

EASTLEACH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Prior to commencement of the meeting Barbara Pond (GRCC) gave a presentation regarding Neighbourhood Plans. Following the presentation it was agreed that a Public meeting should be held with GRCC coming along with a full presentation to allow villagers to decide whether they think that Neighbourhood Plan would be of benefit to the village.

Present: Cllr Fenton Cllr Conlan Cllr Hanson Cllr Jeans

In attendance: Vanessa Lawrence (Clerk), District Cllr Fowles, 10+ MOP's

Miranda Lawson (Chairman), advised the Council and the audience that she had formally resigned from her role as Councillor/Chairman. The Clerk also advised the audience that she has advised GAPTC that she would no longer be able to act as Locum Clerk for the parish and that an advert for the role has been sent for publication. An advert would also be placed on the website.

As a result of the Chair's resignation a Chair to be selected for this meeting. Cllrs Conlan and Hanson proposed that Cllr Fenton should act as Chair – all in favour.

- 065 23/24 Apologies for absence**
Apologies received from Cllr Paul Bailey
- 066 23/24 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**
None received
- 067 23/24 To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13th July 2023**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13th July 2023. Proposed Cllr Fenton, seconded Cllr Hanson – all in favour
- 068 23/24 To co-opt applicants for the role of Councillor**
Mr Tim Jeans approached the Council to become a Councillor. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr. Jeans as Councillor for Eastleach Parish Council. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Conlan – all in favour.
- 069 23/24 To accept the declarations of acceptance of office from new Councillors**
Cllr Jeans signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was accepted by Council.
- 070 23/24 Clerk's Report**
None
- 071 23/24 Chairman's Announcements**
None

072 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 Hanson, seconded Cllr Conlan – all in favour

- Q: Mrs Baskin expressed her desire for work to commence the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to commence immediately and asked the Council to add this to the Agenda for agreement.
- A: The Clerk explained that the Agenda was already set and an item could not be added at tonight's meeting.
- Q: Mrs Baskin then asked if it could be included under matters the Chair considers urgent.
- A: The Clerk explained that this could be considered only, but no decision could be made but could be added to the Agenda for the next meeting in 2 months' time.
- Mrs Baskin was not satisfied with the answer.
 - Another member of the public said that she thought it would best to wait until a public meeting could be held so that GRCC could present the information to the whole community so that a formative opinion could be arrived at, which the Council could then act upon. Other members of the public agreed.

ACTION: The Clerk said that she would contact GRCC to fix a date for a public meeting.

- Q: A member of the public asked what was happening with the Village Survey?
- A: Cllr Fenton reported that the Council would be considering this but the plan was to put the information into a newsletter.

073 23/24 To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable.

It was **RESOLVED** to reconvene the meeting following public participation. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Fenton – all in favour.

074 23/24 To receive report from District Cllr Fowles

- Cllr Fowles echoed the words of the interim PC Chairman who expressed her sadness that the Chairman and Parish Clerk had resigned their posts.

Cllr Fowles reported as follows:-

- Debriefed the PC on the village meeting with The Chairman of Ernest Cook Trust Mary Riall Trust and her colleague Ian Gamble Interim CEO and Michael Birnie Property Director. The meeting was well attended by residents with an additional 50 residents sending their apologies. The ECT received a presentation by Fiona Jacovides and Merry Baskin and then answered a series of questions which had been presented previously to the ECT
- Confirmed that the CDC had confirmed that the minimum housing requirement figure with adjustments had been confirmed at 9094 dwellings which meant that the 5 year land supply was secure which would offer protection to the Cotswolds from speculative developers.
- Informed the PC that built into the CDC budget was the need to utilise over £831k of reserves and that so far at the end of quarter one, there was a income shortfall against budget of £445k because of a reduction in fee income as well items not budgeted for such as the funding of new waste bins on new developments.

