

# **EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Email: [clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk) ~ Tel: 01453 799616

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall**

- 1. Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Cozens, Farnden, Holcombe, Spencer and District Cllr Davies. Cllr Spencer-Phillips joined the council at 7:45pm following his co-option.  
**Apologies** Cllrs Coombs, Devcich, District Cllr Jones 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. Council noted the resignation of Cllr Jennifer Corrie** in December. The deadline to receive a request for an election has passed so the council can co-opt this vacant seat.
- 4. Chair's announcements:** Cllr Bullock wished everyone Happy New Year. She thanked Cllr Devcich for chairing the December meeting and for submitting the councillor vacancy article for the Eastington Community News (ECN) and noted the deadline for submission of articles for the next ECN newsletter is 16 January. Cllr Bullock wanted to thank Jennie Corrie for all her hard work in the parish; we will miss her greatly, she was a great support to Cllr Bullock and the rest of the council.
- 5. Approval of the minutes of the meeting** held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were proposed by Cllr Spencer, seconded by Cllr Cozens and Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
- 6. Review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** All are covered on the agenda.
- 7. Changes to the order of business:** None
- 8. Council received a presentation from the Project Developer on the proposed Solar Farm Development in Frocester**

Simon Murrells (Programme Manager) gave a presentation on the proposed Frocester Estate Solar and Storage project, which is very close to Eastington, and the site would be accessed off Bath Road. It is planned to generate 50 MW over a 200-acre site, fixed tilt solar panel system with battery storage. Several footpaths run across the fields and would have to be offset. Lorries would likely travel from the A38 down Bath Road. The build period would be 6 months and involve 13 lorry movements per day. Site specific and archaeological surveys have been conducted. The solar panels would be on posts which are piled in and there would be some noise disturbance from the piling. It will be twice as big as the solar farm at Cambridge. Extra hedge and tree planting would be done and the whole site fenced. The grassland will be grazed by sheep. There will be a community benefit fund.

Cllr Bullock asked if the affect on migrating birds had been considered? Winter bird species and ornithological surveys have been conducted and Skylark were identified on the site. Councillors and several members of the public were concerned about transport issues. The noise pollution from the construction traffic. Bath Road is already busy and dangerous. Pedestrian safety when walking along the narrow pavements on Bath Road. The size of the lorries and machinery? Simon reported the lorries will be 20 tonne 6 or 8 wheelers. A construction traffic management plan would be submitted, and peak hours would be avoided, and temporary traffic management would need to be in place. Construction would be limited to 5 days/week. The parish council requested to see the transport plan and asked that improvements to Bath Road, eg widening the pavement are funded by the developers and carried out prior to construction. Simon reported that the proposed solar site will be submitted to planning in late Spring. If approved, construction would start in 2026.

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

A Bath Rd resident asked for an update on the Bath Road VAS project. Cllr Bullock replied that the council had done as much as it could and asked if the residents could provide addresses of their proposed sites for the VAS so that the parish council can consult with the near neighbours to ensure they would support a VAS. Only when the parish council has viable locations, can they be submitted to GCC Highways for assessment.

A parishioner requested that the parish council make representations at the Local Plan Review Examination to challenge the level of development in Eastington. They intend to attend the hearings.

### **Report from the County Councillor**

A written report was previously circulated and noted. The Clerk noted there was nothing specific to Eastington parish and outlined the main points: Stonehouse market is running again from February, and a long-term solution is being worked up to fix the recurring issue of potholes on Standish Bridge.

### **Report from the District Councillors**

Cllr Davies reported that Stroud District Council (SDC) has set its budget. The settlement is more generous than expected. There will be no major cuts but also no major expansion either. He added that the proposed Local Plan does not have much threat to Eastington in its current form, however consideration needs to be given, should other sites fail the examination, as the inspector may change the plan. The defined boundary of Eastington should be defended.

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## 9. Casual vacancy co-option

The council has 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 has signed the eligibility form. The council unanimously approved the co-option of Dr Peter Spencer-Phillips. Dr Spencer-Phillips signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

## 10. Planning

### 10.1 Council considered Planning applications:

Application No.	Address	Details	Parish Council decision
S.22/2474/VAR	Land At M5 Junction 13 West Of Stonehouse Eastington	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Application number S.21/1739/FUL to reorientate pitches. Any lighting that could affect William morris house.	The council have concerns that lighting could affect William Morris House.
S.22/2639/HHOLD	Red Roofs Millend Lane Eastington	Erection of single storey rear extension and single storey front porch extension Support	Cllr Bullock felt it has the room. Support
S.22/2508/VAR	1 Dotloe Farm Cottages Dotloe Lane Nupend	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Planning Application ref: S.21/2600/HHOLD - addition of garden room support	Cllr Spencer felt it was not being overdeveloped. Support

