



Meeting of the Parish Council
Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.15pm
Eastwell Village Hall

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Eaton Parish Council to be held on the Monday 8th April 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
1st April 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 11th March 2024
- 6 To consider matters arising
 - /1 to consider progress with MVAS
 - /2 to confirm the Councillors email addresses (see attached)
 - /3 to review progress on a triennial tree survey
 - /4 to review the grass cutting contract
 - /5 to discuss the repair to the Eastwell village and speed limit sign on Scalford Road
- 7 To receive the Clerk's report
- 8 Correspondence
Emails:
 - 24/3/2024 Frederick Eden re Broken 30 mph sign on entrance to Eastwell
- 9 Planning:
 - /1 24/00272/FULHH - Lime Trees 1 Waltham Lane Eaton
Raise roof to create first floor, pitched roof rear extension, single storey rear/side extension and side extension (garage)
 - /2 24/00322/FUL - Cranyke Farm Eastwell Road Scalford
Proposed extension of existing oak framed carport to include a private swimming pool on the ground floor and a gym on the mezzanine level. External landscaping to include expansion of existing driveway to create a courtyard, and mezzanine level balcony with a patio below.

- /3 23/00715/LBC -Thornhill House 14 Waltham Lane Eaton
Proposed replacement of all casement windows and repair of sash windows within the property (Amended Description).
- /4 24/00112/LBC - The Old Mill House 1 Branston Road Eaton
To replace a failing and damage roof on south side of the building and to bring the material used back in keeping with balance of house and the wider village.
Water is currently finding its way during periods of rain into living accommodation.
Damage caused by moss and related growth between tiles then freeze thaw over a number of years prior to my acquiring the house in July 2022

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 consider a bulb planting program
- /2 to consider financial support for repair and reinstallation of the play equipment at Eastwell Village Hall (see attached)
- /3 to consider arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting
- /4 to consider a quote to update 7 Victorian style streetlights Eaton to LED

14 Finance

- /1 March 2024 payments to be approved

SSE inv 00534703	90	04/03/2024	123.78
Eaton VH	91	14/03/2024	30.00
Bank charges		21/03/2024	5.00
T Brown 4th qtr expenses	92	22/03/2024	205.90
T Brown March 24 salary	93	22/03/2024	409.48

- /2 to reconcile Bank accounts at 31.3.2024

Bank Reconciliation 31/3/24	
HSBC Current	821.67
HSBC Deposit	13391.70
Herbage Charity savings account	670.00
	14883.37

15 To receive items for the next meeting.

16 Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 20th May at 7.15 pm Goadby Marwood Village Hall

to confirm the Councillors email addresses (at 1/4/24)

Simon Tong simontong@hotmail.co.uk
John Nelson johnn877@btinternet.com
Stuart Bridge stuart@thestackyard.co.uk
Bob Skinner bobskinner652@gmail.com
Laura Harrison mrs.harrison@hotmail.co.uk;
Mark Greasley mark.greasley@eatonpc.co.uk;

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 a crucial 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
