

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th April 2023 at 7.00pm in Eastington Village Hall

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence** In attendance Cllrs Bullock (Chair), Spencer, Linforth, Spencer-Phillips, Pitcher, Cozens and District Cllrs Jones and Davies (arrived 8pm). **Apologies** Cllrs Farnden, Coombs, Devcich and County Cllr Housden; **Also present** Clerk Marianne Simpson and 4 members of the public.
2. **Declarations of interest or dispensations in items on the agenda:** Cllr Cozens declared an interest in planning item 8.1 application S.23/0726/AFP and did not take part in the discussion. Cllr Pitcher declared an interest in planning item 8.1 application S.23/0405/FUL and did not take part in the discussion.
3. **Chair's announcements:** Cllr Bullock announced, that while she will be staying on the council, she is not intending on standing for Chair of the Council this year so a new Chair will need to be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. If anyone is interested in standing as the Chair, please let the Clerk know.
4. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting** held on 9th March 2023 were proposed by Cllr Spencer-Phillips, seconded by Cllr Spencer and Council RESOLVED to accept the minutes.
5. **Review outstanding actions from previous meeting:** All are pending or are covered on the agenda.
6. **Changes to the order of business:** None

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

A resident of Bath Road enquired whether a VAS (vehicle activated sign) or an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) is being proposed for Bath Road. The 3 residents at the meeting preferred the ANPR option as it will not need moving and repeated speeding offenders will get a visit from the police. More road markings to notify drivers they are entering a 30mph area were also requested. It was noted that a farm gate has been installed opposite the garage on Bath Road. Council noted that the gate has been there a long time and is not a vehicular access.

A parishioner asked when the burial path will be finished. The rough stones are difficult to walk on. Cllr Bullock was aware it was taking longer than expected, partly due to difficulties in obtaining materials, and hoped it would be finished soon.

Report from the County Councillor

None.

Report from the District Councillors

Cllr Jones reported the cost-of-living support will continue so if anyone is struggling, they can contact Stroud District Council (SDC) for help. The taxi licensing consultation is going to council for adoption – it will encourage the use of lower polluting vehicles and exclude some of the most polluting cars. The consultation on proposed amendments to the Street trading policy will mean any contentious applications will go to a panel to be determined, rather than officer delegation. An SDC tenant in Dursley has been evicted for storing scrap metal in his garden and making his neighbours life a misery. A by-election, following resignation of a councillor in the Painswick and Upton ward, will be held in May and voters will be required to present photo ID.

7. Casual vacancy co-option

The council had received one 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 Richard Maisey. He was unable to attend the meeting, so will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form prior to the May meeting so he can join the council then. A further late application had also been received and will be considered at the next meeting.

8. Planning

- 8.1 Planning applications to consider:

