



Draft Minutes of the of the Parish Council Meeting
Monday 14th April 2025
7.15 pm Eaton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs John Nelson (Chair), Simon Tong, Stuart Bridge, Laura Harrison, Andrew Robertson & Mark Greasley

Clerk: Terry Brown

Members of the Public: 5 members

25/3139 Public Time

/1 Ed Hobill on behalf of Grantcliffe Farm and in respect of **25/3148** gave the background information about the current Telecoms Mast at the site and agreed to work with the Parish Council as the planning application progressed and with any circumstances that involved the current and future siting of the mast

/2 To receive advice from Derek Janes on resilience and contingency planning

The item is to be considered at the next meeting but all agreed that it represented an important topic for consideration.

The Clerk was asked to include it in this month's copy to the yellow Pages.

action Clerk

/3 to review recent actions re rabbit problem on the allotments

Cllr Bridge reported of recent work to alleviate the nuisance. Work is ongoing

Rabbits are considered pests under the [Pests Act 1954](#), and all occupiers of land have a responsibility to take action to prevent them from causing damage. They are not given any specific protection, so it is legal to kill or take them by lawful methods at any time of year.

An authorised person with permission from the landowner does not need a licence to shoot a rabbit provided that person using a firearm has the correct firearm licence

Section 3.9.1 of the Tenancy Agreement 2008 between Eaton Parish Council and ECPA states that "not anything" must remain that may cause nuisance ,annoyance, disturbance inconvenience or damage to the Landlord or occupiers of adjacent premises.

/4 to receive advice re EcoChurch and St Denys Eaton churchyard

Helen Smith said that as part of our Eaton InSpired project, which aims to restore the spire/tower and North East aisle stonework at St Denys, we are also looking at wider engagement activity linked to the church. This is a requirement of any funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (application in and hopefully we'll hear in a few weeks). One of their investment strands is around sustainability and this links to the wider Church of England work on Ecochurches.

We are keen to understand if there are some interesting plant species in the church yard. There have been some tantalising glimpses of species such as ladies bedstraw, meadow vetchling and Cinquefoil along the tops of the walls but it would require some unmown test areas in order to assess this fully.

As the PC is responsible for the mowing in the churchyard we wondered whether some areas could be left unmown especially in May/June/July.

We would limit this to a few blocks which don't overlap with standing gravestones and so won't limit access to them. We think there are 3 or 4 areas where this could work whilst not increasing trouble for the mowers.

The Parish Council agreed to the possibility subject to there being no objection from the grass cutting contractors. Cllr Tong is to liaise.

action Cllr Tong

- /5** A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for their contribution of £100 towards the costs of the Eaton Big Weekend event.

The Clerk was asked to circulate the calendar of Eaton VH diary events to Councillors.

action Clerk

- /6** Comments were raised about the success of the new VAS currently sited at Eastwell

The Clerk reminded the meeting that it had been agreed as a policy to circulate the device between all three locations and Cllr Nelson is to make this possible.

Later discussion indicated the possibility of a future additional VAS purchase.

25/3140 Apologies for absence
Derek Janes

25/3141 To receive declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations
None

25/3142 Borough and County Councillor Time
No reports

25/3143 To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the 10th March 2025
These were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

25/3144 To consider matters arising

- /1 to consider progress with Goadby Marwood action re Priory Agriculture's approach to bridleways on the periphery of the Goadby Marwood towards Eastwell (Cllr Greasley)**

The Clerk reported that an email had been received on 20/3/25 stating that the matter was still under consultation

Cllr Greasley commented that Having taken the view from several parishioners in Goadby Marwood village their opinion is that until the acquisition of the land by Priory Agriculture and the ploughing of the track the diverted bridleway was not in use as it doesn't present a direct route to any destination.

The preference of the Goadby Marwood villagers is the reversal of the diverted Bridleway from its current route and re-instatement of the track from Manor Lane direct to White Lodge as a restricted Bridleway.

