burial ground
21/09/22	PATA	PATA Payroll Services July-Sep £37.95	£37.95	£0	£37.95	Admin
20/10/22	Cleverbridge	Webroot AntiVirus 3 year renewal (to Oct 2025)	£74.99	£15.00	£89.99	Admin

9.14 Council approved the accounts for payment:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
19/11/22	HMRC	PAYE & NI September 2022	£416.28	£0	£416.28	Admin
04/11/22	A Loveridge	October grass maintenance	£1085.00	£0	£1085.00	Burial ground

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01/11/22	GeoXphere Ltd	Parish online 1/11/22 – 1/11/23	£40.00	£8.00	£48.00	Subs
31/10/22	Smith's (Gloucester) Ltd	Empty burial ground bin	£11.32	£2.26	£13.58	Burial ground
01/11/22	Network Connections UK Ltd	Annual CCTV Maintenance from 1st Nov 2022 - 31st Oct 2023	£847.00	£169.40	£1016.40	OHMG
02/11/22	Eastington Village Hall	Hall hire 13/10/22	£14.00	£0	£14.00	Hall hire
DIRECT DEBITS/STANDING ORDERS UPDATE						
24/10/22	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 Licenses	£39.80	£7.96	£47.76	Admin
01/11/22	Grapevine Telecom	Office mobile	£39.99	£7.99	£47.98	Admin
14/10/22	NEST	Clerk's pension September 2022	£108.30	£0	£108.30	Pensions

Training for the Clerk to attend an Internal Controls course, a Budgeting course, and a Year End Audit course – all courses £30 each, was approved by Council.

9.15 Payments received: Allen-White Funeral Directors £1250.

10. Council noted SDC has agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review which includes Eastington Parish and Phase 1 consultation runs 31 October 2022 – 29 January 2023, to consider whether Great Oldbury should stay in Eastington Parish.
11. Council noted correspondence received, including the SDC Draft Town and Parish Charter consultation, and agreed to support this charter.

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.

Council noted the national pay agreement for Local Councils, with effect from 1 April 2022 has been agreed.

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 21:10