

**Eastwood Town Council**

**Town Council Meeting**

**Monday 11 January 2010 at 7.15pm**

**Present:** Cllr K Longdon (Chair), Cllr J Forrest (Deputy Mayor), Cllr D Bagshaw (Leader of Majority Group), Cllr S Bagshaw, Cllr P Butler (Deputy leader of Majority group), Cllr B Griffin, Cllr C Robb, Cllr J Zalewski, Cllr R Dodge (leader of Minority group), Cllr R Charlesworth (deputy leader of Minority group), Cllr H Charlesworth, Cllr T Fiddymont, Cllr R Robb.

Also present Revd David Stevenson, & local press representative.

Before commencement of formal business Revd David Stevenson led opening prayers. After this due to a prior engagement he left the meeting

**083/10 Apologies for absence**

Cllr G Robb (sick)

**084/10 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr R Charlesworth Planning Applications as a Broxtowe Councillor on Planning Committee.

Cllr C Robb Planning Applications as a Broxtowe Councillor on Planning Committee.

**085/10 Notifications of Lobbying**

Cllr P Butler Re Planning application on former Moon & Stars PH site  
As personal interest

Cllr C Robb Re Planning application on former Moon & Stars PH site.

Cllr R Charlesworth Re Planning application on former Moon & Stars PH site.

Cllr R Robb Planning application on former Moon & Stars site as personal interest.

**086/10 Minutes**

Town Council Extra Ordinary Meeting 14 & 21 December 2009

Page 1 073/10 Cllr C Robb reported it wasn't a resident but Cllr G Robb who commended the Kenny family for attending the meeting under such hardship.

Page 2 078/10 Cllr Robb questioned Eastwood Probes correction is Eastwood Probus

Page 3 078/10 Robert Kirk paid tribute to the improvement of Cadets Cross.

Page 4 078/10 Re Parking on Victoria Street Police did put up notices but these have been taken down.

Page 4 07/10 On update to Highway matters. Cllr K Longdon reported there should be an Interactive sign **into** not out of Eastwood.

Page 4 Cllr R Dodge reported road markings on Newmansley Rd an order had gone off today 21 December it should be 12 December as meeting was held on 14 December... PLEASE NOTE 21 December was correct as the meeting was rearranged for 21 December when this item was discussed.

Page 5 Broxtowe Women's Project Cllr Robb asked for Cllr G Robb to be taken off. Cllr H Charlesworth on the committee as an independent.

Page 5 Cllr H Charlesworth asked for the Town Clerk to write to each organisation advising of new members representing each outside organisation. This was agreed

Page 6 Cllr Robb pointed out that the heading for the voting had been put wrong should be:

**1. for the amendment**

**Against the motion**

Cllr D Bagshaw  
Cllr S Bagshaw  
Cllr P Butler  
Cllr B Griffin  
Cllr C Robb  
Cllr G Robb  
Cllr R Robb

**for the motion**

Cllr K Longdon  
Cllr R Dodge  
Cllr R Charlesworth  
Cllr H Charlesworth  
Cllr T Fiddymont  
Cllr J Forrest

The amendment was therefore declared **LOST**.

**2. The original proposal** by Cllr D Bagshaw was then put to the meeting and the following votes were recorded.

**For the motion**

Cllr D Bagshaw  
Cllr S Bagshaw  
Cllr P Butler  
Cllr B Griffin  
Cllr C Robb  
Cllr G Robb  
Cllr R Robb

**Against the motion**

Cllr K Longdon  
Cllr R Dodge  
Cllr R Charlesworth  
Cllr H Charlesworth  
Cllr T Fiddymont  
Cllr J Forrest

The proposal was therefore **CARRIED**. This therefore authorises subject to solicitor's advice, the Town Mayor and Town Clerk to sign the Sale Contract of the Town Council Offices to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority.

The Mayor reported to the meeting that the request for the additional item to discuss the move can be added to Item 11. This was accepted by the meeting Cllr R Charlesworth asked this to be held without members of the public being present due to the sensitivity of the discussion. This was agreed by the meeting.

Cllr C Robb asked for item 11 to be moved to the last item on the agenda. This was agreed.