- Stated that as a direct result of the shortfall of CDC income, the administration has refused to reinstate the £54k grant funding for Visitor Information Centres following the submission of a petition with over 2000 signatures
- Confirmed that the provider of leisure and cultural services across the Cotswolds was outsourced to a not for profit leisure trust and that it had changed from SLM/ Everyone Active to Freedom Leisure. CDC we're currently in negotiation with SLM regarding the detail of the contract termination.
- Informed the PC that more planning officers (up to 4) were leaving CDC and that this was putting pressure on the processing of Planning Applications
- Stated that CDC had partnered with a provider of solar panels called 'Make my home Green' in order to provide grants to CDC residents who wish to fit solar panels
- Confirmed that following the adoption of 'agile working' for CDC staff, the Council had agreed to convert and refurb 35% of the CDC buildings at Trinity road for services offices at a cost of £1.25m

FINANCE

075 23/24

To approve schedule of payments.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for September. Proposed Cllr Fenton, seconded Cllr Conlan – all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to make payments

076 23/24

To consider and agree, retrospectively, to sign up with the ICO via direct debit (annual fee of £40 as at 2023)

It was **RESOLVED** to agree, retrospective to subscribe to the ICO. Proposed Cllr Fenton, seconded Cllr Hanson – all in favour.

077 23/24

To consider and agree payment for noticeboards

The Clerk reported that as yet an invoice had not been received. The total would be in the region of £4k, but this will be confirmed upon receipt of the invoice. It was **RESOLVED** to pay the invoice upon receipt. Cllr Jeans suggested that limit of £4k should be placed on this. The Clerk would confirm the exact price by e-mail. Proposed Cllr Fenton, seconded Cllr Hanson – all in favour. **POST-MEETING NOTE: Invoice received cost £3404.34 exc. VAT.**

ACTION: Clerk to contact supplier and to e-mail Cllrs with exact amount.

078 23/24

To consider and agree to grant £500 to Eastleach Action Group for potential legal costs?

The Clerk explained that she was still waiting to obtain confirmation on whether this could be paid using S137. This to be deferred to the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to add this item to the Agenda for the next meeting.

079 23/24

To consider and agree quote for installation of noticeboards

Only one quote received to date. Another quote is awaited. Clerk to obtain a further quote.

ACTION: Clerk to contact alternative contractors

080 23/24

To consider and agree quote for removal of bird cherry adjacent to the pub and to crown lift the Weeping Oak on the triangle by Bouthrop Church.

Two quotes received:-
A.J. Arborists - £1266 inc VAT
Cotswold Trees - £696 inc VAT

Cllrs **RESOLVED** to approve the quote from Cotswold Trees –
Proposed Cllr Conlan, seconded Cllr Fenton – all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to contact contractors to advise.

REPORTS

- 081 23/24 To received reports from meetings attended**
Councillors attempted to join the recent CDC forum which was held remotely, but technical problems made this impossible. CDC has been asked to send relevant slides and other information.
- 082 23/24 To receive report from the River Warden**
The River Warden has followed up work to be done with the ECT. Former Chairman to be asked to forward his report to Council
- 083 23/24 To receive update on actions agreed by ECT covering works in the village and to agree any actions by EPC.**
The Clerk reported that she has received an e-mail from the ECT to advise that an update on works to be undertaken by the Trust.
- 084 23/24 Update on trees ordered as part of the Ash Die back programme (GCC)**
The application was sent to GCC and further details to follow.

PLANNING

- 085 23/24 To receive Decision Notices**
23/02144/TCONR Fell. Tree is dead, appears to have died from sooty bark disease (Cryptostroma corticale) at Street Record Eastleach – NO OBJECTION

23/02039/FUL Erection of single-storey rear extension (revised scheme following approval 23/00825/FUL) at 4 Eastleach. GL7 3NQ – PERMITTED.