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Application No.	Address	Details	Parish council decision
S.23/0458/REM	Site For Community Facilities West Of Parcel H13 Great Oldbury	Proposed community hall and hanging room facilities, equipped play area (NEAP) associated access and car/cycle parking facilities (Reserved Matters application relating to outline planning permission S.14/0810/OUT)	No Comment
S.23/0492/TCA	Eastington Park Churchend Eastington	430 Common Lime - Remove deadwood and hangers. 431 Beech - Overall crown reduction and removal of deadwood. 432 Beech - Remove deadwood. 523 Oak - Remove deadwood. 524 Beech - prune crown and remove deadwood. 526 Sycamore - Remove deadwood. 527 Oak - remove deadwood. 528 Oak - Prune and remove deadwood. 529/530 Oak - Remove deadwood. G7 Ash x2 - Remove deadwood, 504 Willow x2 and Cherry x4 - Fell. 508 Western Red Cedar - Remove top and deadwood. 542 Weeping Willow - Pollard at 5m. 546 Cedar of Lebanon - Remove deadwood and crown thin.	No Comment, but would request that the deadwood is kept and stacked in a corner for nature conservation; to provide habitat for fungi and small mammals.
S.23/0405/FUL	NastendGrange Nastend Lane	Horse menage & turnout	Support
S.23/0542/HHOLD	Beech House Westend	Erection of a two-storey side extension.	Support
S.23/0556/HHOLD	Compton House Spring Hill Eastington	Replacement garage roof to incorporate four solar panels. Replacement porch and installation of cladding. (Retrospective)	Cllr Spencer noted one objection that the new roof reduces light to their property. Owner has offered to change roof colour. No Comment.
S.23/0675/HHOLD	43 Swallowcroft Eastington	Demolition of garage, rear porch and chimney. Single storey side extension. Parking space to front of property.	Support
S.23/0726/AFPA	Alkerton Green Farm, Alkerton	2 Silage Bunkers with 3.05m precast panels walls-30m x 38m	Support
S.23/0445/OUT	Land South Of Grove Lane, Whitminster	Outline application with all matters reserved for mixed use development comprising up to 900 residential dwellings, 4.8 ha of employment land (comprising up to 20,000 sq m (GIA) Use classes E(g)(ii), E(g)(iii), B2 and B8), strategic transport interchange hub, sport and recreation facilities. Associated ancillary facilities, works, infrastructure, open space including allotments & landscaping. Vehicular access from the A38/A419 roundabout & Grove Lane.	No comment at this stage.
S.23/0440/OUT	Land North Of, Grove Lane, Whitminster	Outline application with all matters reserved for mixed use development comprising up to 1,240 residential dwellings, primary school, local centre of 1.6 ha (comprising commercial business and service uses (Use Class E), drinking establishment and hot food takeaway (Sui Generis) with a GIA limit of 4,000 sq m of which no more than 1,207 sq m (GIA) shall be used for retail (Class E(a)). The maximum single retail unit size shall comprise of no more than 835 sq m), local transport interchange hub, sport and recreation facilities. Associated ancillary facilities, works, infrastructure, open space including allotments and landscaping.	No comment at this stage.

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

8.2 Planning decisions made by Stroud District Council were noted.

Application No.	Address	Details	SDC Decision
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	Permitted
S.22/2747/HHOLD	2 Millend Row, Millend Lane	Erection of single story wraparound extension	Withdrawn
S.21/2033/DISCON	Land At M5 Junction 13 West Of Stonehouse	Discharge of Conditions of S.20/1256/FUL	Compliance
S.23/0487/DISCON	Land At, Fromebridge, Whitminster	Discharge condition 7 (construction environment management plan) from permitted application S.20/2109/FUL	Compliance

The Clerk reported that the application S.22/1952/FUL has been permitted, however it will result in the closure of the west-bound lay-by and no provision has been made for this. GCC were questioned about this at the time, but responded only last week to confirm the lay-by will be closed. This temporary arrangement could be in place for many years. **Action:** Clerk to ask Geraldine LeCointe at SDC why the training pitches application made no reference to the need to close the lay-by, and what provision will be made for the loss of the lay-by.

8.3 Update on the Stroud District Council Local Plan Review Examination. The Clerk reported on the planning consultants reply to our concern regarding the employment land requirement being increased and our request to challenge this. They confirmed the Inspector did note the need for a Main Modification (MM) regarding the employment land requirement to be provided within CP2 rather than reference to employment supply. It is for the Council to confirm the actual requirement rather than a range within policy to provide certainty. Whilst the planning consultant did not specifically comment on the 22ha increase during the session, their Hearing Statement to Matter 4 sets out the reasons for why EPC do not consider the higher scenarios justified and the reasons they consider the figures to be unsound. The submitted written representations carry as much weight as oral evidence at Hearing sessions. During the hearing session on Matter 4, SDC went through the latest residual requirement up to 2040 which includes an additional 22ha requirement. The exact employment figures to be included as part of the MM are yet to be confirmed and will be discussed as part of Matter 8 in May 2023. Cllr Jones noted that some of the May hearings have slipped to June. Cllr Davies to ask SDC why the employment land requirement has been increased.

