

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th December 2022 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall

- 1. Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllr Devcich (Acting Chair), Coombs, Cozens, Farnden, Spencer and District Cllr Davies. **Apologies** Cllrs Bullock Corrie, Holcombe and District Cllr Jones and County Cllr Housden; **Also present** Clerk Marianne Simpson and 5 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 10th November 2022 were proposed by Cllr Farnden, seconded by Cllr Coombs and Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes.
- 5. Review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** Cllr Farnden had checked there are 2 disabled parking places at the OHMG.
- 6. Changes to the order of business:** None

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

There were 3 residents of Bath Road who wanted to know when the mobile VAS will be installed. Several locations had been selected as potential locations. Clerk reported that residents next to the proposed locations need to be consulted and Highways must assess all the locations to check that they meet their specifications.

A parishioner had attended the consultation event held by the proposed Frocester solar farm developers. He supported solar energy but was concerned about the highway's aspects as the size of the solar farm would mean lorry movements in and out of the construction access onto Bath Road over a considerable period. The access to the solar farm site is a track opposite the Eastington farm shop. An entry traffic calming treatment will be required. The weight restriction on Spring Hill should prevent lorries travelling up there, so they will likely travel up the A38 and through Claypits and along Bath Road. District Cllr Stephen Davies recommended talking to the project developer before they submit a planning application.

Another resident reported the parking along Spring Hill Road by the burial ground is causing congestion when parents are dropping off and picking up children and asked if the parents could park in the canal car park.

Report from the County Councillor

None.

Report from the District Councillors

Cllr Davies reported that SDC have set up a forum to communicate more with parish and town councils and held a meeting on budget setting and precepts. The Canal project is over budget and will get £2.5m each from national highways and the national lottery and SDC will put in an extra £1m. The Local Plan has another period of consultation and will go to the Inspector in February.

7. Planning

7.1 Council considered Planning applications:

Application No.	Address	Details	Parish Council comments
S.22/2450/HHOLD	Lilac Cottage Dotloe Lane Nupend	Replacement rear extension with other works including repositioning of porch and access	No comment.
S.22/2499/TCA	Newtown Canal Lock, Newtown, Stonehouse	Trees in a Conservation Area. 3x Acer Pseudoplatanus - Cut overgrown hedgeline down to a height of 1.5m	No comment.
S.22/2520/HHOLD	Orchard Cottage Millend Lane Eastington	Demolition of existing timber garage, wood store and garden shed + construction of home office and carport with garden store at rear. (Re-Submission of S.22/1566/HHOLD)	No comment.

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7.2 Council noted the planning decisions made by Stroud District Council

Application No.	Address	Details	SDC Decision
S.22/2280/TCA	Land Associated With Dower Cottage, Spring Hill	To cut back trees on North side of Mill End Lane, Eastington in order to comply with Gloucestershire County Council Highways safety order	No objection
S.22/1645/REM	Parcel H13 And H14 Land West Of Stonehouse	Reserved Matters in Respect of Erection of 216 no. Dwellings, Landscaping, Infrastructure & Associated Works Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission S.14/0810/OUT	Approval of Reserved Matters
S.22/1844/REM	Phase 2 Sports Pitches, Land West Of Stonehouse, Great Oldbury Drive	Phase 2 sports pitches & associated public open space.	Approval of Reserved Matters

7.3 Council updated on the Frocester solar farm proposal.

Council noted there would be significant traffic issues during construction. The proposed access is off Bath Road. Cllr Coombs suggested the council review the traffic surveys carried out in March detailing the vehicle numbers per day to understand the implications. There would be solar fund community grants available to apply for.

District Cllr Stephen Davies had experience of other solar farms in the area and said the parish council need to decide if they are in favour or oppose the proposed solar farm and recommended contacting the project developers and ask for improvements before the planning application is submitted. Do not assume it will go ahead. There is a document showing SDC has hit its target.

Action: Clerk to circulate the traffic survey results and obtain a quote for a transport assessment at the Bath Rd track entrance.