### 10.2 Council noted the planning decisions made by Stroud District Council:

Application No.	Address	Details	SDC Decision
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	Consent
S.22/2328/HHOLD	Walnut Tree Cottage	Two storey side & single storey rear extension to provide garage & bedroom	Refusal
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	Permitted
S.22/2520/HHOLD	Orchard Cottage, Millend Lane	Demolition of existing timber garage, wood store and garden shed + construction of home office and carport with garden store at rear.	Permitted

11. Council noted the Stroud District Council Local Plan Review Examination starts on 7<sup>th</sup> March and confirmed the parish council has lodged a request, with the Inspector, to participate. The council has received a quote from a planning consultant of £6750 to make the representation on behalf of the council regarding the Eco Park M5 Junction 13. Council considered approved the quote.

## 12. Groups / Reports

12.1 Council received an update from the Getting Around Group. The damage to the road at Nastend by the recent piling work has been patched up by Highways, however it is not perfect and there are still cracks in the tarmac. The Clerk had asked the Eastington School Headteacher whether they would apply to GCC for a lollipop person, as the council was concerned about pupils crossing the main road when walking to School. The school do not currently have the budget to fund a crossing patrol helper or to contribute. The Local Highways Manager (LHM) had informed the council that a crossing would cost around £60,000 and take 2 to 3 years to obtain. A survey of the traffic throughout a whole day would need to be carried out to check whether the road would qualify for a traffic regulation order. The PC would have to pay for a traffic count survey or carry one out itself. Cllr Farnden proposed that the costs for a pedestrian crossing is added to the budget for the next

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financial year, this was seconded by Cllr Bullock, all agreed.

12.2 Council updated on the provision of general bins and grit bins in the parish. SDC have agreed to the locations for 2 new rubbish bins to be installed in Nastend and they will empty them. The parish council to purchase them. Council supported the purchase of 2 floor standing bins. Highways did not agree to another grit bin at the bottom of the Nastend Hill. Requests for additional grit bins have been made by residents in Swallowcroft and Great Oldbury. Clerk to ask the LHM if these locations would qualify for grit bins.

12.3 Council updated on the installation of benches around the village. Three benches have been installed. However, the neighbour of the Spring Hill bench is not happy with the location. The bench is sited on Highways land and they approved the location. Council deferred a decision on what to do about this to the next meeting to allow all councillors to view the position of the bench. Consideration of memorial plaques for the benches were deferred to the next meeting. Another resident had raised an issue with the bench that has been installed by the Co-op. This bench is greatly appreciated; however, cars have started to park next to the bench blocking the pedestrian path to the estate. Action: Clerk to ask Highways if bollards can be installed next to the bench to stop the parking if the parish council pay for the bollards.

It has also been raised that the 'Keep Clear' signage on the lane next to the Co-op has faded so cars park right across the turning making it impossible to access homes. Action: Clerk to report this to Highways to ask if the signage can be re-painted and also ask if the white line in the middle of the road by the Badger Inn can be repainted also, as the line has faded, and it is difficult to turn right into Victoria Drive.

12.4 Cllr Farnden updated on the on-going monitoring of the defibrillators. A meeting to handover the responsibility of the defibrillators will be held over the next couple of weeks. Action: Clerk, Cllrs Spencer and Devcich to attend a meeting with Cllr Farnden to find out what checks and monitoring of the defibrillators is required.

12.5 Cllr Farnden updated from the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group. The burial path resurfacing work has taken longer than anticipated due to the bad weather before Christmas but is now progressing.

12.6 Council received a written report, previously circulated from Cllr Coombs, from the Great Oldbury Group.

12.7 The Westend bridleway leylandii trees have been cut down. Council to consider notices to warn drivers of bridleway crossings in Great Oldbury. Deferred to the next meeting.

## **13. Finance / Procedures**

13.1 Council approved the December bank reconciliation and budget vs spend.

13.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for December 2022.

13.3 Council received the staff timesheets for December 2022 (confidential and not for circulation).

13.4 Council requires at least one additional councillor be added to the bank mandate. Cllr Spencer agreed to be added to the bank mandate.

13.5 Council requires 2 new councillors for the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group (to carry out monthly checks of the burial ground) and the Getting Around Group (to consider highways projects, footpaths, etc and attending a highways meeting with the LHM every few months, following the resignation of Cllr Corrie. Cllr Spencer-Phillips volunteered to be on both these groups.

13.6 Council considered setting up a fund for people facing financial challenges in the colder months. Cllr Bullock was concerned about the administration of the fund. It would need to be set up with another independent group. SDC and other charities provide this service, so if anyone contacts the parish, they should be referred directly to the SDC and GCC social services.

13.7 Council considered the quote for a defibrillator in a heated cabinet in the Nupend phone box at £1371. The defibrillator must be in a heated cabinet and the supplier has advised that the likely electricity cost for heating the external heated cabinet was between £3-£5 per annum, however after taking into account the price rises they estimate these have risen to between £10-£15 per year. Council agreed to purchase the defibrillator and agreed that the parish council will pay the additional electricity running costs.

