



Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.15pm
Eaton Village Hall

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Eaton Parish Council to be held on the Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.15pm

Members of the Public are invited to attend the above meeting. Public Participation will take place before the start of the meeting for a period of ten minutes and once the meeting has commenced members of the public are requested not to speak unless invited.

Terry Brown clerk@eatonpc.org.uk
3rd March 2024

Agenda

- 1 Public Time
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 To receive declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations
- 4 Borough and County Councillor Time
- 5 To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the 15th January 2023
- 6 To consider matters arising
 - /1 to consider progress with MVAS
 - /2 to consider further action on the 2024 Forbidden Festival and the Vale Group Parishes invite.
 - /3 to review the application for a Roll over licence for 2, Church Lane, Eaton
- 7 To receive the Clerk's report
 - /1 to receive an update on Allotments
- 8 Correspondence
Emails:
 - 1/3/24 Tania Cookson re grant aid for the Blacksmiths site Eastwell
 - 15/2, 23/2, 27/2, 28/2, 1/3/24
MBC re PREMISES LICENCE REVIEW HEARING - Noisily Festival, Terrace Hills Farm
- 9 Planning:
 - /1 24/00152/FUL Cranyke Farm Eastwell Road Scalford
Retrospective submission for the erection of 2no. solar panel arrays, containing seventy six panels.
 - /2 to note
Planning Inspectorate APP/Y2430/C/22/3305881: Cranyke Farm, LE14 4SS
to note appeal decision relating to 21/00109/USE – Cranyke Farm, Eastwell Road, Scalford.
The appeal has been dismissed.

- 10 Eaton
- 11 Eastwell
- 12 Goadby Marwood
 /1 November 23/2964/1 -to discuss action re Priory Agriculture’s approach to
 bridleways on the periphery of the Goadby Marwood towards Eastwell (Cllr Greasley)
 further progress following site visit with Ellen Senior (Access Officer, Safe and
 Sustainable Travel)
- 13 To consider matters for discussion and resolution
 /1 to discuss the current website provision (Cllr Nelson)
 /2 to review progress on a triennial tree survey
 /3 to consider a bulb planting program
 /4 to review the grass cutting contract (Cllr Bridge)
 /5 to discuss the repair to the Victorian style street light (no. 3) on Main Street, Eaton
 (Cllr Bridge)
 /6 to discuss the repair to the Eastwell village and speed limit sign on Scalford Road
 (Cllr Bridge)
 /7 to consider financial support for repair and reinstallation of the play equipment at
 Eastwell Village Hall (see attached)
 /8 to consider financial support for a proposal for work at Blacksmiths Site Eastwell (see
 attached)
 /9 to consider renewing access points currently with stiles. (Cllr Bridge)
 /10 to discuss the employment of a “Yardman” (Cllr Nelson)
- 14 Finance
 /1 January and February 2024 payments to be approved (see attached)
 /2 to reconcile Bank accounts at 3.3.2024
 Current a/c £1265.83
 Deposit a/c £14368.65
- 15 to resolve to go into closed session (The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec
 1 (2)) where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential
 nature of the business to be transacted.
- 16 To receive items for the next meeting.
- 17 Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 20th May at 7.15 pm Goadby Marwood Village Hall

Payments to 3.3.24

S Porter re tree	79	09/01/2024	1000.00
Eaton VH	80	09/01/2024	10.00
HMRC	81	10/01/2024	448.20
Bank charges		21/01/2024	5.80
Eastwell VH	82	22/01/2024	24.00
T Brown Jan 24 salary	83	23/01/2024	307.48
Bagforce	84	13/02/2024	414.00
SSE inv 0296807	85	20/02/2024	119.76
G Livermore re allotment deposit	86	21/02/2024	50.00
T Brown Feb 24 salary	87	21/02/2024	613.68

Bank charges		21/02/2024	10.60
SSE inv 0348469	88	27/02/2024	123.78
Eon inv 122734	89	03/03/2024	113.40
Bank Reconciliation 3/3/24			
HSBC Current		1265.83	
HSBC Deposit		14368.65	
			15634.48

Operating	13,894.48
Herbage	670
Allotment Deposits	1070
	15,634.48

Proposal to Eaton Parish Council to support the repair and replacement of children’s play equipment located at Eastwell Village Hall

Summary: Request to the PC to consider provision of financial assistance to support the repair and reinstallation of the children’s tower and slide at Eastwell Village Hall.

Background: When Eastwell Village Hall (VH) opened in 2015 a wooden climbing tower and slide was erected on the patio for the benefit of children. This play equipment was bought by a group of villagers after a fundraising campaign. Although the equipment was not purchased by the VH it was agreed to allow erection of the equipment on the VH site as there was no other suitable location in the village.

The VH agreed to include the equipment in its public liability insurance and it was subject to regular safety inspections by the appropriate regulatory authority. During an inspection in 2023 several areas of rot were noted in the structure which would require repair. A decision was made that the equipment should not be used until or unless repairs were performed or the equipment replaced. As a result the equipment was placed in storage.

Following the removal of the tower and slide a number of Eastwell villagers expressed concern about the lack of play facilities. This resulted in a meeting in February 2024 attended by 17 villagers, most of whom having young children or grandchildren, at which there was unanimous support for repair and reinstallation of the equipment. Following the meeting it was agreed to explore funding options to achieve this. This is the reason for this submission to Eaton PC in line with its role in relation to play areas.

