

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

May 16th, 2012

The Annual General Meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on May 16th, 2012 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30p.m. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

51/12). Present Were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor J. Allen
Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor L. von Elbing
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor L. Serjeant
Councillor M. Dodkins	Councillor B. Apps
Councillor E. Amos	
County Councillor H. Butter	
7 members of the public	Mrs C. Heelis - Clerk

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Pimble, Garner and Jacques, together with Borough Councillors J. Pert and F. Chapman.

The meeting opened with prayers.

52/12). 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.

Councillor Dale took the chair.

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

53/12). Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office:- Councillor Dale signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and it was agreed that Councillor Pimble could sign the declaration at the next meeting.

54/12). To appoint Committees and Liaison Representatives:-

Planning Committee	All Councillors
Traffic Management Committee	Councillors Pimble, Allen, von Elbing, Dale, Amos, Garner, Jones, Starkey, Dodkins and Jacques, together with 1 co-opted member (Business Focus Group).
Enhancement Committee	Councillors Dale, Allen, Pimble, Baskerville, Delanchy, Amos, Garner, Apps, Mullee and Starkey, together with co-opted members – Mr K. Tooth and Mrs W. Baskerville
Policy and Resources	Councillors Allen, Dale, Pimble, Jones, Garner, Mullee, Starkey, Amos and Dodkins.
Footpaths Committee	Councillors Allen, Dale and Baskerville together with co-opted members – Mr N. Davenport, Mr G. Clowes and Mr D. Smith.
Staffing Committee	Councillors Allen, Pimble,
Croxton Playing Fields	Croxton Councillors
Allotments	Councillors Garner, Apps and Starkey.
Ecclian Society	Councillor Jones
Business Focus Group	Councillor Jones
Press Officer	Councillor Jones
Tourism Bureau	Councillor Jones
Internal Auditor	Councillor Jones
Eccleshall Community Centre	Councillors Dale, Allen and Amos
Parish Councils Assoc.	Councillor Allen
Parish Forum	Councillor Allen
Police Liaison Officer	Clerk
Local Agenda 21	Clerk
Farmers Market	Councillor Mullee
Independent Internal Auditor	Mrs Julie Hill
Newsletter Editorial Team	Councillors Dale, Allen and Pimble

Children & Young Peoples Champion	Councillor Dodkins
Slindon residents	Councillor Dodkins
Bishop Lonsdale School	Councillor Dodkins
Eccleshall First Responders	Councillor Jacques
Offley Hay Village Hall	Councillor von Elbing
Communities Mean Business	Councillor von Elbing

54/12). To Consider the Councils Deeds and Insurances:- This item was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

55/12). Public Participation:-

Castel Street:- Mrs M. Slater spoke about ownership of the frontage of The George and the proposed improvements to Castle Street. Mrs Slater expressed surprise that finance was available for such a scheme when there appeared to be no funds available for play areas or housing and considered that the public should be consulted before the proposals were implemented.

Councillor Dale responded this finance was earmarked by the Borough and County Councils for environmental improvements and could not be used for other projects. Castle Street was unsightly and dangerous and in need of tidying up. The Chairman stressed that the plans available were draft and would be displayed in the library along with forms for people to submit comments. A competition was being launched in the June Council Newsletter for the design of railings, paving or a sculptural feature to enhance the area. Prior to the commencement of any work the County Council would undertake a full consultation exercise.

Street Party:- Mr P. Shirley referred to a Jubilee Street Party planned for June 3rd, 2012 in Small Lane and an application to the Parish Council for funding, which would be considered later in the meeting. Mr Shirley indicated that the event was being planned by a committee with a Chairman and Secretary, with action points noted from meetings as opposed to formal minutes. A bank account was held at the NatWest labelled Jubilee Fund.