13.8 Council considered grit bins for Great Oldbury, cost £289 each for a yellow 400L grit bin, if the developers will not provide one. A Swallowcroft resident has also asked for a grit bin. Discussed under item 12.2. Council agreed to fund the bins if Highways approve the location. The developers may provide the new grit bin in Great Oldbury.

13.9 Council considered 2 rubbish bins for Nastend at a cost of £252 for a 120L floor mounted bin or £200 for a post mounted trimline 50L bin, excluding fitting. Council agreed to purchase 2 floor mounted bins and arrange installation of the bins.

13.10 Council approved a cleaning contract for the 3 bus shelters - initial clean would be £105 (3@ £35 each) and a regular 6-month cycle would be £75 (3@ £25 each).

13.11 Council approved PATA Payroll charges January 2023.

13.12 Council approved the draft budget 2023-24, with the addition of £20,000 for planning.

13.13 Council unanimously agreed to keep the precept 2023-24 the same as last year.

13.14 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

<b>Inv Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Budget</b>
19/12/22	Salaries & Expenses	Salaries & Expenses November 2022	£1197.75	£0	£1197.75	Admin

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12/12/22	PATA (UK)	Payroll with Pension Oct-Dec and pay award arrears	£42.95	£0	£42.95	Admin
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13.15 Council approved the accounts for payment:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
12/01/23	HMRC	PAYE & NI December 2022	£405.11	£0	£405.11	Admin
12/01/23	Tree Management	Fell conifers on bridle path between	£1480.00	£296.00	£1776.00	Trees
<b>DIRECT DEBITS/STANDING ORDERS UPDATE</b>						
22/12/22	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 Licenses	£39.80	£7.96	£47.76	Admin
03/01/23	Grapevine Telecom	Office mobile	£39.99	£7.99	£47.98	Admin
14/12/22	NEST	Clerk's pension November 2022	£180.63	£0	£180.63	Pensions

9:00 pm Standing orders suspended.

The Clerk advised that an invoice had been received for Village Hall hire 8<sup>th</sup> December £14, this payment is already agreed and will be paid now and ratified at the next meeting. Plus, Village Hall invoices for the PC meetings in January, February, March 2022 were outstanding, and it was agreed to pay these for a total of £38.50, as at the previously agreed rates.

The Clerk noted that the Eastington Village Hall Committee have notified that the cost of hall hire will increase in 2023 from £7/hr to £8/hr, due to the costs of running the hall having increased significantly. The Clerk had also been notified that Microsoft are updating their prices from £39.80 to £36.00 on expiry of our current contract on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. These price updates were unanimously agreed.

**13.16 Payments received:** W B Wood Funeral Directors £380, EON refund £2.05

## 14. Update on the Community Governance Review

The Clerk outlined the process for the Community Governance Review. As part of the recommendations in 2018/2019, it was agreed that a review of the Eastington and Stonehouse boundary be re-considered in a future Community Governance Review (CGR) in 2022/2023 to allow the community and parishioners of Great Oldbury to develop and establish further as a community. This was to allow the parishes and the community of Great Oldbury to consider its proposals again in their area e.g. the formation of a new parish or which parish the community considers to be represented by.

Eastington Parish Council agreed to support Great Oldbury becoming its own parish, if it was what residents wanted; however, it would wish to retain the rural hamlets of Nastend, Westend and Nupend within the boundary of Eastington parish as those hamlets have a historic identity within Eastington. In addition, there are no roads connecting the rural hamlets with Great Oldbury. Great Oldbury is a new development which on completion will consist of 1350 houses. This is larger than the rest of the Eastington parish put together. It has a different character and identity to Eastington village. Great Oldbury already has its own new Primary School and a small play area, and will soon have a Community Hall, playing fields, a further play area, shops, and a pub. Great Oldbury has its own Community Group, which hold regular monthly meetings, and has shown that it can manage its own affairs over the last couple of years. Their needs are different to those of Eastington. The Great Oldbury Community Group has discussed this at a couple of their meetings, and they have felt, as a group, that Great Oldbury becoming a parish would certainly be worth exploring further.

It was also agreed that Great Oldbury residents should contribute to the decision to determine what parts of Great Oldbury would be in any new Great Oldbury parish. For instance, whether to include the parts of Great Oldbury which are currently with the Stonehouse boundary, or whether the new Harwood development should be part of Eastington, Great Oldbury or Stonehouse. Action: Clerk to draft a CGR response and circulate to all councillors prior to publishing the response on the parish council website and on Facebook to allow parishioners to comment before the consultation deadline on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

15. To note correspondence, which had been 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](mailto:clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk).

Meeting closed at 21:35