

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

May 17th, 2017

The Annual General Meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on May 17th, 2017 at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.20pm.

56/17). Present were:-	Councillor G. Garner (Chairman)	Councillor P. Jones
	Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor C. Marshall
	Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor R. Langford
	Councillor T. Price	Councillor M. Starkey
	Councillor D. Jacques	Councillor P. Alcock
	Councillor E. Amos	Councillor A. LeMonnier
	Councillor J. Leather	Councillor J. Jones
	County and Borough Councillor J. Pert	
	Mrs S. J. Worden (Clerk)	7 members of the public

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Mullee.

The meeting opened with prayers

57/17). Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:-

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

There was only one candidate for the Office of Chairman. Councillor G. Garner was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Vice-Chairman:- Councillor Garner requested nominations for the Office of Vice-Chairman - only one nomination was received and Councillor P. Jones was elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

58/17). Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office:- The appropriate forms were duly signed.

59/17). To appoint Committees and Liaison Representatives:-

It was noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council were members of all Council Committees.

Planning Committee	All Councillors
Traffic Management Committee	Councillors P. Jones, Amos, Garner, J. Jones, Starkey, Jacques, Langford, Leather, Price, Le Monnier and Alcock.
Enhancement Committee	Councillors Baskerville, Amos, Garner, Mullee, Starkey, Langford, Marshall, Price, Le Monnier and Alcock, together with co-opted member – Mr G. Dale.
Policy and Resources	Councillors Garner, Jones, Mullee, Starkey, Amos, Jacques, Langford, Marshall, Alcock, J. Jones, Price and Le Monnier.
Footpaths Committee	Councillors Baskerville, Mullee, Leather, Marshall and Alcock, together with co-opted members – Mr N. Davenport and Mr D. Smith.
Staffing Committee	Councillors Garner, Baskerville and P. Jones
Croxton Playing Fields	Croxton Councillors
Allotments	Councillors Starkey and Garner
Eccleshall Community Centre	Councillors Amos, Starkey, Jacques and Price
Parish Councils Assoc.	Clerk
Parish Forum	Clerk
Police Liaison Officer	Clerk
Eccleshall First Responders	Councillor Jacques
Offley Hay Village Hall	Councillor Le Monnier
Press Officer	Councillor P. Jones
Tourism Bureau	Councillor P. Jones
Ecclian Society	Councillor P. Jones
Internal Auditor	Councillor P. Jones
Independent Internal Auditor	Mr A. Toplis
Slindon residents	Councillor Leather

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Councillor Marshall
Councillor Langford
Councillors Baskerville, Garner and Jones

60/17). To Consider the Councils Deeds and Insurances:- This item was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

61/17). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- There were no requests to receive.

62/17). To review members Registers of Interest:- Members were reminded to advise the Clerk of any changes to their circumstances that may require the details on their personal and pecuniary interests forms to be amended.

63/17). Public Participation:-

HGV Traffic on Langot Lane:- Mr. Peter Swynnerton referred to an article publicised in the Staffordshire Newsletter, reporting on the excess movement of HGV's down Langot Lane, specifically noting the use on Easter Sunday. Mr. Swynnerton advised there were no lorries from their company using the road on that day. He also said that from their point of view, they would never have 6/7 lorries per hour using the road. He would welcome a survey or further information as to the description and registration numbers of the lorries who were using the road in this way, so that a clear picture could be built up for checking and tracking. He advised that the road was used by a lot of other HGV 's, and other large vehicles such as horseboxes and milk tankers. Mr. Swynnerton stressed that he felt this article was a misrepresentation to his company.

Taylor Wimpey planning application for tree removal:- Miss K.Lynch referred to the recent planning application submitted by Taylor Wimpey for the removal of additional trees on the site. Miss Lynch stated that many trees have already been removed as part of the construction works and that she considered these trees were of good quality and subject to tree preservation orders. They were visible from various public locations and were helping to screen current properties from the new build. Removal of the additional trees will have an environmental impact. The boundary, as part of condition 18, was to divert around these trees, and the permissions given to the plans incorporated this. The residents feel that nothing has changed and that the trees should remain. Miss Lynch noted that Taylor Wimpey did not have a good track record with regards to tree damage, and wished the council to consider the residents' concerns on this matter.

64/17). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on April 19th, 2017 the Parish Meeting held on April 26th, 2017 and the Enhancements committee meeting on 3rd May 2017:- Following an amendment to the council meeting minutes of 19th April, whereby the chairperson should have been noted Councillor Garner, and also a change of date to the Allotments meeting to 24th May, the minutes, which had been circulated with the agendas, were agreed and signed.

