

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL -

May 19th 2010

The Annual General Meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on May 19th 2010 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30p.m. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

54/10). Present Were:-	Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor Allen D.
	Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor L. von Elbing
	Councillor P. Jones	Councillor J. Pert
	Councillor G. Garner	Councillor J. Jones
	Councillor A. Holl	Councillor P. Allsop
	Councillor E. Amos	
	1 member of the press	Mrs. C. Heelis - Clerk

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Pimble, Apps, Baskerville and Starkey together with Borough Councillors F. Chapman and I. Jennings, County/Borough Councillor H. Butter, PCSO D. Lutwyche and P.C. K. Green.

The meeting opened with prayers.

55/10). Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration Form:-

Councillor Allen took the Chair for the election of the Chairman.

Members had been notified prior to the meeting that there was only one candidate for the Office of Chairman. Councillor G. Dale was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was signed and received.

Councillor Dale took the chair.

56/10). Vice-Chairman:- Only one nomination had been received and Councillor Pimble was re-elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

57/10). To Appoint Committees and Liaison Representatives:-

Planning Committee	All Councillors
Traffic Management Committee	Councillors Pimble, Allen, Pert, von Elbing, Dale, Amos, Garner, Allsop and Starkey together with co-opted member – Mr. P. Jones (Business Focus Group).
Enhancement Committee	Councillors Dale, Allen, Pimble, Baskerville, Pert, Delanchy, Amos, Allsop, Garner, Holl, Apps and Starkey, together with co-opted members – Mr. K. Tooth and Mrs. W. Baskerville
Policy and Resources	Councillors Allen, Dale, Pimble, P. Jones, J. Jones, Allsop, Holl, Starkey and Amos.
Footpaths Committee	Councillors Allen, Dale, Baskerville and Allsop together with co-opted members – Mr. N. Davenport, Mr. G. Clowes and Mr. D. Smith.
Staffing Committee	Councillors Allen, Pert, Pimble, J. Jones and P. Jones
Croxton Playing Fields	Councillors Pert, Delanchy and Holl
Allotments:-	Councillors Apps, Garner and Starkey.
Ecclian Society	Councillor P. Jones
Eccleshall Community Centre	Councillors Dale, Allen and Amos
Parish Councils Assoc.	Councillor Allen
Parish Forum:-	Councillor Allen
Local Agenda 21	Clerk
Offley Hay Village Hall	Councillor P. Allsop.
Press Officer	Councillor P. Jones
Internal Auditor	Councillor J. Jones
Independent Internal Auditor	Mrs. Julie Hill
Police Liaison Officer	Clerk
Business Focus Group	Councillor P. Jones
Newsletter Editorial Team	Councillors Jones, Dale, Allen and Pimble

Farmers Market	Councillor P. Allsop
Tourism Bureau	Councillor P. Jones
Children & Young Peoples Champion	Councillor A. Holl
Slindon residents	Councillor von Elbing
Eccleshall First Responders	Councillor G. Garner
Communities Mean Business	Councillor L. von Elbing
Bishop Lonsdale School	Councillor J. Pert

58/10). To Consider the Councils Deeds and Insurances:- This item was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

59/10). Public Participation;- There were no members of the public present.

60/10). To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on April 21st 2010 and the Parish Meeting on April 28th 2010:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

61/10). Reports from Borough Councillors:- There were no Borough / County Councillors present.

62/10). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor Pert referred to the meeting of the Traffic Management Committee held on May 5th, 2010, minutes of which had been circulated with the agenda.

Details of the Neighbourhood Highway Teams visits, overall priorities and a delivery programme were to be published on the County Council website 'Local View' and linked to Members pages. It was agreed that the Clerk would assist the Community Highway Liaison Officer to compile this information. Mrs. Heelis was asked to include a link to the site from the Parish Council website and an item on the Neighbourhood Highway Team in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

It was noted that Cllr. Butter had influence over funding in his County area, which included other Parishes in addition to Eccleshall. The Council agreed that Councillor Butter should be invited to join the Traffic Management Committee and also to attend meetings with Mr. Mitchell to enable him to balance issues with those of the wider area.

Green Lane / Newport Road:- It was reported that the visit of the speed enforcement motorbike had been delayed indefinitely due to health and safety issues. It was suggested that a vehicle could be positioned on the Fire Station forecourt as an alternative, subject to approval of the Fire Station. The telegraph pole on Newport Road was not to be moved as the potential costs outweighed any benefits / increase in visibility.

Walton Bends:- Councillor Pert again requested that a meeting was arranged with representatives of the Road Safety Team, Police and First Responders to ensure that the safety team were aware of the wider issues involved at the location and this had been agreed. Concerns had been raised that an increased number of Car Transporters were using the A5013 to access Greenhous at Cold Meece. Mr. Mitchell agreed to investigate planning permissions in order to ascertain whether the vehicles were supposed to use the B5026 to access the site and would write to Greenhous about this matter if appropriate.