56/12). To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on April 18th, 2012 and the Parish Meeting on April 25th, 2012. With a minor amendment to the report regarding Young People (Ref: 43/12) submitted to the Council meeting on April 18th by Councillor Dodkins, the minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

57/12). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

County Councillor Butter reported that grants had been made from the Local Community Fund to the Library Garden Project and the Parish Council Newsletter and an application form had also been passed to the Allotments Association. Traffic surveys were being conducted on the A519 as a result of pressure from the Woodseaves Action Group, however, Councillor Butter reminded members that many local people were employed at Raleigh Hall and indicated that he would be reluctant to restrict traffic to and from the industrial estate. It was noted that although complaints had been received regarding increased HGV movements through Eccleshall there was no evidence to substantiate these claims unless a survey was undertaken to produce figures for comparison to previous statistics.

Borough Councillor P. Jones reported that he would continue to be a member of the Planning Committee for the next twelve months, Environmental Health had investigated the situation with noise and emissions from the chimney at the Saint-Gobain factory at Raleigh Hall and a filter was to be fitted to the chimney during the next few weeks in an attempt to reduce the noise and emissions, if this failed to improve matters it was proposed to increase the height of the chimney. Councillor Jones would continue to liaise with Mr M. Street at the Borough Council concerning this matter.

Councillor Jones indicated that although he had first raised the issue of parking enforcement in Eccleshall some ten months ago no satisfactory answer had been forthcoming. Clarification of the instructions given to Enforcement Officers had been requested from the Cabinet Member and Councillor Jones and the Parish Council would continue to monitor the situation.

58/12). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor von Elbing referred to the minutes of a meeting of the committee held on May 2nd, 2012. The meeting with Mr Mitchell had been rearranged for June 21st at Eccleshall Community Centre at 10am.

- Councillor von Elbing referred to resurfacing works that had been carried out in the County and the Clerk was asked to contact the highways and enquire if there were any plans to resurface Stafford Road and Stafford Street, the surface around the two roundabouts was particularly poor. Members were asked to notify the Clerk of any other areas in need of attention.
- **Neighbourhood Highway Team. Next visit w/c June 28th, 2012:-** The committee had agreed to request the team to clear the vegetation on the footpath on Newport Road from Cross Butts to Wootton Lane. Members were asked to contact the Clerk with any other matters requiring attention.
- **Castle Street Improvements:-** It was noted that a further meeting was planned with representatives of the County and Borough Councils on May 31st at Eccleshall Community Centre. The Clerk was to arrange for a draft plan to be displayed in the library together with some basic feedback forms.
- **Gist Lorries and HGV's going to Raleigh Hall:** Several emails had been received from local residents and Mr Batten and Mr Whitworth had expressed concerns at the vehicle movements seven days a week and during the night. A meeting had been arranged with Mr Piper from Gist on Thursday May 17th at 7.30pm.
The minutes of the Traffic Management Committee were adopted by the Council.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported the following:-

- Work to repaint the clock was due to commence shortly
- A request had been received from the Historical Society to plant an oak tree to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Elford Heath was suggested as a possible site and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were authorised to discuss this matter further with Mr K. Tooth.

There were no reports to receive from the Policy and Resources or Footpaths Committees.

59/12). Liaison Representatives:-

Allotments Association:- Councillor Starkey reported on a recent meeting of the Association. All plots were taken up and members had paid £10 each towards the shelter / store. A sub-committee had been formed to submit an application had been made for lottery funding. A quote of £320 had been received to tackle the mole infestation, fence repairs were held in abeyance and a skip had been organised.

Ecclesham Society:- Councillor Jones reported that the baskets and flags would be erected on Sunday May 27th and volunteers were requested to assist. An historical leaflet had been published on the Pubs and Inns of Eccleshall and copies were available in the Library.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor von Elbing reported that at the recent AGM all the committee had been returned. A Jubilee grant had been applied for towards the construction of the patio, the book bank was proving popular and bookings were good.

Tourism Bureau:- Councillor Jones reported that he attended the AGM of the Bureau with the Clerk at Cosford. The new website was completed and included items and information about Eccleshall.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins referred to improvements at the school since the appointment of Mr Middleton as Headteacher and there was now a waiting list of prospective pupils.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that a new Zumba class was due to start shortly and also a Zumba Tonic class for young children. A new Ballet class would be a welcome addition later in the year.