#### **087/10 Questions/Statements from Members of public**

There were no members of the public in attendance

#### **088/10 Budget and Precept for 2010/11**

Cllr C Robb formally moved the budget as discussed in the Policy and Finance meeting 11 January 2010. This was seconded by Cllr D Bagshaw. Cllr R Charlesworth presented the LIB-Dem alternative Budget proposals. (In interval before the meeting each member was presented with Lib/Dem proposals)

Cllr R Charlesworth reported that some wrong figures from the 2009/10 Budget papers were circulated in tonight's committee papers. The wrong figures were due to late arrangements made to finalise the budget for 2009/10.

Cllr C Robb apologised for some wrong information being added to the committee papers and accepted full responsibility for this.

The Lib/Dems made the following proposals for Labour group to consider:

**Items No 1** £10,080 to increase to £12,750 to cover mortgage costs and leave to same cost as last year.

**Items No 2** recommend to be same budget figure as last year. To be prudent to keep costs to a minimum. Budgets proposed as follows: -

	<b>Lib/Dem</b>	<b>Labour</b>
Allotment maintenance	£1050	agreed
Allotment water rates	£ 525	now £700
Telephones	£ 800	agreed
Postage	£ 450	agreed
Christmas Lights	£3,500	increased to £3,750
Summer Flower Dis.	£5,000	agreed
Arts Festival Con.	£3,000	increased to £3,250
Youth Sports Dev.	£4,500	agreed
Election Conting.	£1,250	increased to £1,500
Allotment rents	£1,740	agreed

**Item No 3** Appear on two sections. It is proposed not to raise this matter at this meeting but at next Leisure & Maintenance to table a motion re recharging the cost of water rates to allotment holders.

**Item No 4** Salaries consider Labour proposal to be a little tight. Suggest increasing from £36,250 to £37,000. It was confirmed that £37,000 to be budget figure for 2010/11.

**Item No 5** Hospitality/Travel costs (Cllrs) Consider to reduce to £350. This was agreed by Labour group.

**Item No 6** Remembrance Sunday Reduce budget to £850. from £925 last year. This was agreed by labour group.

**Item No 7** Garden Services to elderly. Suggest this is increased as last years budget was fully spent. Increase from £7,350 to £7500. This figure is same as Labour group proposal. Confirmed.

Finally other issues are the whole of the budget should be standing still, some of the budget items have been cut back too far. The Labour proposal would be based on band D 31.56p with Lib/Dem 31.93p being 0.36p increase. The small budget increases would give this council the opportunity of functioning.

Cllr Richard Dodge formally seconded the Lib/Dem budget proposals.

Cllr C Robb reported that the mortgage figure for 89 Plumtre Way of £10,080 was the amount that Labour group had been informed would be held firm. The £12,750 budget figure for 2009/10 included £2,000 for removal expenses.

Cllr R Charlesworth asked for the makeup of the Mortgage figure of £10,080 being recommended for this year's budget.

Cllr C Robb explained the mortgage is £90,000. The former Town Clerk obtained a quote for this as £10,080. Cllr R Charlesworth confirmed acceptance to this response.

Cllr C Robb was concerned why Broxtowe had charged us £3,743 to a budget figure of £3,000. Town Clerk asked to investigate this and report back at next meeting. Cllr P Butler reported that on both Arts Festival and Christmas switch on there has been great difficulty in obtaining funding. Broxtowe BC has asked if funders could consider a slight increase to next year's budget figures. Cllr D Bagshaw asked who gave the permission to increase the money given over the budget amount.

Cllr B Griffin thanked the members for increasing the budget figures for Christmas Lights Switch on/ Arts Festival. We have set a precedent in Eastwood and we need to see these events maintain the excellent quality of previous years. Cllr R Dodge suggested that these events are closely monitored to make sure we are not being asked to pay more than is required. Cllr D Bagshaw hoped that IKEA would be asked to further increase sponsorship for these events and the Broxtowe BC provide equal funding to what budget Eastwood TC provides. The Borough should be seen to be fully in support of these events. Cllr C Robb reported that in Broxtowe BC the Eastwood Christmas Lights switch on was recognised as the premier Christmas light switch on event in the Borough. We need to see that standard maintained.