Slindon:- Mr. Mitchell had indicated that the speed limit review was scheduled for the first quarter of 2010 (the dates would not be disclosed as this could affect the results) the review was ongoing collating facts, figures and information available. Mr. Mitchell indicated that the reviewers were independent and not subject to outside pressures, the review had to be completed by the end of the financial year. If any additional measures were required they would be included in the Local Transport Plan and prioritised accordingly. Any recommendations would be subject to consultation and legal procedures.

A Slindon resident, who was hoping to apply to change the driveway to her property, had encountered problems with the removal of a tree on the verge. It was agreed to suggest that a planning application should be submitted, although the Parish Council would have no influence over the decision.

With regard to flooding on Aspley Lane, the Highways had cleared the inlet and pipe under the road but according to common practice ditches adjacent to the highway and in front of hedges

were the responsibility of the landowner. If the Landowner believed that he was not responsible for the ditch then he would need to supply evidence to the Highways Authority.

Mr. Mitchell was asked to check the route strategy for mention of speed through Slindon and also obtain speed data from before and after the implementation of the 50mph limit and central hatching

The resurfacing of the footpath through Slindon had been included in the programme but there was no guarantee when the work would be carried out.

Councillor Pert indicated that he would relay these responses to the Slindon residents.

Grit Bins:- It had been agreed to publish the suggested sites for grit bins on the Parish in the June Parish Council Newsletter. If no feedback was received the list would be sent to Shane Latham for assessment according to the criteria.

Bank Holiday Markets:- In advance of the market scheduled for May 3rd Mrs. Heelis had contacted the Police, Borough and County Councils with regard to inconsiderate and inappropriate parking. However, local residents had taken photographs on Monday May 3rd, which Mrs. Heelis had copied to the Borough Council requesting the matter be taken up with the event organiser prior to the next market on May 31st, with further copies to the Police, Parking Enforcement and Chris Mitchell.

Horsefair:- Councillor Pimble had prepared a plan for the enhancement of the area of grass at Horsefair. Mr Mitchell agreed to check for statutory services under the area, but indicated that he had no objections to the scheme in principle. A licence would be required from the Highways at a cost of £50 and details of plants and materials should be supplied. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Enhancements Committee for further consideration.

Traffic Count B5026:- Councillor Pert had liaised with the Chair of Loggerheads Traffic Management Committee and it was agreed to proceed with a traffic count. Friday was suggested as a suitable day and monitoring would be undertaken in pairs, additional volunteers would be welcome.

Neighbourhood Highway Team:- The next visit would be during June and Shane Latham had forwarded a list of works for prioritisation. It was agreed to request that clearing of vegetation from the footpath at Byanna and the footpath past the Cricket Club on the B5026 together with the painting of visibility railings at Elford and Copmere received priority

The Council accepted the minutes of the Traffic Management Committee.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported that the County Council had obtained permission from the Department for Transport to put waiting restriction signs on the wooden planter posts. This would reduce the number of additional posts required to ensure that the restrictions could be enforced. Eccleshall in Bloom had raised no objections to the signs and it was agreed to request the Highways to proceed. The next meeting of the Enhancements Committee would be held on June 2nd, 2010 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting would be held on July 7th, 2010 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- There was nothing to report.

63/10). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Tourism Bureau, Slindon Village Hall or First Responders

Eccelian Society:- Councillor P. Jones reported that the hanging baskets and mangers would be erected on June 6th and volunteers would be welcome. Garden tools were required for the second hand stall at the festival on June 26th.

Offley Hay Village Hall – The AGM would be held on June 10th, 2010.

Farmers' Market:- The next Market would be held on May 22nd at the Kings Arms Car Park.

Communities Mean Business:- Councillor von Elbing reported that a meeting had been held at Barlaston to consider an application for a Project at Oak Tree Farm. No applications from Eccleshall Parish had been received to date.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Pert reported that there had been no meeting and no discussion on the Dog Fouling Poster / Competition. The Headteacher had requested a separate bin for dog waste by the school but the Borough Council advised that the existing bins were suitable for the disposal of both litter and dog waste.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale indicated that at the AGM held on May 18th the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer had been re-elected.

Festival:- Councillor P. Jones advised that the preparations were proceeding well with 52 stalls having been booked. The 24 page programme was currently being printed.

64/10) Police:- Apologies had been received from PCSO Lutwyche and P.C. K. Green. There had been 28 incidents reported in the Parish since the last meeting, five of which were of note.

65/10). Clerks Report and Correspondence:-

Computer and Office furniture:- Mrs. Heelis reported that Japhlin had quoted approximately £1000 inclusive of VAT for a replacement base unit, monitor and software, this price included delivery and installation, however, data transfer and application setup would be charged at the normal on-site rate.

Office Opportunities had quoted £464.40 + VAT for a desk, cupboard and set of drawers.