23/01421 Erection of garden outbuilding and associated external works at The Old Rectory, Locombe Hill, Eastleach GL7 3NW - PERMITTED.

- 086 23/24 To consider and agree NEW Planning Applications**
23/02647/COMPLY Compliance with condition 17 (land contamination) of permission 22/02291/FUL – Change of land use from agricultural to residential; erection of 2no. detached buildings and engineering works to provide an indoor/outdoor pool house and sauna; conversion, extension and alteration of 4n. existing detached barns to provide ancillary accommodation, yoga studio, music studio and home gym; erection of garage extension to form a carport and associated demolition, access and landscaping works (part retrospective) at Monks Cottage, Eastleach, GL7 3NQ – **Validated 23 August 2023 – Expiry 26th September - Awaiting Decision.**

23/02585/FUL Variation of condition 3 (wall treatment) of permission 23/02039/FUL – Erection of single-storey rear extension (revised scheme following approval – 23/00825/FUL) at 4 Eastleach. GL7 3NQ : **Validated : 16th August; Expiry 28th September. Awaiting Decision**

23/02472/COMPLY | Compliance with conditions 4 (Sample materials), 6 (dry stone wall methodology and materials), 7 (Design details) and 8 (Strategy for historic building works) of permission 22/02291/FUL - Change of land use from agricultural to residential; erection of 2no. detached buildings and engineering works to provide an indoor/outdoor pool house and sauna; conversion, extension and alteration of 4no. existing detached barns to provide ancillary accommodation, yoga studio, music studio and home gym; erection of garage extension to form a carport

and associated demolition, access and landscaping works (part retrospective) | Monks Cottage Eastleach Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 3NQ – Validated 7th August; **Expiry 15th September; awaiting decision**
23/02239/FUL Construction of timber framed outbuilding at The Stables, Fyfield GL7 3NS. Validated 3rd August, Expiry 31st August – Awaiting Decision

HIGHWAYS

087 23/24 To consider and agree to purchase notification posts for the village greens (see e-mail 5/9/2023)

Cllrs discussed the installation of notification posts for the village green but considered that this was not really necessary as it appears that the issue lies with villagers parking their vehicles on the green. It was **RESOLVED** to include an article in the forthcoming newsletter to cover this issue. All in favour. No notification posts to be purchased.

ACTION: Article to be included in the newsletter

088 23/24 To consider and agree to share the cost of replacement grit bin on the triangle bordering Southrop

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to split the cost of a suitable grit bin with Southrop PC. Proposed Cllr Fenton, seconded Cllr Conlan – all in favour.

OTHER MATTERS

089 23/24 Update on progress with collating information from the village survey and to consider and agree actions based on the results.

Cllr Fenton reported that information from the survey had been collated and work was in progress to create a newsletter where the results would be made available. This would then be circulated to the village.

090 23/24 To review mowing schedule Cllrs agreed to ask the grasscutting contractor to amend his schedule to ensure that grass is mown every week in May & September. Exact details of locations to be given to contractor.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the contractor.

091 23/24 Update on information relating to new goal posts and to agree the way forward.

Following debate it was agreed that full size goal posts were not necessary and that smaller mobile goal posts would be best. It was agreed to seek quotes for the supply of smaller goalposts and the removal of the old goalposts, and to try to establish how best these could be stored.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain quotes for mobile goalposts and the removal of the old posts. Cllr Fenton to speak to Village Hall to see if the posts could be stored in the Hall.
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092 23/24 To consider the need for a Neighbourhood Plan and agree to commence the process if it is felt that this is required.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve, in principle, the need for a Neighbourhood Plan, subject to the opinions of the village following a public meeting to be held when GRCC will present information on the subject. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Fenton – all in favour.

093 23/24 Anything the Chair considers urgent

Cllr Fenton asked for the Clerk to see if there was further training available for Cllrs and further training relating to planning.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate.

094 23/24 Date of next meeting TBA

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Chairman.....

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