Is the play equipment needed? Yes. Eastwell is a small village with few community facilities. The tower and slide represented the only facility that specifically catered for young children in the village. It allowed young families to meet in the village which improved community cohesion and reduced social isolation. Furthermore the equipment provided an important resource to promote physical activity and thereby promote the health of the children in the village. A final point is that the presence of play facilities in the village may be a factor taken into consideration by young families who may wish to move to the village.

Is the play equipment wanted? Yes. The comments above show that there is a significant body of opinion within the village that the play equipment is an important asset.

What are the costs? We have considered various options to provide repair/replacement of the equipment. An important consideration is that any repair must meet UK regulatory safety standards to ensure the safety of the children who may use the equipment and to satisfy public liability insurance requirements. Unfortunately the original manufacturer is based in Italy and no longer trades in the UK. There would therefore be substantial difficulties if this supplier were used again. In addition, any repair by the original manufacture would have been prohibitively expensive with costs in excess of £10,000.

A like-for-like complete replacement by a reputable UK supplier of play equipment would also have cost in excess of £10,000 so this too was thought to be too expensive.

An alternative proposal is repair of the existing structure by a different company (Playscapes Playgrounds). This company is based in Peterborough so is reasonably local. The total cost for repair and reinstallation would be £3544 plus VAT. An important consideration is that Playscapes is certified with the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) and can ensure full compliance with appropriate safety regulations. Playscapes also quoted for the installation of a brand new tower and slide, albeit significantly smaller than the existing structure – this would cost £6395 plus VAT.

Therefore, the preferred option is repair and reinstallation of the existing equipment (£3544 plus VAT) as it appears to be the most cost-effective solution.

What other funding is available? As mentioned above, the existing play structure was not purchased by the VH although it has been hosted by the VH. The original fundraising group no longer exists so the responsibilities for the maintenance costs of the equipment are uncertain. It was agreed at the meeting referred to above that a group of interested villagers should be formed to provide ongoing review of the play equipment. At the present time such a group does not exist so has no available funds. In order to facilitate the development of the group, Mrs Janeta Mulla (JM) has agreed to be play equipment liaison officer on the VH committee with assistance from Dr Philip Rathbone (PR) who is also on the VH committee. JM and PR have agreed to take responsibility for ensuring monthly inspections of the play equipment in order to ensure compliance with insurance requirements. In addition they will work with other interested villagers to establish the play equipment support group to ensure that any necessary ongoing maintenance occurs. It is hoped that this group would organise fundraising for the play equipment but this may take some time and would not provide a solution to the immediate problem of the lack of the play equipment.

The VH committee is actively considering what funding it may be able to contribute to repair and reinstallation of the equipment. Hopefully a decision regarding this will be made at the next VH committee meeting on 21st March.

Conclusion We hope that Eaton PC will agree that there is a need for play equipment in Eastwell that is supported by the villagers, and will look favourably on this request for consideration of financial assistance for the repair and reinstallation of the equipment. We thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Mrs Janeta Mulla

Dr Philip Rathbone

February 2024

A Village Sign for Eastwell – Parish Council application for support

1. Proposal

1.1 The Old Blacksmith's at Eastwell – situated near the Stathern Road/Main Street junction – has been in a state of disrepair and in danger of collapse for the last few decades. It has recently been restored, made safe and more pleasing to the eye. Original features, such as the brickwork and wooden doors, have been salvaged and reused, and a brick overhang has been included at the top of the wall to encourage swallows to return as in the old days.

1.2 There is a small area of land in the front of the building. It is proposed that this be refurbished as a paved seating area with benches, a Parish Council noticeboard (if supported by the Council), litter bin, and low wall with small flower bed.

1.3 A village survey - 34 responses – showed that 90% were in favour of this idea. As well as providing an attractive physical space, it would provide somewhere for villagers to meet, relax and chat. At present there is no permanently-available location for this to happen. The Village Hall is only open to those participating in an activity and therefore unavailable to those who want to meet others informally and in passing.

1.4 The site would also incorporate a **new village sign** (see visuals attached). The Eastwell name does not currently have any form of visual representation within the village. An eye-catching sign would help raise the village (and Parish) profile and catch passing visitors' attention. It would be used in any publicity material involving the village, giving Eastwell a higher profile than it currently enjoys. It would also encourage residents to take a pride in their village and local area.

1.5 The sign would include scenes depicting past and present life in Eastwell. A number of village-related themes would be put to residents and a vote on which should be included would be held. This would then be passed to a professional designer for interpretation.

1.6 The sign would be contained within the curtilage of the Old Blacksmith's frontage. It would not be located on Council Highways land but the matter will nevertheless be raised with Council planning officers to ensure it complies fully with any planning restrictions.

2. Funding Requirement

2.1 We hope that the Parish Council will feel able to support the project. Requested amounts are listed below.

PC Noticeboard (if supported) £500

Village sign £4,000

Total £4,500

2.2 In order to raise further funding for the project, approaches will be made to a number of local and national grant organisations. A Crowdfunder page will be set up online. Several fundraising events are also planned.

2.3 Given the close alignment of the Project's aims and the Parish Council's stated environmental objectives, we hope that the Council will feel able to offer financial support.