

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL -

May 18th, 2011

The Annual General Meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on May 18th, 2011 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30p.m. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

48/11). Present Were:-	Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chairman)
	Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Baskerville
	Councillor P. Jones	Councillor J. Allen
	Councillor G. Garner	Councillor L. von Elbing
	Councillor P. Allsop	Councillor M. Dodkins
	Councillor E. Amos	Councillor D. Jacques
	County Councillor H. Butter	Borough Councillor F. Chapman
	4 members of the public	Mrs C. Heelis - Clerk

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Starkey and Borough Councillor J. Pert together with Mr P. Vickers.

The meeting opened with prayers.

49/11). Election of Chairman and signing of Declaration Form:-

Councillor Pimble 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.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and Register of Member's interest forms were signed and received. Councillor Starkey had signed the necessary documents in the presence of the Clerk prior to the meeting.

51/11). Council vacancies:- Councillor Dale welcomed the two new Councillors Mrs M. Dodkins and Mr D. Jacques and thanked retiring Councillors Jeremy Pert and Joy Jones for their commitment and endeavours during their term in office. There were two vacancies on the Council, one representing the Croxton Ward and one the Horsley Ward. Following advertisement of the vacancies four people had expressed an interest in being co-opted, Mr B. Apps, Mr A. Holl. Mr P. Mullee and Mr P. Vickers. Candidates would be asked to make a short presentation to the Council at the June meeting and a ballot would be held to fill the vacancies.

51/11). To Appoint Committees and Liaison Representatives:-

Planning Committee	All Councillors
Traffic Management Committee	Councillors Pimble, Allen, von Elbing, Dale, Amos, Garner, Allsop, Jones, Starkey and Dodkins together with 1 co-opted member (Business Focus Group).
Enhancement Committee	Councillors Dale, Allen, Pimble, Baskerville, Delanchy, Amos, Allsop, Garner and Starkey, together with co-opted members – Mr K. Tooth and Mrs W. Baskerville
Policy and Resources	Councillors Allen, Dale, Pimble, Jones, Allsop, Starkey Amos and Dodkins.
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, Pimble,
Croxton Playing Fields	Croxton Councillors
Allotments	Councillors Garner 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 Allsop
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

52/11). To Consider the Councils Deeds and Insurances:- This item was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

53/11). Public Participation;- There were no matters raised by those present.

54/11). To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on April 20th, 2011 and the Parish Meeting on April 27th, 2011:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

55/11). Reports from Borough / County Councillors:-

Councillor Chapman reported that he had made representations to Stafford Borough Council on behalf of the Parish Council with regard to Planning Application No. 14168 for the erection of 82 residential dwellings at Bishop Lonsdale School to request the developer to speak to the Parish Council concerning the development proposals. Mrs Heelis confirmed that no-one had been in contact with her and Councillor Chapman expressed disappointment that the application had not been treated as a major development with appropriate consultation being undertaken.

Councillor Chapman indicated that he had been nominated to sit on the Resourcing and Public Appeals Committees and would continue as a representative on the Police Authority.

Councillor Jones reported that he was nominated to sit on the Planning Committee and would seek to represent the Parish and local concerns.

It was noted that Councillor Pert was nominated to the Community Scrutiny, Employee Appeals and Members Facilities Committees together with external bodies Sports Stafford Borough and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 2012 Steering Group (relating to the Olympics).

County Councillor Butter Indicated that the application for funding from the Local Community Fund towards kissing gates and a reprint of the Favourite Walk Booklet had been successful. Payment would be forwarded to the Clerk.

56/11). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor von Elbing reported that there would be a meeting with Chris Mitchell from Staffordshire Highways on Tuesday May 24th at 10am. Important issues had been reported following the May Bank Holiday Market and it was hoped that these could be addressed by the organiser in time for the next event on May 30th.

PSCO Lutwyche had advised that the area covered by Eccleshall Police had been expanded to include Gnosall. PCSO Lutwyche had commented that a bicycle would be helpful to cover the distances involved. Members queried why the car purchased by the Mid West Stafford Market Towns Partnership was unavailable and it appeared that the vehicle had been written off as it was over 3 years old. It was agreed to invite the Officer in Charge at Stafford to attend the next Council meeting to explain why the Partnership that had sponsored the vehicle had not been advised that the car could no longer be used. The Clerk was asked to bring this matter to the attention of Stone, Swynnerton, Chebsey and Gnosall Parish Councils.

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on June 8th, 2011 at the Community Centre commencing at 7.30pm.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale referred to the minutes of a meeting held on May 4th, 2011, which had been circulated to members.