Cllr C Robb thanked the meeting for such a sensible approach to agreeing the budget for 2010/11. That is the way forward and the way we should be working.

Cllr D Bagshaw confirmed this and congratulates both groups for the way the budget has been presented.

The 2010/11 Budget was then calculated to arrive at schedule D ratepayer will pay 31.45p. This budget was proposed by Cllr D Bagshaw, seconded by Cllr R Dodge and formally accepted by the meeting. This provides a saving from 2009/10 where the schedule D ratepayer paid 34.51p a saving of 3.06p

Note: The full Eastwood Town Council Budget for 2010/11 is attached separately with these minutes.

#### **089/10 Reports from Town Councillors**

Cllr H Charlesworth reported that Broxtowe Women's Project raised over £200 at their Christmas Raffle.

Cllr K Longdon reported he had received three thank you letters for the Community Grant Awards Event from Eastwood Male Voice Choir, Eastwood Citizen Advice, and Broxtowe's Women's project. In addition a thank you from Warburton's where he attended with Mayor of Broxtowe to welcome a trading centre being opened at their bakery.

#### **090/10 Reports from Borough Council**

Cllr Charlesworth reported that Broxtowe were currently engaged in budget rounds. The prospects look better than this time last year.

#### **091/10 Matter concerning the County Council**

Cllr K Longdon reported he had received a large number of phone calls about the bad weather and the gritting policy carried out by Notts County Council. Cllr Longdon confirmed he had contacted Cllr Stan Hepstinstall Broxtowe Portfolio Holder. Because of insurance purposes the Highway authority won't grit the pavements, and because of the limited supply of grit only certain roads are being gritted.

Cllr C Robb confirmed he too had received several complaints about gritting. He had been in contact with Broxtowe Highway Manager. Last week Broxtowe had received a new delivery of grit which will last us two days, with not enough to last over the weekend. This is the reason why the Council are gritting only the major routes. One concern is that the new grit being used needs to be stored in buildings, and this resource is limited. In addition the County Council have been given new powers to remove grit from any Council or similar organisation in order to serve areas where they feel there is more urgent need.

In summary

- The Council have limited supply of grit.

- Have limited resources to store the grit.
- The County are monitoring the supply of grit and of its use and allocating to key areas i.e. Motorways, A Roads etc.

Cllr D Bagshaw made a comment on why this country can't organise itself better in distributing the grit over what is normally around a six week period. Other European countries have no problem. Cllr R Charlesworth felt drivers in this country should become use to putting chains on tyres as in other European countries and drive on snow and ice. Cllr P Butler and Cllr R Dodge raised the issue of potholes that have been caused in area. These need to be repaired as soon as possible. Cllr R Dodge raised the issue of insurance and where the County Council are in respect to damage to vehicles from these pot holes or where a pedestrian crossing the road or walking on a pavement that has not been gritted properly, they fall over and break their legs/arms etc or even die isn't the council responsible for this? This needs to be investigated in the interest of health and safety for the public. The Council needs to be seen to be making the roads/pavements safe for public use.

Cllr K Longdon suggested through this council that areas where the public have experienced serious problems (outside the Library, outside Iceland stores, top of Mansfield Road outside bank, and outside the Post Office, and outside Cooperative Store) to ask the Council for grit bins to be put in these locations. A letter to be sent to Notts County Council making this request.

Cllr H Charlesworth welcomed this suggestion, but pointed out she had requested a grit bin on Garden Road/ Atherfield Gardens but the council had denied this request.

Town Clerk pointed out that to have grit bin located on a street someone has to be responsible for it. Could we consult the traders to take on this responsibility?

Cllr B Griffin wanted to know why Chewton St is no longer being gritted with Castle College and School and a busy road linking large estates.

#### **092/10 Accounts for payment – Schedule 4/10 as attached**

Cllr D Bagshaw queried cheque 7421 Ilkeston Skip Hire. What was the total cost of skips for the work carried by Probation Payback scheme to clear unused allotments on Derby Road? Town Clerk to report back.