Business Focus Group:- Councillor Jones indicated that the next event on May 23rd would be held at The Star at Copmere.

Festival:- The new Mayor was to open the event and stall bookings were going well.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins explained that the Youth Club Management Committee had met recently and was attended by members of the Youth Committee. The Library Garden would be opened at a special event on May 25th by the Chairman of the County Council. The children had worked hard to design and plant the garden and thanks were extended to Emma Austin.

Communities Mean Business:- There was no report to receive.

60/12). Grant Applications:- The following Applications had been received:-

Eccleshall Youth Club had requested £250 towards the garden project. The Council resolved to give a grant of £250 from the budget earmarked for grants using powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Eccleshall Jubilee Committee:- It was resolved to fund the insurance for this event up to a cost of £250.00. There was finance remaining in the budget for event insurance following the payment of insurance for the Festival. The Clerk was instructed to request a copy of the appropriate documentation.

61/12). Clerk's report and correspondence:- Mrs Heelis referred to the following items of correspondence:-
Eccleshall Historical Society:- A letter seeking guidance from the Parish Council concerning the planting of an Oak Tree. This matter had already been discussed.

Stone Road Parking:- Emails had been received from Ms A. Hopper of 14, Hartlands Road and also from Mr T. Griffin expressing concern about parking on Stone Road by the Animal Heath Store and the Nursery. The Clerk was asked to place this matter on the agenda for the meeting with Mr Mitchell.

Street Lighting – Energy Conservation Initiative:- The County Council had written enquiring whether Parish Council wished to have street lighting dimmed during night time hours. The Parish Council would be required to obtain the support of the community to enable alterations to be implemented. The necessary modification would be funded by the County Council but if it was later decide to revert to all night lighting the Parish Council would be responsible for the associated costs. Consideration of this matter was referred to the Traffic Management Committee.

Allotments Lease:- As part of the criteria for funding the lottery required the insertion of a clause to indicate what would happen to the land if the Association disbanded. It was agreed to insert the following - *In the event of the Association being disbanded during the term of the lease, the land and any permanent fixtures thereon, would be surrendered to the Landlord at the end of the cropping season.*

Bus Service:- The Clerk had contacted the County Council and was advised that with effect from June 23rd. 2012 services 432 and 433 would transfer from Wardle Transport to Arriva and would operate from the Stafford depot instead of Stoke. There would be no changes to the current timetables or routes and it was likely that the drivers and vehicles would be Arriva ones.

Poor's Allotment 235259:- An enquiry had been received from someone seeking to rent this land. It had previously been established that the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish of Eccleshall were the Trustees for this land and the Clerk was asked to forward the correspondence to Rev. James Graham.

62/12). Chairman's Report:- There was no report to receive.

63/12). Accounts:- The Clerk reported the receipt of £10 rent from the Community Centre, a VAT refund of £478.56, a grant from the Local Community fund of £750.00.

Retrospective authority was agreed in respect of the following payment:-

Creative Copy 'n' Colour Walk Booklet - LGA 1972 s. 142	880.00
---	--------

Funding totalling £412.00 had been received from the Local Community Fund and the Community Paths Initiative towards the booklet.

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries and associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	1290.07
PAYE - LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963	327.20
NHI - LGA (Financial Provisions)1963	236.66
Pension LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	421.41
Creative Copy 'n' Colour - Walk Leaflets - LGA 1972 s. 142	492.00
Trent Grounds Maintenance - Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10	184.80
B.T. Telephone Bill - LGA 1972 s.111	125.35

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

It was noted that funding of £400 towards the footpaths leaflets had been received from the Rights of Way and £100 from the Eccleshall Guide.

64/12). Items / Date and venue for next meeting:- June 20th, 2012 Offley Hay Village Hall, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.