65/17). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:- County and Borough Councillor Pert gave thanks for his election to the post of County Councillor and expressed his commitment to support the parish over the next 4 years. Looking ahead, Councillor Pert wished to set out some thoughts for the time ahead:

- As this is a large county area, it is important to work together to make plans from a community perspective, working collectively and proactively to support the local community to prevent issues arising.
- Chief executive of the Borough Council was in Eccleshall a couple of weeks ago, meeting with Councillors Pert and P. Jones, to discuss a variety of issues that are Borough priorities. The Chief Executive of the County Council has also committed to come to Eccleshall to do the same.
- Importance to look to influence political agendas – Councillor Pert has a commitment from cabinet county councillors to come out into the area to look at the issue of potholes. The County Council has committed to putting £3 million a year, over the next four years, into fixing potholes. There are issues regarding the process itself whereby they may come out and incur

cost in visiting and fixing a pothole, but often leave adjacent potholes as they are. It is important to get the quality of the fix right first time. At present the council are fixing as many potholes as are reported, but still have the backlog to address.

- Councillor Pert intends to meet with highways on a monthly basis, to support the work of the Parish Council that is currently in place. He urged members to consider the resource of the community fund, which is a fund of 7.5k a year, for use with in the division. The Parish Council could look to consider projects they may wish to put forward for receipt of some funding. In reference to the work of the Croxton Jubilee Fund of 3k, this has been distributed over a wide variety of groups.
- Tactical project work continuing, for example, further work on the toilet area
- Councillor Pert would welcome a meeting with Mr Swynnerton to further discuss his areas of concern, and on a separate note, advised that the Slindon speed limit reduction to 40mph is due to be implemented on 31st May.

Questions referred to Councillor Pert included:

Councillor Langford asked about collaborative working, and referred to the collaborative meetings between Parish councils to discuss the potential reduction of council services and ways to work collaboratively to support this. The council is asked for clarity and information on these potential areas of reduction to enable the parishes to move forwards in planning proactively.

Councillor Garner flagged up the serious condition of Small Lane, and that it is not only an eyesore, but dangerous. Councillor Price has reported this but was told it was not a priority. Councillor Pert committed to following this up.

Report from Borough Councillor P. Jones:-

- Councillor Jones attended the Stafford Borough Mayor Making on Saturday 13th May.
- He confirmed his appointment to the Borough planning, audit and accounts, licensing, and sports Stafford Borough committees.
- Councillor Jones advised that he will talk to the tree planner on Friday 19th May, to find out further information regarding the application for removal of trees on the Taylor Wimpey site.
- Update on the community transport project. It is proceeding slowly. It is hard to identify potential users and so far there are about 6 drivers who have volunteered for the service. At present, he is engaging with various community groups, distributing leaflets to highlight the service and pass on to interested parties. There is a meeting with the county council transport representatives next week to discuss further, and to liaise with Richard Upton to see if we can access funding for the project.

66/17). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor P. Jones highlighted that the committee were undertaking a survey of HGV traffic and asking for public opinion on any issues, but were not involved with the resident's petition concerning Langot Lane. Any feedback received that the committee agree with will then be passed onto the Highways Department. Councillor Garner thanked Councillors Pert and Jones for their efforts and assured all concerned that issues are being addressed objectively, and the comments of Mr. Swynnerton would be taken on board.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Baskerville presented a report on the meeting held on May 3rd, 2017. The minutes had already been circulated to members.

- The annual risk assessment and asset survey was in the process of being updated, and it was hoped that it would be completed shortly.
- The seat for Croxton play area was ordered (and is now delivered), for installation by Rod Sheard.
- Replacement logs for the log walk should be delivered by w/e 26th May.
- The pillar clock chimes are still not working. Hawkins have identified that the main unit has failed and have ordered a replacement to be fitted. No cost is expected to be incurred.
- The grant of £520 has now been received for the troughs by the toilet area from the county council, and thanks were expressed to Mrs. Heelis and Councillor Jones for chasing this up.
- The alleyway by the barbers, which was previously noted as being in a dangerous state with litter dumped, was the site of a fire on May 3rd, as seen by Councillor Baskerville after the meeting.

The minutes of the enhancements committee were adopted by the council.