25/3145 To receive the Clerk's report

/1 to report on the allotment's occupancy

The Clerk reported that there was one allotment now still vacant

/2 to review progress on road sign down at Eastwell

This has been reported to Leics Highways for action

/3 to report on progress re noticeboards

see 25/3152/2

/4 to note progress on Local Government Reorganisation

Noted

25/3146 Councillors reports

/1 Cllr Tong re Vale parishes meetings

Cllr Tong reported a length on recent Vale Parishes meetings – see attached

The meeting agreed on the importance of such a Forum in view of the impending local government reorganisation and noted the success so far with respect to the improved communication with local parishes by the organisers of the Forbidden forest event.

25/3147 Correspondence

Emails:

16/3/25 Keith Barnes re Planning Application 25/00193/GDOCOU & 25/00195/GDOCOU

31/3/2025 Melton BC re Local Govt reorganisation

Also:

11/4/2025 claudia.langmead@wearefab.com re Forbidden Forest Festival 2025

Noted

25/3148 Planning:

/1 25/00193/GDOCOU-Barn To The East Grantcliff Farm Vicarage Lane Eaton

Conversion of existing barn to form 3 dwellings

/2 25/00195/GDOCOU Barn To The West Grantcliff Farm Vicarage Lane Eaton

Conversion of existing barn to form 3 dwellings

For both:

Councillors noted the report from Leicestershire Highways for these applications No objections, but that to LCC Highways concerns are noted and that a "construction traffic management plan" is to be agreed under "reserved matters".

In addition:

**/3 25/00359/VAC 7A Chapel Street Eaton Grantham
Variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission
19/01148/FULHH to removal section of garage, erection of
stonewall, installation of canopy, flue, insertion of windows and
rooflights, cladding and formation of hardstanding.**

No objections

25/3149 Eaton

See Public Time

25/3150

Eastwell

- /1 Cllr Nelson reminded the Clerk about the previous decision to have more signage action Clerk

25/3151

Goadby Marwood

See 25/3144/1

25/3152

To consider matters for discussion and resolution

/1 to confirm arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting 19.5.25

There was some general discussion about the purpose of the APM with the need to provoke a greater interest for parishioners to attend to air their thoughts and aspirations for future Parish affairs.

/2 to review progress with the 2023-27 Parish Improvement Plan (Cllr Bridge)

It was agreed that the 2023-27 Improvement Plan was well advanced. In addition Cllr Bridge gave an extensive review of recent actions such as removing dead trees from the Cemetery, work on new notice boards in both Eaton and Eastwell, cleaning of old telephone boxes and improvements to street signage.

Following comments in Public Time it was agreed that Councillors would consider the purchase of an additional VAS device.

/3 to agree actions for Cemetery work (Cllr Bridge)

Further minor works were agreed and Cllrs Bridge and Tong are to organise

/4 to consider actions re 25/3148

Cllr Bridge will continue to liaise with the developer on this planning application with respect to the implications of the application for the probable resiting of the mast.

/5 to review Eaton Cemetery charges (Cllr Bridge)

The Clerk submitted a list of charges at neighbouring cemeteries and stated that Eaton charges had not been changed for eight years.

The meeting agreed that the Cemetery could not be run such that all costs would be covered by virtue of the limited number of calls on it in a single year.

Even so an increase was now appropriate and a scale of new charges was agreed to be published immediately.

action Clerk

25/3153

Finance

- /1 The following March 2025 payments were approved

Glasdon inv 1905834	92	11/03/2025	153.82
Eon inv 60188022401	93	11/03/2025	84.00
S R Porter re Cemetery tree	94	15/03/2025	300.00
T Brown re March 25 salary	95	20/03/2025	570.01
Severn Trent inv 109208352	96	20/03/2025	152.11
Eaton VH re Big Event	97	20/03/2025	100.00
charges		21/03/2025	5.00
V Haslam re noticebds	98	24/03/2025	166.02
SSE inv 02635282	99	31/03/2025	112.08
Burnt Oak	100	31/03/2025	204.00
T Brown re 4th qtr expenses	101	31/03/2025	163.10
Foxwise Accting re inv 135537	102	31/03/2025	54.00

/2 Bank accounts at 31.3.2025 were reconciled to

Bank Reconciliation 31/3/25

HSBC Current	676.63
HSBC Deposit	12696.55
	13373.18
Herbage Savings account	1108.40

/3 to report on Cost Centres:

Cost Centres	Income	Exp	Net
Allotment	1155.00	607.79	547.21
Cemetery	1145.00	532.11	612.89

25/3154 To receive items for the next meeting.

