

# EASTLEACH PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023

**Present:** Cllr Lawson Cllr Bailey Cllr Fenton  
Cllr Conlan Cllr Hanson

**In attendance:** Vanessa Lawrence (Locum Clerk), District Cllr Fowles, County Cllr Morris and 20+ members of the public

**036 23/24** **Apologies for absence**  
None received – all present

**037 23/24** **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**  
None

**038 23/24** **To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Proposed Cllr Bailey, seconded Cllr Lawson – all in favour

**039 23/24** **To co-opt applicants for the role of Councillor**  
Having previously attended Council meetings and submitting brief descriptions of their reasons for wanting to become Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Edward Conlan and Matthew Hanson to the role of Councillor for Eastleach Parish Council. Proposed Cllr Fenton, seconded Cllr Lawson – all in favour.

**040 23/24** **To accept the declarations of acceptance of office from new Councillors**  
The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was accepted by Council and was signed by Matthew Hanson and Edward Conlan and was duly witnessed by the Clerk.

**041 23/24** **Clerk's Report**  
Items covered within the Agenda.

**042 23/24** **To agree to adjourn the meeting for Public Participation, if members of the public are present - there is a 10 minute time limit**  
It was **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for public participation. – Proposed Cllr Bailey, seconded Cllr Lawson – all in favour.

Over 20 Members of the public were in attendance to voice their concerns regarding recent news that the Ernest Cook Trust who

own over 20 rental properties in the village are intending to sell some of these properties. It was pointed out that the Parish Council have no powers relating to this as this is private landowner. The Chair read out an e-mail that she had received from the ECT which briefly explained their intentions, but did not give any precise details as to their plans i.e. how many properties and which properties might be affected by this news. It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with the Trust, which the Chair said she would be willing to organise. District Cllr Fowles said that he felt that Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown should be advised of this news and to seek his advice and potentially his intervention. County Cllr Morris said that he felt that this information should be made known more widely and that he was aware that other villages in the vicinity are going to be affected. It was left that Cllr Fowles would get in touch with Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown and the Parish Council would arrange a meeting with the Trust.

The following concerns were raised by the MOP's present:

- 2 tenanted properties are known to be affected and 1 vacant property.
- Affect on village life if this trend continues
- County Cllr liaising with other parishes that might be having similar issues
- Parish Council to seek further information to see if they can do more given that it is not in their remit to dictate to landowners
- Establish what the ECT strategy is
- Could any green spaces also be sold off
- Concerns that these rental properties have been allowed to fall into disrepair and whether this is part of a bigger plan
- Could a housing organisation take on these rental properties to secure them for the future
- As changes to be made in the near future regarding EPC's which would require a great deal of investment from the Trust, could this have a bearing on the reasons for selling
- Draft letter to be sent to MP?
- Form an action group

**ACTION: District Cllr Fowles to contact Sir Geoffrey Brown and the Parish Council to contact the ECT to arrange a meeting.**

**POST MEETING NOTE: District Cllr Fowles informed Council that he had contacted Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown to inform him of the current situation and to arrange a meeting with villagers.**

**It was agreed to bring forward item 048 23/24**

- 048 23/24 To consider and agree any changes to Insurance Policy with particular reference to the playground/play equipment.**
- Helen Wade from the Village Hall was asked report on background information relating to the relationship of the Village Hall and the Parish Council. She reported as follows:-
- In 1993 the Parish Council installed playground equipment
  - The Village Hall maintained and insured the equipment

- In 2016 the Village Hall raised funds and the Parish Council agreed that if £30k could be raised the Parish Council would take over the insurance and maintenance.
- The PC now maintain and insure the play equipment
- The Field is owned by the Village with the Parish Council paying for the grass cutting.

Helen asked the Council look at the goalposts which are in need of replacement.

**ACTION: Clerk to ensure the insurance policy covers all the play equipment and that the goal posts are checked and quotes obtained to replace them if required**

**043 23/24** To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable.

It was **RESOLVED** to reconvene the meeting following public participation – all in favour.

**044 23/24** Chairman's Announcements  
None

**046 23/24** To receive report from District/County Cllr  
County Cllr report

#### **GCC News June 2023**

- **Partnership agreement to boost employment and skills support**  
Gloucestershire County Council and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) are working together to deliver employment and skills support to residents in the county.
- **Set up camp safely: the hazards of the great outdoors**  
As part of the Fire Kills campaign, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is asking people across the county to stay safe this summer as they make the most of the weather and enjoy the great outdoors, whether camping, cooking, or exploring.
- **The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service are urging people to reduce their risk of house fires**  
The request comes ahead of NFCC's Home Fire Safety Week which will run from the 12th -18th June.
- **Adult education service in Gloucestershire praised by Ofsted**  
Gloucestershire County Council's adult education service has been praised by Ofsted inspectors who have awarded it a 'Good' rating.
- **Free summer challenge for children with Gloucestershire Libraries**
- **Council to make being a care leaver a protected characteristic**  
Gloucestershire County Council will enshrine being a care leaver as a protected characteristic to help reduce barriers for those individuals.
- **Galliford Try awarded contract to support M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme**  
Following a thorough and competitive tender process, Gloucestershire County Council has appointed Galliford Try to

further progress the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme ahead of submitting their Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate.

- **Families get set for free summer holiday activities**

The Holiday Activities and Food programme is returning this summer for four weeks during the school holidays to help keep children in Gloucestershire happy, healthy, and entertained with free activities.

- **Have your say on the highway**

Gloucestershire residents are being asked for their views on their local roads in a new survey.

Cllr Morris suggested that EPC should apply for the Community Speedwatch bid.

