

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

May 21st, 2014

The AGM of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on May 21st, 2014 at Eccleshall Community Centre, this meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

53/14). Present were:- Councillor G. Dale (Chairman) Councillor D. Pimble Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor E. Amos Councillor P. Mullee Councillor L. von Elbing
Councillor P. Baskerville Councillor M. Starkey Councillor G. Garner
Councillor M. Dodkins Councillor J. Allen Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)
Councillor P. Jones 1 member of the public

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Jacques, Apps and Serjeant together with Borough Councillors Chapman and Pert.

The meeting opened with prayers

54/14). 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.

55/14). Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office:- It was agreed that Councillor Dale and Councillor Pimble would sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms following the meeting.

56/14). To appoint Committees and Liaison Representatives:-

Planning Committee	All Councillors
Traffic Management Committee	Councillors Pimble, Allen, von Elbing, Dale, Amos, Garner, Jones, Starkey, Serjeant, Dodkins and Jacques, together with a co-opted member (Business Focus Group).
Enhancement Committee	Councillors Dale, Allen, Pimble, Baskerville, Delanchy, Amos, Garner, Apps, Mullee, Dodkins, Serjeant and Starkey, together with co-opted member - Mrs W. Baskerville.
Policy and Resources	Councillors Allen, Dale, Pimble, Jones, Garner, Mullee, Starkey, Amos, Serjeant, Dodkins and Jacques.
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 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
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

57/14). To Consider the Councils Deeds and Insurances:- This item was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

58/14). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- No requests had been submitted.

59/14). Public Participation:- The member of the public present did not wish to address the Council.

60/14). To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on April 16th, 2014 and the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 30th, 2014:- Following an amendment to the minutes, which had mistakenly indicated that Councillor Pimble was Chairman, the minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

61/14). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:- Councillor Jones indicated that despite rumours about numerous Planning Applications being expected for Eccleshall Parish, none had yet been submitted to the Borough. Throughout the Borough 37 major planning applications were pending.

62/14). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor von Elbing reported on a meeting of the Committee held on May 7th, 2014:-

Raleigh Hall Industrial Estate:- A response from Mr N. Dawson, Connectivity Strategy Manager for Staffordshire County Council, indicated that the proposed extension to Raleigh Hall included in the local Plan had been reduced to 4 hectares. An in-principle agreement had been issued to the formation of a new access road layout to connect the expanded employment park to the A519 at Cats Hill Cross via a new priority junction with ghost island. Any proposal would be subject to an application for planning approval supported by a formal Transport Assessment, a Travel Plan, detailed construction drawings and an appropriate safety audit.

According to the Local Plan the following appropriate economic uses would be permitted providing there were no significant adverse impacts on the surrounding environment, nearby residents or transport networks:-

Light Industrial (B1) **excluding** B1 offices, general industrial (B2), and storage and distribution (B8).

Proposed Development – Bishop Lonsdale School:- A response from Mr P. Hurdus, Senior Engineer with Staffordshire County Council, indicated that it was not possible to levy a condition on the reserved matters application to request the provision of waiting restrictions, as access matters were determined as part of the outline proposals. In the event of a full application being submitted it was unlikely that such waiting restrictions would be requested given the previous advice in relation to access matters as part of the outline submission.

Proposed development Land off Stafford Road:-

Amended Highway issues proposed by Richborough Estates included:

- Removal of the access from Badgers Croft – it was proposed that this would now be an emergency access only, which would have two bollards, removable only by a key held by the emergency services.
- Boundary treatments to land adjacent to the access to prevent access by cycles or motor bikes.
- A roundabout on the Stafford Road at the site entrance, which would also reduce traffic speeds on the A5013, supplemented by an extension of the 30mph limit and gateway features. (These features could be a matter of discussion with the Parish Council). The siting of the 30mph limit was to allow drivers time to reduce speed before reaching the roundabout.

Following comments made by Mr Harding during the Planning Committee meeting held on May 7th, 2014 it was agreed to also indicate that the impact of additional traffic on Blurtons Lane and the access onto Stone Road should be considered. Councillor Pimble suggested that a policy could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan to require developers to provide a link road between the A5013 and the B5026.

Councillor von Elbing referred to a question regarding a possible contribution towards the development of a car park in the town and asked if the steering group had put forward any potential sites? Councillor Pimble reported that the Group was exploring the possibility of acquiring land on the Meadow to the rear of Eccleshall Library for a car park. The access would have to be off Castle Street with possibly a pedestrian access from the Library. Another possible site was to the rear of the telephone exchange, but access would have to be from Meadow Close.

The Committee recommended that availability of other areas should also be pursued including The Gas Holder Site (which was previously reported to be contaminated and therefore not available) and The Kings Arms (Enterprise Inns). Councillor Serjeant suggested that the Police Car Park could also be considered if the site was not used by the Police. All were in favour of writing to the appropriate bodies regarding the sites mentioned.