8.4 Council considered the request from GCC to re-consider the PC original objection to the proposed diversion of public footpath EEA 13 at Brunel Way. Cllr Spencer-Phillips reiterated his view that the proposed diversion is not needed. **Action:** Clerk to ask GCC to meet at the site to understand the existing footpath is overgrown and could easily be cleared and there is no safety issue.

9. Groups / Reports

9.1 Council received an update from the Getting Around Group. Clerk reported the Local Highways Manager (LHM) had assessed the proposed Bath Road VAS locations. One location (on each side of the road) is suitable. Another option raised was to install an ANPR camera instead as this does not need to be moved. The soil and grass at the back of the Bath Road pavement was scraped back when the road was closed to determine how far back the tarmac goes. Cllr Spencer-Phillips reported the burial ground path is currently rough stones and cannot be walked on. The bridleway sign at the entrance to the footpath at the bottom end of Nupend Lane needs fixing, and agreed to arrange the repair. Some Nupend residents have raised a safety issue regarding the footpath from Nupend Lane leading to Great Oldbury. The tarmac footpath is wide and exits directly onto the road, with only 2 bollards at the end. A child on a bike could ride out into the road. An overlapping barrier needs to be installed to prevent this. Also, the damaged stile on Nupend Lane by the bungalow has not yet been replaced with a kissing gate. **Action:** Clerk to get the developer to install a chicane barrier at the end of the tarmac footpath to prevent cyclists from inadvertently exiting into the path of cars and farm vehicles. **Action:** Clerk to ask the developer why the damaged wooden stile in Nupend was not replaced with the kissing gate, arranged by the parish council, 3 weeks ago.

9.2 Council considered reuse of the 3 kissing gates removed from public footpath EEA57. One kissing gate to be installed by the developer to replace the broken stile on Nupend Lane. One kissing gate to be installed to replace the wooden stile at the end of Broadfield Road where the SDC-owned fence is damaged. **Action:** Clerk to ask SDC to repair the fence so a kissing gate can be installed and if SDC will not repair the fence, Clerk to obtain quotes for the repair. The third kissing gate could be used on the footpath by Fullers Close. **Action:** Clerk to ask the CLT if they will pay for the installation.

9.3 Council received a verbal update from the Churchyard & Burial Ground Group. Cllr Pitcher requested that the weeds at the right-hand side of the Church entrance be removed but leave the begonias. Council to mark the wildflower area in the cemetery to ensure the area is not cut during the wildflower season.

9.4 A resident of Great Oldbury (GO) reported on the GO meetings, which are now held online. Solar panels will

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

be supported by the developer and the covenants on this will be removed.

- 9.5 Council received an update on notices to warn drivers of bridleway crossings in Great Oldbury. GCC will not erect bridleway signs until the road is adopted. There are signs notifying drivers of cycle routes.
- 9.6 No-one has volunteered to take on the voluntary flood warden role.
- 9.7 Council noted the SDC's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Strategic Funding Scheme 2023 has opened for key infrastructure projects. Action: Council to bid for funding for a pedestrian crossing on Spring Hill to tie in with the improvements in access to the canal path across the district which will lead to more walkers through Eastington, and to enable safer walking routes between the village and the Great Oldbury development.

