

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Annual Parish Meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Community Centre, Shaws Lane, Eccleshall at 7.30p.m.

**1). Present were:-**

Councillor G. Garner (Chair)	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor P. Mullee
Councillor C. Marshall	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor D. Jacques	Councillor M. Starkey
Councillor P. Alcock	Councillor J. Leather
Councillor R. Langford	Councillor P. Alcock
Councillor J. Jones	Councillor T. Price
County Councillor F. Chapman	Borough Councillor J. Pert
Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)	Mrs S. Worden
18 members of the public	

Councillor Garner welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to stand and join him in a minutes' applause in memory of former Chairman, David Pimble, who had sadly passed away in February.

**Apologies were received from:-** Councillor Delanchy, together with Mrs B. Roe (St Paul's, Croxton) representatives of Eccleshall Methodist Church and Mrs S. Slaney (Girl Guides).

**2). Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – The minutes, which had been previously ratified by the Council were presented to the meeting and copies were attached to the agendas.

Mr Lloyd thanked the Council on behalf of Eccleshall Football Club for the money donated towards the refurbishment of the club house.

**3). Presentation from Mr P. Chamberlain (Eccleshall Historical Society) to outline progress with the proposed addition of missing names to the War Memorial.** Mr Chamberlain reported that research had been conducted into 47 people with local connections who had died as a result of their participation in the Great War, and whose names had not been included on the war memorial. Further investigations had reduced the number of people born in, or with family connections to Eccleshall to 17.

A panel had been formed of various people representing groups in the community and a meeting was held in December 2016. Background information on the 17 men revealed that the names did not appear on any other memorial within a ten mile radius of the Parish. It had been agreed to publicise the names widely before submitting an application to the War Memorials Trust for a grant towards the estimated cost of £1000 for the project.

An application had been submitted under the auspices of the Parish Council as custodians of the memorial and a response was expected by the end of May. The Memorial was to be blessed by the Bishop of Lichfield and unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant at a service on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The Conservation Officer from the War Memorials Trust had stressed that it was inadvisable to clean the sandstone memorial with anything other than a bristle brush or a mild steam clean, as the soft, porous sandstone was friable and easily damaged. It was preferable not to undertake any work other than pointing, until the names became illegible.

Mr J. Treanor indicated that although the memorial had been erected by public subscription it was situated in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church and the Parochial Church Council was very supportive of the project.

Councillor Garner thanked Mr Chamberlain for his presentation and the group for undertaking such extensive research.

**Girl Guides:-** Three Guides – Kirsty Charlesworth, who had taken part in an international trip to America and Eirlys Walker and Olivia Williams, who had participated in a community Project in Italy addressed the meeting. The girls thanked the Council for a grant towards the visits and spoke briefly of their experiences abroad.

Councillor Garner presented an overview of the Council's activities throughout an eventful year. Councillor Garner had been elected as Chairman in October 2016, after Councillor Pimble had stood down owing to ill health. Becky Davies, David Dyer and Lindsay Taylor Potts had also stood down from the Council and been replaced by Joy Jones, Adrian Le Monnier Phil Alcock and Tina Price.

The Chairman referred to a referendum held in May 2016 when a significant majority of residents had voted in favour of accepting the Eccleshall Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Eccleshall was one of the first Councils to have a Plan published and approved. Thanks were extended to all those involved with in production of the document

Councillor Garner referred to the two major housing developments in the town, which were now well underway.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Clerk, Christine Heelis, who was retiring on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and Stacey Worden was welcomed as her successor.

**5). Clerks report and accounts:-** Mrs. Heelis presented the receipts and payments accounts which had been adopted by the Council and audited by the Independent Internal Auditor. It was stated that the balance at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 was slightly more the previous year and there had been no extraordinary expenditure incurred during the year. No questions were raised regarding the Council's Accounts.

**6). Reports from County Councillor Chapman:-** Councillor Chapman reported that he was standing down at the forthcoming election and gave a brief overview of his work over the past years representing the area. The Chairman thanked Councillor Chapman for all his endeavours and presentations were made to Frank and Vanessa Chapman in recognition of their hard work in the community.

**Borough Councillor Pert and Jones** reported on their various roles at the Borough Council. The members were thanked for their representation of the Parish and for pursuing matters of concern.

**8). Reports from Council Committees:-** Reports were received from the Planning, Traffic Management, Policy and Resources, Footpaths and Enhancements Committees. Copies were available of reports from all the Council Committees.

**9). Reports from Organisations in the Parish:-**

Councillor Garner read a letter of thanks from Mrs B. Roe, St. Paul's Church, Croxton.

Reports were received from the following organisations:- Eccleshall Allotments Association, Offley Hay Village Hall, Eccleshall in Bloom, Broughton Parish Rooms, Croxton Independent Methodist Church, Broughton W.I, Eccleshall Community Centre, Holy Trinity and St Chad's Church Slindon.

**10). Any matters of Local or Topical Interest:-** Mr Ranson thanked the Council for arranging for SLOW to be marked on the carriageway approaching Linacre Road from Stafford. This had been the subject of ongoing discussions for some time.

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

The Councillors and representatives of the various groups present expressed thanks to the Clerk for her commitment and support over the last 22 years. The Clerk was commended on her exceptional service to the Council and the community and presentations were made to Christine and David Heelis.

Mrs Heelis thanked the Councillors for their gifts and indicated that she had enjoyed her time with the council and was proud and privileged to have been part of significant achievements over the years. Christine conveyed her best wishes to Stacey in her new role and the Council for its work in the future.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Refreshments were served following the meeting.