The following matters were being pursued by Councillor Chapman through the DHP:-

Kerry Lane / Castle Street:- Mr Mitchell had indicated that the posts had been ordered for both locations and would be installed as soon as possible.

Church Street verges:- Several alternative solutions and costs had been considered.

Roundabouts / weeds:- Councillor Chapman continued to express concerns about the road surface on Stafford Street and Castle Street as well as the removal of weeds in the Town. The Council agreed to continue to press for extensive repairs to Stafford Street and the two mini roundabouts.

Raleigh Hall:- Councillor Chapman had expressed concerns at the prospect of any expansion of the Raleigh Hall industrial estate and in particularly the Gist operation resulting in more HGVs going through the town. The Stafford Road was proving increasingly dangerous for pedestrians as HGVs had difficulty passing and were sometimes obliged to mount the pavement by the Claremont Garage and the wing mirrors were often overhanging the pavement when they passed.

Mr Mitchell had spoken to Nick Dawson over these and other local concerns connected to the potential expansion of the site and had made the development control section aware of the local issues so that these could be considered when they were consulted on any planning application. Alongside the local plan, which the County Council fed into from a highway infrastructure perspective, Mr Mitchell indicated that the Neighbourhood Plan was another way in which the local community could directly influence development and the potential impact.

Councillor Garner indicated that the Newport Road was also dangerous for pedestrian due to the speed of traffic and narrow pavement.

Councillor Pimble reported that in addition to the traffic survey data provided by Richborough Estates it was also hoped to commission a separate survey to identify the number and types of vehicles using the roundabout at the junction of the B5026 and A519 with funding of approximately £1000 from the Community Development Fund. The Council was in agreement with these proposals.

Neighbourhood Highway Team:- Work had been identified for the next visit of the Team on June 6th, 2014. It was agreed to request that any remaining time could be used to clear the footpath on Gaol Butts on the right hand side.

It was noted that the grassed area at the junction of Gaol Butts and Newport Road was overgrown and also the verge outside the old school. These matters were referred to the Enhancements Committee for further consideration.

Five Year Plan:- It was agreed to add the issue of HGV's through Eccleshall, parking and the aspiration for a ring road, which were matters that had been identified through the consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Bus services:- Councillor Amos had referred to a problems with the new bus timetable which had commenced on April 28th, 2014. It was noted that some routes were now being operated by different companies. The situation was being monitored and Councillor Chapman had made representations, which had led to some improvements to the services.

Following a presentation from PC H. Davies given at the Annual Parish Meeting including reference to a number of RTA's around the Parish as being 54 over a twelve month period. Mrs Heelis had been asked to seek further information on the nature and dates of these incidents, it was noted that no further information had been received to date.

The minutes of the Traffic Management Committee were adopted by the Council.

There were no reports to receive from the Enhancements, Policy and Resources or Footpaths Committees. The next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee was to be held on June 4th, 2014, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

63/14). Liaison Representatives;-

Allotments Association: Councillor Garner gave a comprehensive report of the meeting of the Association held on April 30th, 2014. All the plots were let with the exception of one, which had been treated for Mare's Tail. One plot was available suitable for a disabled person. The strimmer was to be refurbished and members had trimmed the hedge and cleaned the cabin. The committee was considering the purchase of a new gate and boxes by the entrance were to be replaced by shrubs.

Ecclian Society:- The Management Committee had met on May 27th, 2014. The baskets would be erected on June 8th at 10am and the Open Gardens weekend was to be held on June 14th and 15th.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Bookings were reported to be good. The AGM would be held on May 28th, 2014. All were welcome.

Tourism Bureau:- Councillor Jones reported that the Bureau now met bi-monthly.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins reported that the PFTA was to hold Pre Loved Uniform Sale and Cake Sale on Friday 23rd. The Bishop of Stafford would bless the school at the opening of the new building on July 7th. Sports day was scheduled for June 19th and the school was proposing to change the colour of the uniform.

Business Focus Group:- Councillor Jones reported that the group had held a Crown Green Bowls evening in Stone recently and Totally Locally was doing well.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that the Officers had been re-elected at the AGM on May 13th, 2014. Recent Dance events planned by the Entertainments Committee had been very successful.

Communities Mean Business;- Councillor von Elbing reported that the group had discussed which areas of Staffordshire to put forward to DEFRA as being eligible to bid for funding over the next 5 years. 78% of bids must directly support the rural economy. Rural panels were to be set up to include representatives of the NFU and Women in Local Enterprise. A launch event was planned for August to raise awareness of available funding and eligible projects. Thanks were extended to Councillors Dodkins and von Elbing for their involvement in this initiative.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins reported that the YoYo youth Club had met at the Cricket Club for 12 months and it was time for membership renewal. Emma was going to liaise with local youth clubs, although membership was already close to 60. Thanks were extended to Councillor Chapman for providing Funding from the Local Community Fund and the Cricket Club for new indoor cupboards to house equipment.

