

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

April 15th, 2015

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on April 15th, 2015 at Broughton Parish Rooms, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 8.30pm.

61/15). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chair)
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor L. Taylor-Potts
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor M. Dodkins
Councillor L. Serjeant	Councillor G. Garner
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor R. Langford	Councillor E. Amos
Borough Councillor J. Pert	
5 members of the public	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Jacques, Starkey and Jones together with Borough / County Councillor Chapman

62/15). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- There were no requests to receive.

63/15). Public Participation:- Mr A. Davies indicated that he was the new owner of The George Public House, which he had purchased with the intention to renovate as a bar / hotel. However, the dilapidation of the premises had been more severe than he had initially anticipated and the planned renovations were too costly and the business was not viable. Extensive repairs were required to the roof, windows and wiring and this together with the restrictions of changes to the Listed Building had proved prohibitive.

Mr Davies indicated that he was now proposing to change the left hand side of the building to a dwelling with the right hand side remaining as a pub. The rear of the building would be tidied up and three terraced houses erected on the car park. The planning application was ready for submission and Mr Davies had wanted to advise the Parish Council of his intentions.

Councillors expressed disappointment that the only hotel accommodation in Eccleshall would be lost and Mr Davies was thanked for taking the time to attend the meeting to clarify the situation.

64/15). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 18th, 2015:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

65/15). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

Councillor Pert referred to the following:-

- The Plan for Stafford Borough had been through all the necessary stages and was now enforceable. A judicial review threatened by Gladman Properties had not transpired and the validity of the Plan could no longer be brought into question.
- Application number 15/21715 for a rear extension to an existing dwelling at Brockton View, Slindon had been called in due to its proximity to the Grade II Listed Church, however, the application had been approved.
- The Planning Application for 49, Badgers Croft had been called in to enable local residents to put forward their views.
- The Fire Service consultation was ongoing.
- Councillor Pert was attending the Pride in Your Patch awards on Thursday night. Cllr Langford was also attending to represent the Well Dressing Committee.
- Grants between £250 and £1000 were available from Borough Council for innovative community projects.
- Thanks were extended to Councillor Chapman for 8 years of service as a Borough Councillor.

66/15). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor Taylor-Potts indicated that feedback from the last meeting had been reported at the Parish Council Meeting held on February 18th, 2015 and was included in those minutes. Councillor Serjeant had prepared a paper detailing each of the issues on the 5 year Plan and desired outcomes, which would be presented to the next committee meeting on July 1st, 2015.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported on a meeting of the Enhancements Committee held on April 1st, 2015:-

- **Eyeswells Footpath:-** The trees had been thinned and trimmed and the area was looking tidy. The stump grinding was still to be attended to as the machine was currently awaiting repair.

Councillor Dale and Mrs Heelis had visited a resident whose land adjoined the area with regard to overhanging trees. It was reported that several large trees against the fence required removal and it was agreed to request a quotation for the work from Rob Keysor. An adjoining resident was to be contacted to ascertain whether he would have any objections to the removal of trees overhanging his property.

Councillor Dale referred to excessive dog fouling on the area and it was agreed to erect signs indicating that the space was for the enjoyment of the public and not a dogs' toilet and asking dog walkers to keep their dogs under control and clean up after their pets. It was noted that there was a bin on Usulwall Close at the end of the footpath. Mrs Heelis was to request the Borough Council to clean up the open space.

- **Croxton Play Area:-** Repairs at the site had been undertaken by Wicksteed. Local residents had contacted the Council to indicate that they used the area - Mrs B. Roe had attended the last Parish Council meeting and spoken in support of the play area and a letter had been received from a lady who visited the site with her son. Mr Griffiths had indicated that he saw children using the equipment when he was working on farmland opposite. A positive site visit had been held to discuss how the wooded area could be enhanced to encourage a variety of community uses and it was agreed to:-
 1. Remove up to 4 trees to create a large open space, thin other trees as necessary and pollard the hazels – this would be considered later in the year when the trees were in leaf, with a view to having work undertaken in the autumn.
 2. Proceed with an article in the local magazine to promote the play area and encourage local people to maintain and enhance the area by planting bulbs and cleaning the equipment.
 3. Investigate the provision of brown tourism signs.
 4. Promote the area as a picnic site and provide seating in the field area.
 5. Reduce the height of the hedge by 1 foot in the autumn.

Councillor Pert indicated that some funding may be available towards seating from the Croxton Fete funds.

- **Benches / seats:-** Following a request from Tracey O'Flaherty to site a bench in the High Street outside the Star Café in memory of her brother Mark Forrester, the committee agreed to respond that the Parish Council had no objections. Mrs O'Flaherty was to be advised to make the necessary arrangements with proprietors of The Star Café to have a seat installed on the blue brick area. Mrs Heelis was asked to forward details of the type of seats used in the town made by Broxap and indicate that future maintenance would be the responsibility of the purchaser.
- **Fire Tender:-** The Tender had generated a lot of publicity and was attracting a great deal of attention in the new location. The Parish Council had agreed to purchase an information board from Shelley Signs. Details of the history had been supplied by Mr Johnson. Councillor Jacques had donated an old pump with a leather hose from Sugnall Hall, to the display. It was noted that the lectern at The Washpits required updating. Councillor Chapman had offered to fund 50% of the cost of the new and the refurbished sign from the Local Community Fund
- **Pillar Clock:-** The clock faces were all working. Mr Smith was currently replacing the bricks at each of the four corners of the plinth and had been requested to sand down the masonry on the bricks previously replaced.
- **Village Sign:-** The sign had been removed and shipped to Norfolk for repainting.
- **Land at Bishops Court:-** A quotation had been received from Rob Keysor to raise the crown of an ash tree on the open space near to Market Fields, and reduce the crown closest to 10, Bishops Court at a cost of £195. It was agreed to accept this quotation and request that the work be undertaken as soon as possible.