10. Finance / Procedures

- 10.1 Council approved the March bank reconciliation and budget vs spend.
- 10.2 Council approved the payment of expenses for March 2023
- 10.3 Council received the staff timesheets for March 2023 (confidential and not for circulation)
- 10.4 Clerk reported no progress on resolving the WaterPlus bill for the standtap at Eastington burial ground.
- 10.5 Council noted it is too late to plant 12 whips on the Cotswold Avenue Green. This will be arranged for Autumn planting, once SDC have given permission. Council approved the cost of circa £500 for the trees.
- 10.6 Council approved the purchase of 5 x 10m bunting at a cost of £15.60 each and a banner for the Village Hall railings at a cost of £63.36 for the King's Coronation. Hamlets to apply to the parish council for the bunting, or to apply for up to £100 towards coronation celebrations.
- 10.7 Council approved the Bath Road pavement scraping works at a cost £1291.20 and agreed Cllr Spencer to appoint a contractor to resurface the pavement to its maximum width.
- 10.8 Council considered Snakey Park Play area repairs to surface matting and tunnel entrances as individually specified in the quote previously circulated. Options include minimal mat replacement or larger areas of new matting, and replacement timbers with new concrete at tunnel entrances. Total cost £6351 to replace larger areas of matting and the logs at the tunnel's entrances. Cllr Spencer to visit the play area and determine what work is required. The RoSPA report will be carried out in April when further work may be identified.
- 10.9 Council noted that Eastington Parish Council has been allocated £1,920.50 from CIL funding. This must be spent within 5 years. Council agreed the money will be allocated to the play area repairs.
- 10.10 Council noted the PWLB loans outstanding balances at 31 March 2023 are: PW494779-OHMG £14,956.02 (term end date 21 Apr 2028), PW495366-Land at Alkerton £12,976.32 (term end date 21 Oct 2028).
- 10.11 Council ratified the payments made between meetings:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
24/03/23	Salaries & Expenses	Salaries & Expenses February 2023	£1162.11	£0	£1162.11	Admin

- 10.12 Council approved the accounts for payment:

Inv Date	Payee	Details	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
21/03/23	HMRC	PAYE & NI March 2022	£384.24	£0	£384.24	Admin
17/01/22	Community Heartbeat Trust	Annual Support Cost Year 3 (min 4 years) 20/02/2022-20/02/2023 Node 5776	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00	Defibrillators
23/03/23	Smith's (Gloucester) Ltd	Works carried out to remove the grassy areas of the back of the footpath along Bath Road to show the extent of the existing tarmac.	£1076.00	£215.20	£1291.20	Highways
02/04/23	Village Hall	Hall hire 12 Jan, 9 Feb 2023	£32.00	£0	£32.00	Admin
02/04/23	Village Hall	Hall hire 9 March 2023	£16.00	£0	£16.00	Admin
31/03/23	Boyer Planning	Preparation and attendance at Stroud District Council Local Plan Review Examination Online Hearing Session on Matter 4: Employment Need.	£895.55	£175.00	£1070.55	Planning
14/03/23	GAPTC	Being a Better Councillor Course - online	£25.00	£0	£25.00	Training
21/03/23	PATA UK	Payroll services Jan-March 2023	£32.85	£0	£32.85	Admin

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

DIRECT DEBITS/STANDING ORDERS UPDATE						
22/03/23	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 Licenses	£45.40	£9.08	£54.48	Admin
03/04/23	Grapevine Telecom	Office mobile	£39.99	£7.99	£47.98	Admin
24/03/23	NEST	Clerk's pension February 2023	£113.01	£0	£113.01	Pensions

10.13 Payments received: Allen & White Funeral Directors £760, Ransome Memorials £120

11. Policy and Procedures

To review Standing Orders. The Standing Orders were reviewed in May 2022 and no further amendments have been made.

12. Council agreed to support the SDC Community Governance Review draft recommendations.

13. Council agreed to support the SDC Street Trading Policy review. The main proposal is that contentious applications or other matters can be referred to a hearing panel for a decision, this will make it more open and fairer to the applicant and anyone objecting.

14. Council noted correspondence received. Cllrs Spencer-Phillips, Pitcher and Linforth to attend Being a Better Councillor training on 18th April organised by Stonehouse Town Council at a cost of £10 per person.

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 8:50 pm.