8. Groups / Reports

8.1 Cllr Farnden and the Clerk gave an update on the Highways meeting in November. Phase 2 of the Spring Hill flooding project will be carried out in early 2023-24. The flooding outside the co-op has been rectified. The resurfacing of Victoria Drive has been postponed until the next financial year. The damage to the road at Nastend by the recent piling work has been reported and has been logged by Highways. Cllr Farnden had requested a crossing on the main road by the Badger Inn, but Highways have said it would require an all-day pedestrian survey and the pedestrian/car ratio is taken into account and a crossing would cost £60,000. Cllr Farnden suggested the school ask for a lollipop lady to help children cross on their way to and from school.

Action: Clerk to contact the school to request a lollipop lady is employed at this location.

Highways had been asked if there can be double yellow lines at the entrance to Victoria Drive as there is a problem with visibility when vehicles are parked too close to the junction. Highways have said it would take 2-3 years and cost £15,000 and require a consultation or a Traffic Regulation Order. If going ahead it is worth considering other areas in the village which may benefit from double yellow lines. For a limited period, can apply for match-funding.

It is possible that the parish council can apply to the SDC Cycling and Walking fund to obtain funding to widen the pavement along Bath Road where Highways carried out some siding work. **Action:** Clerk to obtain a quote for the work and liaise with SDC on this fund.

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 Stroud District Council are assessing whether they can be added to the weekly emptying rounds. Cllr Farnden and Corrie had requested an extra grit bin at the bottom of Nastend Hill, but Highways assessed this and do not think a grit bin is needed at this location.

8.3 Council considered the location of benches in the village. Two have been sited, 1 at the Village Hall and 1 by the co-op. There is one to be sited at the top of Spring Hill, as there was previously a bench at this location and highways have given approval for a bench to be sited here, however a neighbour has concerns about this. The concrete slab has already been laid and council were reluctant to move it. The parish council has considered relocating the bench a short distance down the hill. This will require a new concrete slab at a cost of £180. Council requested that the bench is located at the original location for a trial period and if it becomes an issue for any of the neighbours it will be re-sited. Cllr Farnden suggested 2 councillors meet with the residents first to discuss this option. Council to consider plaques on the benches. This was deferred to the next meeting.

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- 8.4 Cllr Farnden discussed the on-going maintenance of the defibrillators. It requires a drive round to all defibrillators to complete the monthly checks and a report is then submitted online. Cllr Farnden reported there is a problem with the defibrillator at the Westend Suites as the case cannot be opened. Cllr Devcich suggested a rota is set up so that one person is not having to carry out the checks every month. Cllrs Devcich, Spencer and the Clerk agreed to help do the checks. Cllr Farnden will carry out the checks in December and hand over in January following a training session.
- 8.5 The overgrown ivy and sycamore saplings should now have been cleared from the Churchyard. The burial ground pathway is being started on Monday 12th December. The contractor will erect signs and the Church, School and Eastington Park have been informed about the work. It will also be notified on social media. The burial ground will remain open from the other paths during the works.

Cllr Farnden left the meeting 8:15pm.

- 8.6 Cllr Combs reported on the Great Oldbury Group meeting. On-going issues with speeding traffic on Great Oldbury Drive. The first phase of the adoption of the road will be soon. The school is thriving. Stonehouse gardening club are given a presentation on gardening for new builds.
- 8.7 Cllr Devcich reported that the bridleway from Nupend behind the chapel has been cleared and the hedgerows cut back so that it is now wider. A quote has been obtained to cut down the Leylaandi trees which were planted on the bridleway without authorisation by the previous owners.