The Council resolved to proceed with the purchase of these items from the £1000 earmarked in reserves and £500 included in the budget for 2010/11.

Cherry Tree Close:- A letter had been received from The National Grid advising that works were due to commence on May 17th, 2010 for approximately 8 weeks to excavate the site and remove historic structures and waste material to prepare the ground for future long term use. Mrs. Heelis had contacted the company to seek further information, it appeared that there were numerous sites around the country that were receiving similar treatment and no specific long term use had been identified.

Grant requests:- Requests for funding had been received from Stafford and District Bereavement and Loss Support Service and Age Concern. It was agreed that in accordance with Council Policy grants would only be made to groups within the Parish.

Walton Hall Community Special School:- The school was attempting to raise sponsorship of £20,000 to become a specialist school in art/performing arts. If successful a further £500,000 would be received from Local and Central Government. This would be used to create a mini theatre and a café bar/reception area available for community use. The application was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration.

Councillor Jennings:- Councillor M. Heenan, Leader of the Council indicated that he had discussed the concerns of the Parish Council with Councillor Jennings and confirmed that as far as Borough Council meetings were concerned Cllr. Jennings was fully functional.

Former Croxton National School:- The Schools Assets Team had responded that in relation to proceeds from the Education Endowment Order relating to Croxton School the Team was unable to influence where the Diocese spent released funds. It was resolved to take no further action regarding this matter.

Bishop Lonsdale CE (VC) Primary School:- The County Council advised that the term of office of a Local Authority Governor was due to end. The Parish Council did not wish to submit any nominations for the post.

Communities Mean Business:- Mrs. Heelis was asked to inform the Administration Officer that Councillor von Elbing had agreed to continue as the representative from June 2010 to May 2011.

66/10). Council Newsletter:- The Clerk circulated draft copies to members and requested any comments by May 24th 2010.

67/10). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that he had attended the Mayor Making Ceremony and the Civic Service in Stafford.

68/10). Accounts:- The Accounts for 2009/10 had been approved by Council on April 21st 2010. Copies of The Annual Governance Statement were circulated and the members agreed that all matters

had been adequately complied with. The papers were to be forwarded to the Audit Commission by June 9th 2010. The Independent Internal Auditor had identified no matters of concern and copies of the report from Mrs. J. Hill had been circulated.

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries & associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	2180.24
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	112.54
Eccleshall Festival Insurance - LGA Act 1972 s. 145	304.50
1st Eccleshall Scout Group - LGA 1972 s.137	600.00
Mrs. J. Hill Internal Audit - Accounts & Audit Regs. 2003	76.00
B.T. Telephone Bill - LGA 1972 s.111	109.79
Stafford Tourism Bureau – LGA 1972 s.144	27.50

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

69/10). Land at rear of Eccleshall Community Centre / Bishop Lonsdale School:-

In accordance with Standing Order 1(b) in view of the special nature of the business about to be transacted, the member of the press present was asked to withdraw from the meeting.

The Clerk had received a letter dated May 5th 2010 from Mr. S. Lane, Capital Team Manager in the Directorate of Children, Young People and Families. The letter advised that there would be a public exhibition of proposals for the development of the north site of the school and the transfer of the school to a single site, at the school on May 19th. Councillors had been notified and many had attended the exhibition.

Following receipt of the letter the Clerk had contacted Mr. MacDonald, who members had liaised with since November 2008. A meeting had been arranged for May 14th and copies of the notes had been circulated. Copies of the proposals were available for inspection.

Councillors expressed disappointment that the proposals had been made available to the public denying the Parish Council any opportunity to have an input. The proposals comprised 89 dwellings on the northern site of the school and included an area of open space, which was not behind the Community Centre. Only local residents had been advised of the exhibition and it had not been widely advertised. The requests of the Parish Council had not been taken into consideration and there was no land behind the Community Centre to create a buffer zone for the activities held there, nor were any recreational facilities included. The proposals included an all weather pitch on the south site of the school for use by the community under an agreement.

Mrs. Heelis was asked to include an item in the Parish Newsletter indicating that although the Parish Council had been liaising with the County Council for many years concerning the acquisition of land to the rear of the Community Centre for recreational purposes, members were disappointed when proposals were displayed on May 19th, 2010 at the school, which did not reflect the aspirations of the Parish Council. Whilst the Parish Council supported the development of a single site school members were extremely disappointed that there had been no allowance for a bowling green or community recreation area at the rear of the Community Centre. The Parish Council would continue to liaise with the County Council and Lichfield Diocese to achieve much needed recreational facilities for community use.

It was resolved to invite Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Lane, Mr. G. Fergus (First City Property Consultancy), Mr. S. Rayner (Lichfield Diocese), Ms M. Taylor (Sport England), Mr. J. Holmes (SBC) and Cllr. H. Butter to attend the next planning meeting in order to discuss the proposals in detail.

70/10), Items / date and venue for next meeting:- June 16th 2010, Offley Hay Village Hall, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm.