

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

February 15th, 2012

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on February 15th, 2012, at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm, this meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

12/12). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor J. Allen
Councillor D. Pimble	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor D. Jacques	Councillor B. Apps
Councillor G. Garner	Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor L. Serjeant
Councillor M. Dodkins	County Councillor H. Butter
3 members of the public	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)

The meeting opened with prayers

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors von Elbing and Jones together with Borough Councillors Chapman and Pert.

13/12). Public Participation:- Mr E. Ranson thanked the Council for not increasing the precept for 2012/13 and raised the following matters, which were noted by the Council:-

- The new web site was excellent but still did not include the Council's Standing Orders and Mr Ranson asked members to re-consider this matter.
- Prayers before the meeting:- Mr Ranson enquired what the Council's view was of a decision by a high court judge ruling that there was no 'lawful' place for prayer during formal proceedings. The Chairman replied that the practice of saying prayers before the meeting commenced would continue as no complaints had been received from Councillors or members of the public.
- Mr Ranson asked whether the Council would consider nominating a Councillor to represent those members of the community with disabilities with regard to access to public places and dropped kerbs and ramps. Mr Ranson was invited to undertake this role and report to the Parish Council as necessary.

14/12). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on January 18th, 2012:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

15/12). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

County Councillor Butter referred to work undertaken by the Highways Authority to treat roads throughout the County during the recent icy conditions. Councillor Butter indicated that his main priority was to see the school moved to a single site during his term of office, which would end in May 2013. It was noted that there were still two classrooms and some administrative offices on the north site, which necessitated both buildings being heated at considerable expense.

Councillor Allen moved a vote of thanks to Councillor Butter for working with the Parish Council and providing assistance and support over a number of years.

16/12). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor Garner referred to the minutes of a meeting held on February 1st, 2012, copies of which had been circulated to members. It was noted that an investment of £20 million was to be made towards road maintenance in the county with the main focus being on rural roads with defects being identified by regular inspections. Thanks had been expressed to Mr Mitchell for the recent painting of the zebra crossing and mini roundabouts.

- The committee had resolved to remove Walton Bends, Wetwood and Slindon from the agenda, together with parking on Stone Road.
- The next visit of the Neighbourhood Highway Team was scheduled for the week commencing March 4th, 2012 and Mrs Heelis was compiling a list of tasks to be addressed by the gang.
- The forthcoming Bank Holiday Markets would be monitored to ascertain whether the revisions and improvements made previously would be continued.
- The 20 mph signs outside the school would remain for the foreseeable future.

- Mr Mitchell indicated that speed / traffic counts taken upon completion of the improvement scheme at the Green Lane / Cross Butts /A519 junction had showed a modest reduction in speed and that the speed camera van continued to visit. Councillor Amos commented that residents had complained about the vehicle parking on the grass verge by The Southwell, which caused visibility issues
- Parking – High Street:- No response had been received from Mr Allen with regard to parking enforcement and Councillor Jones was following the matter up. Councillor Dale indicated that the Traffic Wardens continued to operate as previously, which could result in innocent motorists being penalised.
- Councillor Garner indicated that the County Council and Staffordshire Police were promoting the message that supplies of grit were for use on the highway at critical locations and not for individual's private use. A scheme had been launched with volunteers from the Community Watchdog Scheme and Neighbourhood Watch to crackdown on those caught stealing grit from piles and bins.
- The Committee had agreed to discuss problems with large lorries being directed on inappropriate rural roads by Satellite Navigation Equipment with Mr Mitchell and establish the County Council Policy in connection with this issue.
- Problems with gravel from The Eagle Car Park and 'A' boards advertising the new barbers shop obstructing pavements in the town were to be monitored.

The next meeting of the Traffic Management Committee would be held on May 2nd, 2012 following the meeting of the Planning Committee

The minutes of the Committee were adopted by the Council.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale indicated that the next meeting would be held on February 22nd 2012 at 7.30pm. Members were asked to carry out the annual risk assessments and surveys of assets prior to the meeting.

Policy and Resources Committee:- Councillor Allen reported that there had been no meeting of the Committee. However, it was noted that the Allotments Association were applying for funding towards the shelter, store and toilet facility and had established that proof was required that a lease of at least five years was in place. The Council resolved to support the Allotments Association in this matter and a formal request was to be forwarded to Mrs Heelis, who was instructed to investigate the preparation of a lease and associated costs.