Councillor Starkey had contacted Rowley Engineering and drawn up a plan to fix the plaque to a plate and post. It was agreed to accept the quote for £135 for the plate and fixing but it was noted that a post would be required in addition to the plate, which would need to be concreted into the ground.

- **Pictorial Meadow:-** It was agreed to dig the Pictorial Meadow on April 29th, 2015.
- **Sugnall Sign:-** Councillor Jacques indicated that the Sugnall Sign was to be resurrected as the old one had fallen into disrepair. The significance of the bird on the hill, depicted on the sign, was that this was the Anglo Saxon meaning for Sugnall.

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

There were no reports to receive from the Footpaths Committee or Policy and Resources.

67/15). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from The Tourism Bureau, Allotments Association or Young People.

Festival 201:- Councillor Amos reported that the next Festival would be held on June 25th, 2016 and the committee were researching street entertainers for the event. Councillor Dodkins queried whether the Council had sight of the accounts as funds were made available for the insurance. It was noted that the Parish Council had historically agreed to fund the insurance costs of the event. The Festival committee held very little funds and the event was supported through sponsorship. Funds raised from the stalls covered the costs of the street entertainers.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Baskerville reported that letters seeking sponsorship of baskets had been distributed. The flower baskets would be erected on June 7th, 2015 and the Open Gardens weekend was June 13th and 14th, 2015. Welcome packs were issued to newcomers to the town, which included copies of the Guide and other publications.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Taylor-Potts reported that the plumbing problems had been resolved and a good booking had been secured from a medical company carrying out health checks.

Community Centre Association:- The Community dances continued to be successful and were well attended, artistes were being booked for 2016.

68/15). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

Annual Parish Meeting April 29th, 2015:- The Clerk reminded Committee Chairmen that reports were required for the meeting.

Watering Contract:- A tender had been received from Stafford Borough Council to undertake the watering of the baskets and mangers in the town for 15 weeks during the summer. The sum quoted of £4470.00 excluding vat remained unchanged from 2014. It was resolved to accept this quotation.

Governor Vacancy – Bishop Lonsdale School:- It was agreed to nominate Councillor Langford for appointment to the post.

Stafford Street resurfacing:- Councillor Delanchy had advised that the work was to commence on July 20th, 2015 for a 4 week period. The Clerk was asked to place a link from the Parish Council website to the road works details on the County Council website.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety options consultations:- Mrs Heelis referred to information available on the service website www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk and to various events and activities being organised across the County.

Diversion of Bridlepath at Litley Heath:- Councillor Baskerville referred to the Bridlepath from Litley Heath to Bishop's Wood, part of which was often impassable due to mud and water. The landowners were proposing to officially divert the footpath which would be advantageous to walkers in:-

- avoiding the impassable section,
- creating a higher level path with open views,
- separating walkers from agricultural machinery and,
- an absence of stiles and gates.

Although the Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Officer supported the diversion, part of the path was in Shropshire where the Council was not as supportive. The Council resolved to write a letter in support of the proposed diversion and its numerous benefits to Mr and Mrs Powell

69/15). Chairman's report:- Councillor Dale reported that he had attended the Civic Dinner at Newport Town Council and had also accepted an invitation to attend the Civic Dinner at Stone Town Council.

70/15). Accounts:-

Receipts and Payments and Audit Return 2014/15:- Copies of the Accounting and Governance Statements had been circulated together with the Receipts and Payments Summary, Income and Expenditure details and precept spreadsheet for 2014/15.

- The Clerk reported that the accounts had been audited by the internal auditor and the books were currently being examined by the independent auditor.
- Copies of the Summary Receipts and Payments Statement and Audit Return had been circulated and the accounts for 2014/15 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.
- The Annual Governance Statement was considered by the Council and members agreed all matters had been adequately complied with.

Retrospective authorisation was granted for the following payment, which had been made since the last meeting:-

Creative Copy 'n' Colour – Tidy Town Leaflets (<i>Funded from LCF Grant</i>)	£250.00
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It was noted that the first instalment of the precept and concurrent allowance amounting to £26,946.50 had been received from Stafford Borough Council.

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2592.76
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	61.10
Annual subscription - Community Council - <i>LGA 1972 s. 111</i>	25.00
SPCA Subscription - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	567.00
Japhlin - Service & anti-virus renewal - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	397.20
Eccleshall in Bloom Baskets x 4 – <i>concurrent allowance</i>	120.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

71/15). Date and venue for the next meeting:- Parish Council AGM, May 20th, 2015 Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.