Policy and Resources:- Councillor Garner advised that the next meeting would be held on June 7th, so there was nothing to report since the last meeting. As part of the agenda for the next meeting, there would be a discussion as to the location of condolence pages to submit as part of the protocol for the death of a monarch. Councillor Leather noted that with regards to any decision to locate a condolence book within Holy Trinity church, it would be best to liaise with the church wardens.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Mullee was not at the meeting, so any report was deferred until the next Parish Meeting. Councillor Delanchy made a comment about a blockage on a footpath near Copmere. It is unclear whether this has been deliberately blocked. Councillor Marshall volunteered to go and look and would get further details from Councillor Delanchy.

67/17). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from Offley Hay Village Hall, Children and Young Peoples Champion or Croxton news.

Allotments Association:- Councillor Garner has received the minutes of the last meeting. To summarise:

- Finances – rents have been paid, as has the fencing bill, leaving a balance of £850-900.
- Plots that were advertised after the last committee meeting resulted in several people coming forward, and all workable plots are now allocated with a waiting list of 5.
- A couple of plots are not being worked properly and these plot holders may need to be contacted to deal with the issue.
- The gateway is completed to the committees' satisfaction and the fencing project, supported by the Parish Council, is completed along the left hand side of the site as visible from the road. They will be applying for further funding to complete fencing along other sides of the site.
- The cabin has been repaired to fix the leak to the roof and work has been completed to tidy up the rear of the cabin. Work is now pending a decision as to what to put in there.
- Hedges are in good condition.
- There was a unanimous decision to continue to sponsor Eccleshall in Bloom for this year.
- Hazel Bradshaw, the organiser of the Eccleshall Show, was requesting further ideas for classes this year. No ideas were forthcoming at that time but they would consider this further.

Community Centre Association:- Councillor Amos reported there has been no meeting since the last Parish meeting. Councillor Amos, advised by the chair, that there has been recent vandalism at the centre, where an electrical cable to the cellar had been cut. There had been an attempt to smash the pump with a brick, and that a drainage pipe had been pulled out. They have asked if anyone has seen anything please can it be reported. The AGM, scheduled for 23rd May, has been cancelled due to being inquorate.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Baskerville summarised the chairs report:

- A review has been conducted by the Eccleshall in Bloom committee regarding the Christmas tree lights. They have now been upgraded with the purchase of a complete set of replacement battery lights, which on test have so far lasted up to 5 weeks. With Duracell batteries it is expected they will last even longer.
- Johnson Hall nurseries are preparing the baskets for erection on June 4th. Sponsorship requests were sent out and response has been excellent.
- The society lunch club met on May 17th for the 150th time. Membership of the society has increased to 204 households. The cost is £5/year per household.
- Arrangements are in place for the open gardens weekend on the 17th/18th June.

Tourism Bureau: There was a meeting held last month at the County showground, and a speaker was invited to talk about the update to the Salt library.

Slindon Residents: Councillor Leather re-iterated that the new 40mph speed limit was coming into effect. There has to date been no confirmation about the erection of the gates on the verges, but this is being followed up by the village trust. This is a separate issue to be clarified with the county council.

68/17). Parish Council Newsletter June 2017. Mrs Worden distributed draft copies and requested any comments or suggestions for the remaining space as soon as possible. The aim was to get the

newsletter signed off by Wednesday 7th June so that it could be printed and distributed after the next Parish meeting on June 21st 2017.

- 69/17). New Developments – Eagle Sculpture:-** Bovis had confirmed that they were only able to provide £5000 in support of the project, and it has been difficult to obtain overall costings for the project. Councillor Delanchy advised that we need costs and recommendations in order to move forward. The original estimate for the sculpture was £7500, and Martin Ratcliffe had estimated it may incur a cost of £15000 in total. The current design can be amended to remove the rocks and landscaping as this is no longer required, which may reduce the overall cost. To proceed, we would need costs of works for a base, metal sheath and the eagle bolted on. We would need civil engineering costs, and also confirmation from the designer, Tim Roper, that the base would meet the criteria for the 4ft wingspan bird. Councillor Baskerville raised concerns that the costs seem to be very different to those originally expected. Councillor Alcock raised the issue of insurance, and that this would be an ongoing cost. The clerk advised that this could be added to our current policy. Ongoing costs in terms of repairs would also need to be considered. Councillor Pert talked about a recent car park project that was supported with free labour by Amey. Amey is currently looking to support more community based projects and Councillor Pert volunteered to discuss this with Amey to see if it would be interested in the eagle. This was agreed by the council. Discussions took place around the project specifics and concerns regarding the need to obtain further detailed information with regards to plan amendments, detailed calculations on depths of fixing, and a full breakdown of costs. This information will need to be clarified ahead of putting forward a planning application, and the council were in favour of clarifying this information before proceeding further. Councillor Langford raised concerns about the ownership of the roundabout. At present, it is not adopted, but on completion, it should be adopted by the county council for maintenance. However, the council specification was for a grassed area, not the shrubs that have recently been planted. **Bovis:-** Residents have complained to Councillor Price about the recent pile driving work on site, which has been causing issues, especially with a resident working shifts. It was criticised that Bovis had not provided advance notification of the works, and were not returning calls from residents. At present, they are quite quiet. Councillor Garner advised that when contacted, Bovis advised of the length of the work, and that they were working within the regulated time. As they are compliant with the planning regulations, there is not much that can be done. The main criticism to consider moving forward is the need to improve their communication with residents. **Taylor Wimpey:-** Councillor Amos reported that they had completed the fitting of the drains, and put the road back in place.