64/14). Parish Council Newsletter June 2014:- The Clerk had circulated copies of the draft newsletter and requested any comments as soon as possible. Councillor Dodkins asked if an item could be included on the Youth Club.

65/14). Neighbourhood Plan:- Councillor Pimble reported the following items, which were being progressed by the Group:-

- Members were undertaking surveys of land around the existing Rural Development Boundary to inform the creation of a new Settlement Boundary.
- Draft Policies had been prepared and discussed at a meeting with Bob Keith (Planning Aid) and John Blount (Colwich PC).
- An evidence base was required to substantiate the policies.

It was noted that the Local Plan was not expected to be adopted until June. Mr Yendole had not given any indication of when he would be able to meet with the Council regarding the Settlement Boundary and until the new Boundary had been identified the Town was at risk from prospective developers. The Group was proceeding with the preparation of the Plan as quickly as possible and a six week consultation period would be held once the document was completed followed by the implementation of any modifications required. The Borough Council was to be asked whether the proposals contained in the Plan would be screened to establish if a Strategic Environmental Assessment was required or whether this information was available from research already undertaken by the Borough.

It was understood that Gladman Group were preparing a development scheme for land off Shaws Lane. The planners would not indicate whether discussions had been held with the Group as this information was considered to be commercially sensitive.

The Council resolved to send a letter to Development Control to indicate that the Parish Council was concerned about future development in Eccleshall and request confirmation of whether discussions had been held with Gladman Group under the Freedom of Information Act.

66/14). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:- The Clerk referred to the following correspondence:-

Grass Verges – Church Street:- The Clerk referred to correspondence between Mr Mitchell and Councillor Chapman concerning alternative treatments to improve the grass verge on Church Street.

Grasscrete surfacing for the first section of the area was quoted at £10,000 with £2500 to be contributed from Councillors Chapman's Divisional Highway Programme Funding. Councillor Chapman indicated that he could contribute a further £2500 from the Local Community Fund and asked whether the Parish Council could fund some of the shortfall?

There was some discussion about the benefits of the improvement, which would cover the day to day use for 8 – 12 vehicles and which part of the verge was the worst affected. It was resolved to refer the matter to the Policy and Resources for consideration of an amount the Parish Council could contribute towards the scheme. The Committee would table a recommendation at the June Council Meeting.

Fire Tender:- Further details of scheme and the costs involved in the relocation of the Tender were awaited from the Co-op. The matter was referred to the Enhancements Committee for further consideration.

Bench to Bench Walks:- Mr Gillibrand had indicated that two new routes were dependent on the addition of two more benches. A figure of eight walk would be possible if a new bench was available at the junction of Goal Butts and Churchfield Road and a large circular walk would be possible if a new bench was provided at the junction of Hilcote Lane and Stone Road.

The Council approved the figure of eight walk and already intended to locate a bench that was presently under repair at Drake Hall at the junction. However, a bench had formerly been located at Hilcote and had soon disappeared, the grass was not cut at this location on a regular basis and members were not in favour of the provision of a bench.

Scouts:- following the Annual Parish Meeting the Clerk had received an email from Mr Jackson, indicating that due to changes in the group there had been no one present at the meeting. Mr Jackson indicated that members would be happy to attend a future meeting to give a brief report on activities. Mrs Heelis was asked to liaise with Mr Jackson regarding suitable dates.

Pension Fund:- The Pension Fund had reminded members of the need to formulate and review its' policy statement in relation to the exercise of discretions under the Scheme. This matter was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Grass cutting:- Mrs Heelis had been contacted by residents of Bishops Court regarding the grass on the open space and was liaising with the contractor. The owner of Blackbird Cottage had requested the strimming of vegetation on Footpath 13. An Order was to be issued to Mr Smith for this work and also the removal of weeds on Footpath 17 from Badgers Croft to the rear of the Catholic Church.

SPCA 75th Anniversary Conference June 11th, 2014 – Members were advised that the conference would be held at Stafford Showground from 3pm to 8pm.

As You Like It – Gala Performance – July 1st, 2014 - Members were invited to attend the Gala Performance at 7pm tickets cost £23.50 each.

67/14). Chairman's Report:- There was no report to receive.

68/14). Accounts:- Mrs Heelis referred to copies of the accounts, which had been circulated. A grant of £5181 had been received from the Community Development Fund towards the Neighbourhood Plan.

Retrospective authorisation was granted for payment of the following account:-

Wicksteed Playground Inspection – *Public Health Act 1875 s. 164* 85.20

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - *LGA 1972 s. 112* 2268.50

Expenses - *Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963* 50.59

Trent Grounds Maintenance - *Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10* 204.60

Eccleshall in Bloom Baskets x 4 - *Concurrent Allowance* 120.00

B.T. Telephone Bill - *LGA 1972 s.111* 129.51

Malcolm Gray photocopying - *LGA 1972 s.111* 39.30

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

69/14). Items/date and venue for next meeting:- June 18th, 2014. Offley Hay Village Hall. 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.