District Cllr Fowles reported as follows:

- Area that he covers – Southrop across Coln Valley.
- CDC responsible for play & leisure provision, waste (collection only)
- Liaising with Bromford Housing
- Principle committees – Overview & Scrutiny, Planning
- Aware of the frustration from many parish councils about the way planning & enforcement is being run. Issues have arisen since Covid due to the increase in planning applications with many people moving from the city to the countryside and undertaking renovations.
- Too many applications and not enough people to manage the applications.
- Planning department is being restructured with altered pay structure, improvements in terms & conditions including “agile working”
- New people being brought in with a new interim Manager (David Maran)
- Prioritisation of planning applications with clearer guidelines
- Changes in fee structure with fees increasing

## **FINANCE**

**047 23/24**

**To approve schedule of payments.**

The payment schedule was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments. Proposed Cllr Bailey, seconded Cllr Lawson – all in favour.

<b>ACTION: Clerk to make payment</b>
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**048 23/24**

**To consider and agree any changes to Insurance Policy with particular reference to the playground/play equipment.**  
See above.

**049 23/24**

**To consider and agree yearly costs for defibrillator maintenance.**  
Costs to be obtained but first responders to be contacted to see if they are able to maintain the defibrillator. Item to be deferred to next meeting

<b>ACTION: Clerk to add this item to the Agenda for the next meeting to consider costs</b>
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## **REPORTS**

**050 23/24**

**To received reports from meetings attended**

None

- 051 23/24 To receive report from the River Warden**  
Andrew Cooper the River Warden reported that a Management Plan is required. The Clerk advised that he should be put in touch with the relevant officer from the Environment Agency in order to liaise properly and establish correct procedures. The Clerk to contact the Environment Agency to ask them to make direct contact with the River Warden. Andrew suggested that River Leach handbook is prepared where issues are logged for future referencing. Any problems should be reported to Andrew. Contact details for the ECT to be forwarded to Andrew.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact the EA and to forward contact details for the ECT.**

### **PLANNING**

- 052 23/24 To receive Decision Notices**  
**23/01164/FUL** | Variation of condition 2 (plans) of permission 20/01755/FUL - Change of use from agricultural to residential and the creation of external swimming pool (part retrospective), demolition of existing attached garage and erection of two storey front and side extension, erection of single storey side and rear extension, widening of vehicular access and associated landscaping at Blue Barn Eastleach Martin Eastleach Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 3NW - **PERMITTED**

- 053 23/24 To consider and agree NEW Planning Applications**  
**23/01708/OPANOT** | Notification under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 3, Class R for partial change of use of barn from agricultural to storage (use class B8) and addition of roller shutter doors at Beerfurlong Farm Eastleach Gloucestershire– **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN**

### **OTHER MATTERS**

- 054 23/24 To consider and agree how best to deal with trees in front of the village pub. (Question raised by residents at the Annual Parish Meeting.**  
The Clerk as approached a tree specialist who will be checking the trees in due course and will report back. Clerk to report back to Council when trees have been inspected.

**ACTION: Clerk to report back to Council**

- 055 23/24 To discuss status of Village Hall and how this relates to EPC and to agree any actions.**  
See item 048 23/24

- 056 23/24 To receive results of the village survey and to consider and agree the best of using the information received.**  
It was noted that the survey results have been received but requires collating. The Chair said that this needs to be done by the Council following which the issues which can be dealt with by the Council can be prioritised and this information will be reported to the village.

**ACTION: Survey results to be collated by Council**

**057 23/24**      **To consider and agree the next steps for notifications relating to the village greens.**

Following debate it was agreed to contact Glos Highways to seek their advice on how best to protect the Village Greens and what methods can be used to stop people parking on the Greens. This item to be deferred to the next meeting to allow feedback to be received.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Glos. Highways and to add this item to the Agenda for the next meeting.**

**058 23/24**      **Update on order for noticeboards.**

The Clerk reported that an error had occurred whereby the order placed had not been received. This has now been rectified and has been confirmed. It is hoped that these will be received in the next few weeks. Quotes are still being sought for the installation of these noticeboards.

**ACTION: Clerk to chase up quotes for installation of noticeboards**

**059 23/24**      **Update on work to culvert and information received from PROW.**

The Clerk had reported to Council that an e-mail from PROW had been received to advise that all work at this location has been completed and that there is nothing further that will be undertaken. The Clerk also contacted PROW directly upon receipt of this information to ascertain the extent of the work and was advised that the path and culvert were sound and therefore required no further work. Cllrs were not happy with this response and the Clerk was asked to contact PROW to arrange a meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact PROW to arrange a meeting.**

**060 23/24**      **To consider information from ECT regarding plans for their rental properties in the village and to agree any actions.**

Following comments raised during public participation above it was agreed that District Cllr Fowles would contact Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown and that the Parish Council would contact the ECT to see if a meeting can be arranged with residents and that any information would be forwarded to Mrs M Baskin who has villagers contact details. Further details see above (042 23/24)

**ACTION: Cllr Fowles to contact GCB and Parish Council to contact the ECT and M. Baskin.**

**061 23/24**      **To consider the Pass wide & Slow initiative (Cllr Fenton), and agree any actions.**

Cllr Fenton briefed the Council on this initiative which relates to how vehicles of all kinds should pass horses on the highway. She provided statistics relating to road traffic accidents involving horses and that this Groups sole remit was to educate drivers. Following discussion it was agreed to purchase 2 x banners. Cllr Fenton would order the banners @ £20 each

**ACTION: Cllr Fenton to order banners**

**062 23/24**      **To consider discovery of document relating to the Village Hall and actions to be taken if required.**

This item was covered under 048 23/24 in that background details had been provided by Helen Wade.

063 23/24      Anything the Chair considers urgent  
None

064 23/24      Date of next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....