- 70/17). Neighbourhood Plan:-** nothing to report.

- 71/17). Clerk's Report and correspondence:-**

HGV use of Langot Lane – letters were received from John Reeves and Swynnerton Transport raising concerns about the possible restriction of the Lane for HGV drivers, regarding the detrimental effect to their businesses and the environment in considering alternative routes. Councillor Baskerville noted that both companies have always acted very considerately. Councillor Garner queried whether this is classed as part of the usual traffic of the road and whether the council survey was looking at a possible increase in non-local traffic using the route, possibly due to directions from satnavs.

Councillor Jones advised that it would be of interest to get more information about the specifics of the traffic that is causing concern with the residents, to be able to identify the problem more accurately.

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – requesting subscription of £15. It was felt that this is more beneficial for sports organisations/clubs. The request was declined by the council

Summary of report from Stafford Collaboration Group meeting on 27th April – minutes had previously been circulated and the clerk requested that anyone interested in attending the next meeting on 27th July. Councillor P. Jones was happy to attend, subject to availability. Concerns were raised that until it is clarified what services may be withdrawn, councils would not be able to progress. Councillor Pert agreed to take this on to find out more information.

Nox sensors – a letter, received from Mr William Clark, was agreed for referral to the Traffic Management committee on July 5th. Mr Clark would be advised accordingly.

Letter re Cheshire railing damage at Copmere End and Elford Heath – a letter was received from Mr P.Allsop raising the issue. Councillor Delanchy advised that the railings were the responsibility of the county council. Councillor Jacques advised that the tidying up of the verges would be best done once

the county council had straightened the railings, to allow for proper access. The council agreed to log reports with the county council for both areas of damage, which would allocate each area a defect number and category that would be followed up by the county council for assessment. Mr. Allsop would be advised of our actions to date.

Crown Surgery: - no response to date has been received regarding the request for clarification on criteria for patients who could continue to use the telephone prescription service. The council agreed to wait until the next meeting to see if any response had been received.

72/17). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Garner indicated he had attended the Stone civic dinner at the end of April, and was pleased to note that several people present gave praise about Eccleshall and the surrounding area. He wished to acknowledge this was due to the hard work of various people in the community and it was important as it is being appreciated. He also attended the Stafford mayor making on Saturday 13th May. Looking back to the presentations on 26th April, Councillor Garner wished to thank the council for all their hard work to make it a success.

73/17). Accounts:- Authorisation was requested for payment of the following accounts:-

S. Worden - Salary - LGA 1972 s. 112	1067.47
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	116.09
PAYE - <i>LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963</i>	0.00
NHI - <i>LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963</i>	132.87
Pension <i>LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995</i>	331.00
Japhlin - PC service, location move and supply of USB leads/toner - LGA 1972 s.111	523.20
TGM Grass and hedge cutting - Open Space Act 1906 s10	291.00
D. Smith - Footpaths Maintenance - HA1980s.143	142.50
Barnett Ratcliffe Partnership (Eagle Sculpture) - LGA 1976 s.19 (Misc Prov) (amended from £966.00)	426.00
Ingestre Woodworks - Oak bench for Croxton playing field. Open Space Act 1906 s10	303.99
B.T. Telephone Bill - LGA 1972 s.111 (C Heelis final bill)	33.77
Society of Local Council Clerks, ILCA course - <i>Training - LGA 1972 s.111</i>	118.80

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

74/17). Items/Date and venue for next meeting:- June 21st, 2017 Offley Hay Village Hall, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.