- **Washpits:-** It was noted that several vehicles had been parked on The Washpits recently whilst drivers had attended a church service. The Committee would monitor the situation and consider whether it may be necessary to install some small posts or other obstacles to deter people from parking on the area.
- **Croxton Play Area:-** The Committee had considered the annual inspection Report from Wicksteed and two low priority items that had been raised.
- A12mm gap was recommended between the gate and post at the entrance to the play area to prevent pinch hazards and it was recommended that the spring tension was adjusted. Since the meeting these and other issues had been satisfactorily addressed by Jeremy Pert who had planed the main gate, tightened wing nuts on the toddler and main swings, raised the rear gate hinge and repaired a slat by the gate. Thanks were expressed to Jeremy for regularly inspecting the area and undertaking various tasks.
- The erection of a sign was recommended detailing emergency number and the address/name of the playground. The Council agreed that it was unnecessary to purchase a sign as most people using the area were local.
- **Elford Common and Pool:-** The spring area had been cleared and a channel created to take the water into a shallow pond. It was agreed to monitor the area following prolonged wet weather to decide whether a bridge was required across the channel.
- **Allotments:-** The Association had thanked the Parish Council for its support of a shelter/store and indicated that they would be submitting a planning application to the Borough Council in due course.
- **Gritting:-** The Committee was to consider the practicalities and legal implications of accepting the responsibility to undertake gritting of pavements in the town following the Council AGM.
- **Pillar Clock:-** Mrs Heelis reported that Tim from Hawkins Clocks had agreed to visit and repair the chimes. Quotes were to be obtained to repaint the clock and advice would be sought about the type of paint to use.
- **Bishops Court Open Space:-** A letter had been received from the Treasury Solicitors stating that it was no longer necessary to seek consent prior to the placing of any erections or buildings on the area.

The minutes of the Enhancements Committee were adopted by the Council.

Policy and Resources:- The next meeting would be held on July 6th, 2011 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Allen reported that during a recent meeting with a Rights of Way Officer a derelict stile on Footpath 4 had been identified at the Newport Road end. The Officer proposed to write to the landowner suggesting that it was replaced with a kissing gate. Councillor Allen was authorised to investigate costs and sources of funding.

57/11). Liaison Representatives:-

- **Allotments Association:-** Councillor Garner reported that the committee had discussed replacing the notice board on site and Severn Trent had been contacted regarding the water supply. A survey was being undertaken to assess damage to the fencing caused by rabbits. Councillor Butter had offered to contribute £500 towards the scheme from the Local Community Fund. Notes had been issued to new plot holders and a visit to allotments at Barlaston had been deferred.
- **Ecclian Society:-** A manger post outside Moet had been knocked over and a replacement post prepared, which would be installed by the Highways. Baskets would be changed over on June 5th and 10am when volunteers would be welcome.
- **Offley Hay Village Hall:-** Councillor von Elbing reported that the committee had acquired some chairs from The Royal Oak, which were an improvement on the previous seating. It was proposed to install a patio to the rear of the hall to help secure new business.
- **Tourism Bureau:-** Councillor Jones reported that Mr G. Elkin had retired.
- **Farmers' Market:-** The next market would be held on May 28th.
- **Business Focus Group:-** A Busking Festival was planned on June 25th to coincide with the Farmers' Market, The next social meeting would be held on June 9th at The Star at Copmere.

- **Community Centre:-** Councillor Dale reported that at the recent AGM the committee had been re-elected for the next 2 years.
- **First Responders:-** There was no report to receive.
- **Community Means Business:-** Grants had been determined at a recent meeting at Oak Tree Farm, but did not include any projects in Eccleshall. The Programme Director had been made redundant and a temporarily replacement appointed.

58/11). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:-

- **D&G buses:-** Mrs Heelis had received a letter from the bus Network Manager thanking the Councillors for their kind comments. It was stated that the service was currently operated wholly under contract to Staffordshire County Council but from September the bus company would operate the lion's share of the route as a commercial operation. The County would then be required to make a decision as to the funding of the remainder of the timetable, especially evening services which could not be operated at a profit due to minimal patronage. An item was to be included in the Council Newsletter. The Council agreed to write to the bus company and suggest that they consider extending the service to include dropping off/picking up to the Railway Station.
- **Well Dressing:-** Members welcomed a proposal from Broughton WI to undertaken some well dressing in Croxton and Mrs Heelis had advised them to contact the Highways Department to establish whether permission was required.
- **Offley Hay Village Hall:-** An approach had been made concerning the erection of a notice board outside the hall. Mrs Heelis had advised that this was unlikely to require planning permission if it was less than 2m tall and indicated that notices could be displayed on the Council Notice Boards at the entrance to the hall and in the High Street.
- **Comedy of Errors:-** Members were invited to attend the Civic Reception and Gala Performance Stafford Castle on June 24th, 2011. Tickets were £23.00 each.
- **New Councillor Training:-** Authorisation was granted for Councillors Dodkins and Jacques to attend training sessions on June 1st, 8th and 22nd at a total cost of £105.00.
- **A519:-** The Clerk read a letter from Mr L. Banks of The Old Stores, Woodseaves about the volume of traffic using the A519. A public meeting was to be held at The Plough Inn Woodseaves and Councillors and residents were invited to attend. Mrs Heelis was asked to contact Mr Leigh to seek details of the date and time of the meeting.

59/11). Council Newsletter and distribution:- A draft newsletter from June had been circulated and Mrs Heelis requested comments. Changes to the distribution list were required due to the recent elections.

60/11). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that he would attend the Mayor Making Ceremony in Stafford on Saturday May 21st, 2011.

61/11). Accounts:- Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2196.36
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	80.22
Shredder - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	44.99
SLCC Regional Conference <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	78.00
Subscription Local Council Review <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	15.50
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	114.68
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	106.80
Mrs. J. Hill Internal Audit - <i>Accounts & Audit Regs. 2003</i>	57.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed

Mrs Heelis indicated that the Internal Auditor had submitted a report on the accounts and there were no matters to be addressed by the Council. The Clerk was thanked for her diligence, which had resulted in the minimal cost of the internal audit.

62/11). Items/date and venue for next meeting – June 15th, 2011 at Offley Hay Village Hall 7.30pm.
There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.