Cllr C Robb pointed out the cost of these skips appeared to be taking 25% of the budget figure. We need to keep to our budget allocations, as these are fixed figures.

#### **093/10 Planning Schedules as attached**

Town Clerk reported he had been consulted by Broxtowe Borough Council re Right of Way crossing the development site at Moon & Stars. At this point Cllr R Charlesworth and Cllr C Robb left the meeting as they had Declarations of interest as Borough Councillors.

Cllr P Butler pointed out that this path had been dead- ended when the A610 was created. The path did not go anywhere and therefore the extinguishment of the right of way to allow the development to go ahead was justified.

**Cllr R Charlesworth asked the Chair for the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential issues for Item 11 Town Council Offices to be discussed.  
The public and press left the meeting.**

094/10 **Town Council Offices**

Cllr D Bagshaw opened the discussion pointing out he wanted to see the full council working together on the move from the current offices, and to discuss collectively where we are to move. The discussion has already gone on too long and there is a need to come to a speedy solution. We have come up with proposals with Park View as one solution, which needs to be quickly assessed as an option. Has spoken to T Cleggs who say the £10,000 for internal alterations is an estimated figure. This includes knocking down some walls, rebuild some walls, and plaster. Nothing electrical, no gas installation, and Clegg's would project manage with another cost on the overall total. Without going out to tender we won't arrive at an accurate cost of works to move onto Park View. The other issue is the Covenant We have had a letter from Ruth Hyde Chief Executive Broxtowe BC to facilitate the move from your current site to the Park View surgery building through negotiating a release of the restrictive covenant on the premises, to our mutual satisfaction. This will not mean we will have the covenant removed for nothing, it will be through negotiation and the issue will have to be discussed at a future Cabinet Meeting. The downside of this is if we go to that building and we choose to sell it, the Covenant remains for any future purchaser. They would then have to pay a large sum to have the covenant suited to their requirements. The Covenant remains on the building.

There needs to be a democratic decision and a need to look at further options of where we move to. When a final decision is made the majority view will have to be taken.

Another option is Eastwood Police Station which is in a far better position in the town. This is a business property whereas Park View is suitable for residential use. That is what Park View should be converted to. The Police Station is in prime location, has parking at the rear, security fencing all around the site, plus a car park across the road for public use. I have attended a site visit to the site with Cllr R Dodge the downside is that it has no lift

We have a large sum of money, do we need to surround us with bricks and mortar and offices. Should we go to the populous of Eastwood and say we have a sum of money how would you like us to spend it? Should we purchase a new council building or a different scheme to spend the money to a better benefit to the community of Eastwood?

So my proposal is that we have three options:

- Move into Park View
- Consider Eastwood Police Station as an option
- Spend the money on a community project.

We need now to go into groups and establish the pros and cons on the above options and present them to the council on which option we are going to action. I would like to see groups integrated as that is the only way we can have cross the group opinions. We had a meeting last week that showed we

had some shared interest. We need to act quickly; it has to be tenuous and needs to benefit the people of Eastwood. Lets now go away into groups have round table detailed discussions, and we will respond from your findings.

Cllr R Charlesworth detailed current discussions about the issue of the Covenant at Park View Surgery. A meeting took place with Chief Executive of which he was present, it was established that:

- For the Town Council to move in there would be no commercial value. Because that would only allow another public authority to move in e.g. Broxtowe BC or Notts CC. No monetary value in that decision. No commercial value option does not have to go to Cabinet
- If the covenant is to be released to enable the premises to be used for any purposes, then the value of the release would have to be valued and a payment would be required to be made to Broxtowe Council to remove the same.

Cllr D Bagshaw expressed his concern at the length of time it is taking to reach a final decision on the Covenant. We need to make a united concerted effort to reach a final conclusion to this issue.

Cllr R Charlesworth asked if a temporary location was being considered. Cllr D Bagshaw responded he was looking at a cost sensitive move to provide offices and a Council Chamber. Open to suggestions to where a temporary location could be organised, but a possibility will be coming available in offices off Wellington Place. This option would be subject to costs and legal arrangements. There must be several other options that could be discussed but we need to establish cost/legal implications.

Cllr R Dodge pointed out if the police option was considered it would be at least a year before the building is available, so a temporary location would have to be at least a year option.

