

Eastleach Parish Council Meeting Eastleach Village Hall, 7.00 p.m. Wednesday 8th January 2020.

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Minutes

Present Councillors:

Pete Mc Hugh, Chairman, Rick Whiteley, Vice Chairman
David Jenkinson, Stephen Wells, Raymond Theodoulou- CDC, GCC

1. **Apologies** for absence : Cllr Claudia Norman
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes of the EPC meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2019, had previously been circulated and agreed by all.
Cllr R W proposed acceptance and Cllr S W seconded the proposal.
The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. **GCC/CDC up-date**

G.C.C report

Councillor Raymond Theodoulou reported that GCC's first priority is to protect the most vulnerable people in Gloucestershire. He commented that the Children's Care budget was proving challenging with the ever increasing number of children in GCC's care. This has almost doubled since 2018 and is a statutory responsibility.

The part of GCC's proposed budget covers:

- £11m extra to protect children in the county and an additional £2m to care for vulnerable adults.
- £44.5m Investment in extra funding for Gloucestershire's schools
- £150m continued investment to improve and upgrade the county roads to include
- £57.67m towards highways schemes
- £6.9m pothole action fund
- Improvements on the A419 scheme
- £2.4m proposed for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service to include £1.2m for fire appliances and equipment
- £1.12m to upgrade Household Recycling Centres equipment and facilities

To cover the proposed budget, GCC were proposing to levy a 4% increase onto Council Rates, which was represented by a 2% general increase and an additional 2% Adult Care Levy.

Signed.....

Pete McHugh, Chairman

CDC report

Councillor Raymond Theodoulou reported that CDC would maintain a cap of 2% on Council Tax.

The proposed budget includes:

- £185,000 towards addressing climate change
- £850,000 over the next three years towards updating CDC Local Plan ensuring it is green to the core.
- £677,000 for an improved waste service commencing March 2020
- £85,000 for community grants
- £16 million to meet the demand for parking spaces in Cirencester by planning a new multi storey car park.

To meet these costs, CDC proposes:

- An increase in Council Tax of £5 a year for the average (Band D) household.
- Increased parking charges – however CDC will continue with free parking after 3pm where it is currently offered.
- An increase in the garden waste collection subscription charge. This will rise by £5 pa over the next three years bringing the charge up from £30 to £45. This is hoped to make the service self-funding.

Cllr Pete McHugh asked Cllr R Theodoulou to investigate why Eastleach grit bins had not been refilled despite EPC request on more than one occasion.

The Clerk also asked Cllr R Theodoulou if he could investigate why GCC Highways had not paid EPC invoice despite it being sent in July.

Cllr R Theodoulou informed EPC that that County Councillors had been given an allowance of £10k to be used for community funding. Cllr P McHugh suggested that the Village Hall would find this useful as a contribution could be used towards the repair of the village hall roof.

Cllr Pete McHugh thanked Cllr R Theodoulou for his continued support.

5. Finance

5.1 Account balances

The Clerk reported that as of the 30th December:

The Treasurer's account stood at £ 3,938.84

The Bazley Fund stood at £14,245.60

5.2 Accounts to settle: None

5.3 Agreement of 2020 Precept

It was agreed that the Precept required for 2020/2021 would be set at £7750.00

Cllr Pete McHugh proposed the motion, Cllr Stephen Wells seconded the action.

Cllr Pete McHugh proposed that £2k be transferred from the Treasurers account into the Baxley Fund account to cover the cost of playground maintenance 2020/2021.

Cllr Rick Whitely seconded the motion.

Signed.....

Pete McHugh, Chairman

6. Planning

6.1 Discussion concerning current planning applications

- a) 39 Eastleach has now been withdrawn
- b) 12 Eastleach has been granted
- c) 44 Eastleach – no objections from EPC

6.2 Unscheduled work in the Parish

Cllr Pete McHugh reported that he had spoken with ECT concerning replacement of Metal/ timber windows with UPVC.

ECT advised that they had asked for guidance from Planning. They were advised that planning permission was NOT NEEDED. Cllr Pete Mc Hugh stated that clarification on this is required as Planning emailed him saying PP WAS required. This item will be discussed at the next EPC meeting in March.

7. Gloucestershire Highways issues:

It was noted that GCC had resurfaced the road from Southrop down to the OCC also additional Pot holes were being dealt with.

8. Village issues

8.1 Playground update

Cllr P McHugh recommended that the playbark should be replaced by Adventure, who had recently updated the Playground.

He estimated that 5 bags of play bark would be required.

Work to be scheduled once the wet winter weather had receded.

Cllr Pete McHugh also commented that the Cotswold Wardens had reported that the Bridleway had been incorrectly reported as a footpath. It was to be reported to the British Horse Riding association to be re-instated.

8.2 River and river bank update

Cllr Pete McHugh recommended that the work required on the riverbank should be postponed for at least a month until the weather had improved because the river was high.

8.3 Village Hall update

Cllr Pete McHugh informed the floor that the Village Hall Association was in the process of applying for grants for its necessary repairs.

8.4 Annual Litter pick

It was agreed that the date for Village Litter Pick will be 7th March.

8.5 Telephone Box

A discussion took place concerning the adoption of the Telephone box.

It was agreed that before this could take place, technical advice should be taken by owners of the adjacent cottage over claims of possible damp seepage emanating from the base of the Box and affecting their property. All agreed that EPC should also seek a report from BT as to the condition of the Box before agreeing any further action of adoption of the Box.

9. Clerk's up-date; None

10. Other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is urgent: none

The date for the next Council meeting is 11th March 2020

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Signed.....

Pete McHugh, Chairman