- /1 to discuss a resilience and contingency plan
- /2 a presentation by Gary Kirk of YourLocale on a possible Eaton Neighbourhood Plan

25/3155 Date of next meeting: Monday 19th May at 7.00 pm Goadby Marwood Village Hall

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
to be followed immediately by
Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.35 pm

Signed: _____

Chairman - Eaton Parish Council

Vale Parishes Group

25.3.25 – Scalford Church

Present – CW, SE, SL, ST, SB, TL

Apologies – Jacob, Jo, Martin, Matthew, Robert L

1. Actions from previous meeting:

Agreed that all PC's have added VPG as a standard agenda item and agree to the VPG Priorities

2. Flooding

CW & SE attended Long Clawson to discuss a shared approach to flooding in the Vale – Was proposed that the PC should collect their own data and mapping for future use. Recognise that PC's may need to fund their own drainage assessments in the future.

SE advised that he had attended meetings with the flood team at LCC for Redmile. The summary is that there is no money to fund solutions in rural settlements and that if any work is performed, they will opt for the lowest cost option not the best value option. Also, due to the probable liability issues, only the community and the PC have vested interest in a joined up solution.

Action - CW to share Flood warning system email with all

Action – SL to share the carbon offset possibility for local ‘pond’ development

CW suggested a GIS student that we have been working with, might be interested in supporting the flood mapping - Bozmaps - <https://www.bozmaps.com/>

Reminder of the Flooding Pod at Melton - <https://www.meltontimes.co.uk/news/environment/flooding-drop-in-support-event-to-be-held-in-melton-mowbray-5036639>

For the future we (VPG) Need to create a bank of info – need a central portal for all this info – suggested OneDrive. Agreed that everyone should collect the drainage/flooding evidence .

3. Festivals

Action - Friday for 1st FF Sub SAG – Martin Porter to join remotely, SE to attend in person.

Action -Noisily Mtg – CW/SE to attend in person

Action – CW/SE to pick up discussion with MBC (Joanne and Simon) to re-engage with an estate wide focused approach to all the events, highlighting the issue of temporary licences. Following up on the initial discussions last year about adopting the Showground approach of multiple licences

Police have identified the speeding issue on Long Lane and have been doing some covert speed checks. Recording the volume is also valuable as a baseline.

4. Devolution meeting

MBC want a North / South Leicestershire (Rutland voted to join SKD 24.3.25)

470 Councillors down to 170+

Very poor Pc attendance at devolution event

Criticism at lack of engagement of end service user and focus on increased funding with little attention to the service delivery outcome.

Action – SE to arrange discussion with Michelle Howard– can we influence and can shape a piloted approach to community engagement. Need to reflect the same approach in SKD. Sarah and Steve to progress. Also to ask for funding from MBC/SKD

Action CW – To ask LRALC if similar bodies to VPG exist and could we connect with them and if Neighbourhood plans are being diminished

Action - SL to contact VAL to see if any funding may be available to support VPG development

Action – CW to discuss with Locality regarding Pc support in the devolution process and any possible funding

Action – ST to contact colleague in KSKD regarding funding

5. Childrens Homes

TL – shared update on FOI submitted on Childrens Homes update – MBC shared national stats!

ST – undertaken considerable intelligence gathering on Childrens Homes, their ownership & governance and OFSTED reports.

Action – ST to put all children’s homes information on a spreadsheet and links to the OFSTED

Look to share back to MBC – need to do this appropriately and pointedly!

Action - SE to share recent email from MH (MBC) and when the database is completed engage with MBC/SKD.

6. AOB

ST - Mobile phone masts – possibly been removed in Eaton. Will cause connection issues for residents. Looking for anyone with experience of moving them. Possible location on the allotments

Action - Suggested discussion with landowner and provider (02)

DONM - Monday April 28th – 7pm Eaton Village Hall

Page 502