Cllr D Bagshaw asked the members to visit the police station with an open mind. When groups have gathered all necessary information about all the options, we can have presentations by the working groups and then make a decision around the table. Council Members would be able to deal with this issue in a clear way with no pressure to make a decision in either way. The options being discussed will have to go to tender to establish true costs for the works

Cllr C Robb asked if the contract with Nottinghamshire Police to purchase the current Eastwood Town Council site has been signed over. Cllr K Longdon confirmed that this matter was still outstanding. Cllr C Robb asked The Town Clerk if Nottinghamshire Police had made any contact. The Town Clerk confirmed that no contact has been made.

Cllr C Robb asked the Town Clerk to ring NALC to confirm if the mortgage will be still available after the end of February 2010. We need to be assured that if we decide to buy either Park View or Police Station, we have the cash available to purchase. Cllr C Robb reported his personal views in that he preferred purchase to renting property.

Cllr D Bagshaw reaffirmed the needs for all members to be fully involved with this project and when we make an affirmed opinion it has the full support of Council.

Cllr H Charlesworth asked if a consideration could be made for the new facilities to be also for use as community building. Cllr D Bagshaw responded that in his view there was enough room downstairs on the Police Station to consider providing Community Room facilities. Cllr R Dodge felt that the upstairs could provide a reduced area site for a Council Chamber with enough room for public to attend. There may be an option to use both rooms downstairs combined to provide community facilities.

Cllr B Griffin confirmed the view to make whatever building we move into as a community facility. Both options Park View and Police Station could be adapted to meet these criteria.

Cllr R Dodge confirmed his surprise following his visit to the Police Station. He had noticed damp to ceiling in one room upstairs, with the rest of the building acceptable. Didn't see any other problem. By just checking the roof area of upstairs room with damp ceiling area, painting all rooms the building could be easily made to meet our requirements. There are a large number of rooms on ground floor where some could be considered for renting out. Cllr R Dodge asked for a cost comparison carried out on both Park View and Eastwood Police Station, consider the renting option and then make a definite decision on which option(s) to take forward. We need to have those cost figures because one of them will hopefully stare out at us because it is not what the building is like now, but what is economic and suitable for the residents of Eastwood. The only way you would go the Doctors surgery is if you had the complete covenant removed. We need a total release on the covenant. We need to carry out all the work by the groups in order to arrive at a final decision in the next four weeks.

Cllr D Bagshaw asked members to attend a working party meeting each Thursday at 4-15pm Eastwood Town Council offices to forward update information. The first meeting to be Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010. to set up criteria of three working groups involving Park View Surgery, Eastwood Police Station and temporary move.

Cllr J Forrest expressed the view that it was better for Eastwood Town Council to purchase a building and if Broxtowe BC allowed us to purchase the play area for a £1 perhaps we could obtain a grant to improve play facilities.

Cllr B Griffin felt this meeting had been the best meeting this council has had for a number of years. We will all go home with a feeling we have come together, we need to build on it, long may it continue.

Chair asked Cllr Bagshaw how the Town Clerk fitted into the current agenda with Working groups in place, regular meetings etc. Cllr D Bagshaw replied this will be a democratic decision and when all information has been gathered a full council meeting will be set up to just discuss the Town Council move.

Cllr J Zalewski asked what was the number one priority finding somewhere to go. How long have we got in the present location? Cllr D Bagshaw responded by saying that there is at least a month or slightly longer in the present location. The aim of the working parties is to establish the best option faced with the need to move out of the current site in the very near future.

Cllr D Bagshaw insisted that the stain glass window in Mayor's Parlour is one important item that will be taken away from this building and put into store. Cllr D Bagshaw confirmed he is being pressurised by vendors of Park View Surgery. Because of this meeting he will go back and point out that working parties are in place and until a decision is reached by Full Council we are unable to decide on whether we purchase Park View Surgery. He will also point out that we are still waiting for Nottinghamshire Police to sign the contract to purchase the land at our current Council Offices.

\*\*\*\*\*

Meeting closed at 9.13pm

This concluded the meeting .There being no further business the Town Mayor thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.