9. Finance / Procedures

- 9.1 Council approved the November bank reconciliation and budget vs spend.
- 9.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for November 2022.
- 9.3 Council received the staff timesheets for November 2022 (confidential and not for circulation).
- 9.4 Council considered setting up a fund for people facing financial challenges in the colder months. This was agreed in principle. Item was deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Corrie is writing a policy and recommendations on this.
- 9.5 Council considered re-surfacing part of Snakey Lane. The original quote did not include the edging kerbs at the entrance to the lane. Cllr Spencer has assessed these and noted some of them are broken and loose so recommended they were replaced otherwise there would be water ingress which would compromise the tarmac and reduce the life of the new tarmac. Price £6035 + VAT Bellmouth Entrance, £8125 + VAT for the resurface parts of the OHMG access road. Cllr Spencer said it would be difficult to obtain a like for like price as it would depend on other specifications. Cllr Spencer proposed to accept the quote and schedule the work for February 2023, seconded by Cllr Devcich, all in favour.
- 9.6 Council considered the quote for a defibrillator in the Nupend phone box. If you install a Defibrillator into a telephone box, you do require an external heated cabinet with the additional telephone box fittings to be able to install the cabinet. The purpose of the cabinet is to protect the Defibrillator from cold weather and the cabinets have a built-in heater. The quote for an external locked cabinet (keypad lock) or an unlocked cabinet it is the same price or £1,371.00 and includes a £300 grant. Cllr Devcich asked how much the heating costs would be. Action: Clerk to ask the supplier how much it will cost to heat?
- 9.7 Council considered the quote of £1776 to cut down all Leylandii trees on the Westend bridleway. The chippings will be left as mulch on the bridleway and the trees will be cut into logs for residents to collect for use in wooden stoves and fires. Cllr Spencer proposed to go ahead with this, Cllr Coombs seconded, all in favour.
- 9.8 Council noted the GAPTC subscription fees for 2023-24 will increase by just under 3%.
- 9.9 Council considered the quote of £40 to clean the Puddlesworth Turn bus shelter from a local window cleaner. Council agreed to this quote and to ask for a quote for a maintenance contract to clean all 3 bus shelters in the village. Action: Clerk to obtain a maintenance quote for all bus shelter and to check if the Great Oldbury bus shelters are cleaned.
- 9.10 Council considered the draft budget 2023-24. Cllr Coombs asked if some money could be put in the budget for traffic calming on Great Oldbury Drive as the road may be adopted soon.
- 9.11 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
25/11/22	Salaries & Expenses	Salaries & Expenses October 2022 inc backdated national pay award 1 April 2022.	£1534.47	£0	£1534.47	Admin
05/12/22	Badger Inn	Balance for Christmas meal for the bingo and wellbeing group. 14 attended total cost £350.	£100.00	£0	£100.00	Donation

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9.12 Council approved the accounts for payment:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
21/11/22	HMRC	PAYE & NI October 2022	£641.75	£0	£641.75	Admin
30/11/22	A Loveridge	Grass maintenance, installation of benches, cutting the high path, clearing an area by the pond, removing weeds by the gas box and supplying and treating with weed killer.	£1352.50	£0	£1352.50	Burial ground
02/12/22	A Loveridge	Cutting ivy and sycamore saplings around the Church.	£150.00	£0	£150.00	Burial ground
04/12/22	Eastington Village Hall	Hall hire 10/11/22	£14.00	£0	£14.00	Hall hire
DIRECT DEBITS/STANDING ORDERS UPDATE						
22/11/22	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 Licenses	£39.80	£7.96	£47.76	Admin
01/12/22	Grapevine Telecom	Office mobile	£39.99	£7.99	£47.98	Admin
14/11/22	NEST	Clerk's pension September 2022	£116.13	£0	£116.13	Pensions

9.13 Payments received: LW Clutterbuck £850, Solar Fund £7,911.62

10. Council noted the Eastington Methodist Church is for sale by tender. Cllr Devcich noted there has been concerns by local groups who will lose the facilities. The Clerk reported it is not a registered Asset of Community Value. SDC have said the ACV process can take several weeks as they must inform owners and give them a chance to respond before making a decision. An ACV listing can be a planning consideration but would not necessarily prevent certain types of development. An ACV gives a moratorium period to enable the local community to put a bid together, but the owner is under no obligation to sell to a community group.
11. Cllr Devcich noted that Cllr Bullock has resigned from the GAPTC Executive Committee and asked if anyone wanted to replace her. No councillors had the time at present.
12. Council noted correspondence received and previously circulated. The Clerk added that some local parish councils are currently setting up some training on playground inspections at level 1 and level 2 and asked if any councillors would be interested in attending this training? The parish council does not have anyone who is trained in this. Cllr Devcich asked if the council could pay someone to carry out the play area checks.

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 20:50