

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

APRIL 28th 2010

The Parish Meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on Wednesday April 28th 2010 at the Community Centre, Shaws Lane, Eccleshall at 7.30p.m.

1). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor J. Allen
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor J. Pert
Councillor J. Jones	Councillor D. Pimble
Councillor B. Apps	Councillor P. Allsop
Councillor G. Garner	Councillor L. von Elbing
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor A. Holl	Councillor B. Delanchy
Borough / County Councillor H. Butter	
Borough Councillor F.Chapman	
Mrs. C. Heelis (Clerk)	9 members of the public

Apologies were received from:- Councillor Pimble. P.C. Green and PCSO Lutwyche, Mrs. B. Roe (St. Paul's, Croxton), Mrs. K. Bridgwood (Broughton Parish Rooms and Croxton Methodist Church), Mr. P. Holtom (Eccleshall RUFC) and Rev. James Graham (Holy Trinity Church, Eccleshall).

2). Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 22nd 2009 – The minutes, which had been previously ratified by the Council were presented to the meeting and copies were attached to the agendas.

3). Chairman's welcome and report:- The Chairman welcomed those present. Councillor Dale presented an overview of the Council's activities throughout the year.

The Chairman referred to proposals to develop a 140 unit retirement village comprising three storey blocks and bungalows with a restaurant, bar, health and fitness facilities, shops and village hall. The application, which had been opposed by the Parish Council and numerous local residents, had eventually been withdrawn by the applicant. Councillors expected that revised plans would be submitted in due course, addressing some of the objections.

The Parish Council had welcomed the completion of a £61,000 road safety investment on Newport Road and the junction with Green Lane. The improvements had increased visibility at the junction and it was hoped that improved lighting, signage and carriageway markings together with the deployment of the safety camera partnership enforcement motorbike would reduce the speed of traffic on the Newport Road.

Councillor Dale reported that discussions were continuing with Mr. J. MacDonald, Head of Strategic Property, Staffordshire County Council, concerning the land at the rear of Eccleshall Community Centre. Part of the proposals involved the transfer of Bishops Lonsdale School onto a single site, but plans had been impeded as some of the land was in the ownership of Lichfield Diocese.

With regard to young people Councillor Holl had taken on the role as Young Peoples' Champion and applied for funding to create an adventure play area at Elford Common. Unfortunately, the scheme had been unsuccessful as permission for the proposals had been required from the Secretary of State. Councillor Holl had also attempted to form a Youth Café but this scheme had failed due to lack of support and enthusiasm from parents and children.

The Chairman concluded by saying that the year had been extremely busy and interesting with many things being achieved and also the odd disappointment. Councillors were thanked for their commitment and enthusiasm and Councillor Dale indicated that he looked forward to the year ahead.

5). Clerks report and accounts:- Mrs. Heelis presented the receipts and payments accounts which had been adopted by the Council. The Clerk referred to the Accounts which detailed the diverse range of matters dealt with and supported by the Parish Council together with the numerous grants made during the year to community groups.

6). Reports from Borough / County Councillors:-

Councillor H. Butter reported that finance from the Local Community Fund had been spent in Eccleshall towards replacement milestones, kissing gates, notice board and seat. Grants from the 2010/11 fund had already been requested by the Rugby Club and the Community Centre. Cllr. Butter stated that he continued to pursue the Borough Council with regard to the safety of a bank on

Goal Butts at the site of a new house and the County Council with regard to drainage problems on Footpath 13.

Councillor Butter indicated that it was a pleasure to work with the Parish Council and that the town was enhanced by the efforts of the local community.

Councillor F. Chapman reported that the Borough Council was working on the Local Development framework and deliberations were expected in mid May. Cllr. Chapman indicated that he would continue to resist large scale development in Eccleshall, which was not in keeping with the town and could not be supported by the existing infrastructure. In addition he continued to monitor the situation with regard to Section 106 agreements, many of which, currently failed to benefit local communities.

Cllr. Chapman had supported the refurbishment of the toilet area and would continue to press for improvements to the cobbled areas on Castle Street, which would only be achieved through partnership working.

Cllr Chapman thanked Cllr. Butter for his support and guidance and the Parish Councillors for their assistance and co-operation. He indicated that progress throughout the year illustrated that a great deal could be achieved by working together.

Police:- There was no report to receive.

7). Reports from Council Committees:- Reports were received from the Planning, Policy and Resources, Traffic Management, Enhancements, and Footpaths Committees.

There followed an interval, during which refreshments were served.

8). Reports were received from the following organisations:- Allotments Association, Offley Hay Village Hall, British Legion, Eccleshall in Bloom, Eccleshall Cricket Club, Eccleshall Rugby Union Football Club, St. Chad's Slindon, St. Peter's Broughton, Eccleshall Farmers Market and Eccleshall Community Centre.

Mr. M. Hazell thanked the Council for assistance with resolving the drainage problems at the Allotments site and for the replacement of posts and taps. The site had been opened for the first time as part of the Eccleshall Open Gardens weekend and had been very popular. The Committee continued to investigate the provision of toilet facilities and a shelter on site and visits were being arranged to other sites to see how they operated and financed developments.

Councillor Dale reported the new conservatory had been completed and bookings remained high. New blinds, carpets and curtains were being ordered.

Mr. Crellin reported that various refurbishments were planned and bookings had increased. Thanks were extended to the Parish Council for its support and to Councillor Allsop who was a valuable addition to the Committee.

Mr. McKnight indicated that the Poppy Appeal had raised £3,234 last year. Thanks were expressed to the Council for contributing towards the cost of the band and the meeting agreed that the band would be missed if the British Legion decided not to continue with it in the future.

Mr. C. Marshall reported that the Cricket Club had purchased new nets with funding from the Local Community Fund, the Parish Council and a great deal of fundraising.

Mr. T. West thanked the Parish Council for a grant towards the Rugby Union Football Club and indicated that the Club continued to go from strength to strength. Two new pitches were being prepared to bring into use next season and the membership numbers continued to rise.

Councillor von Elbing thanked the Parish Council for funding which had been used to purchase new temporary signs and banners for the Farmers' Market. There were seven regular traders from the local area and stalls had been made available for groups to promote their activities or sell goods to raise funds.

9). Any matters of Local or Topical Interest:- There were no further matters raised for discussion.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending what had been a very interesting and worthwhile meeting.

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