17/12). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Tourism Bureau, Bishop Lonsdale School or the Business Focus Group.

Allotments Association:- Councillor Starkey reported that the committee was seeking quotes from the shelter, store and toilet. A new rule was being introduced to the effect that dogs should be kept on a lead on the Allotment site. Problems with mole infestation and Mares Tail were being addressed and a working party was undertaking fence repairs. The committee was also investigating the possibility of having a visit from the refuse lorry for dispose of rubbish on site. It had been agreed to participate in the Open Gardens event in the summer.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Dodkins reported that bookings were buoyant. Problems had been encountered with drainage caused by a silt tank, which needed to be emptied and dog fouling. Poop a scoop bags were provided in the Village Hall and a notice was to be displayed on the notice board.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Jones had submitted a report indicating that the first monthly news flash had been sent out to those members with email. A file containing 400 photographs of Eccleshall was available in the Library. The next walk would be on February 26th and the Luncheon Club would meet on March 21st.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that a leak in the Jubilee Room was being investigated and the new windows were in the process of being installed to the front of the building.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins reported that the youth committee had held a further meeting and members were in the process of being CRB checked. Discos had been held at the Church Rooms, a Girls Football Team had been established and the drop in sessions at the Library would continue on alternate Tuesday and Friday evenings.

Communities Mean Business:- Councillor Dodkins reported that the application for funding towards the Croxton Well Dressing had been successful.

18/12). The Queen's Diamond Jubilee:- Councillor Dale suggested that the Parish Council Newsletter for June was a commemorative issue for the Jubilee. The Chairman had a copy of a booklet published in 1977 by the Council, which contained a copy of a telegram sent to the Queen as well as poems and other articles. It was proposed to produce an A4 booklet of good quality paper, containing glossy photographs illustrating the changes in the parish over the last 35 years encompassing some articles from 1977. The Council agreed unanimously to this proposal and it was agreed to refer the matter to the Enhancements Committee to form a small working group to establish a budget and consider items and photographs for inclusion. The Clerk agreed to discuss artwork and format with Creative Copy 'n' Colour with a view to obtaining an estimate of costs.

Councillor Pimble referred to the Castle Street Improvement Project and it was noted that an application for funding submitted to the Reaching Communities Fund was unlikely to succeed unless it could be seen as enhancing the rural environment. It had been suggested that the project could include something to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and perhaps involve the young people in the design of something that would encourage them to take a pride in the area.

Councillor Pimble and the Clerk had been invited to attend a meeting Wednesday February 22nd with Mr Gatensbury and Mr Knowles to discuss the scheme. Members supported the proposal to involve the young people in developing a feature for the area and the Parish Council agreed to assist with the organisation of such a scheme.

Councillor Baskerville referred to a meeting organised by Councillor Jones on February 24th, 2012 to discuss events for the Jubilee. It was noted that there were already numerous events planned in May / June including the Festival, and Open Gardens. In addition The Ecclian Society planned to erect 60 Union Flags and the colour scheme of the baskets and mangers would reflect the colours of the Union Jack. It was anticipated that these events could be co-ordinated and advertised with the Diamond Jubilee Theme.

19/12). Rural Exception Sites:- Following the presentation by Mr Ward at the Planning Committee meeting on February 1st, 2012 it was agreed to request a Housing Needs Survey by a Housing Association to understand the current and future housing need within the Parish. It was understood that no costs would be incurred by the Parish Council and the results would be collated and presented by the Association. If the survey identified a need for affordable housing in the parish, the Association would consider any potential sites and the Parish would determine whether to proceed with the provision of affordable housing on any of the proposed sites.

20/12). Parish Council Newsletter – March:- Mrs Heelis circulated draft copies of the Newsletter and requested comments and additional item for inclusion prior to February 24th.

21/12). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

- The Clerk indicated that a tour of the new County Council Buildings had been booked for 3pm on February 29th, 2012.
- It was agreed that Councillor Sergeant would attend a one to one training session with the Chief Executive of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association at accost of £40.
- **Footpaths Leaflets and Booklet:-** Mrs Heelis reported that the Booklet was ready for printing. The walks had been checked and new maps prepared. The Clerk was authorised to proceed with printing of the booklet, one third of the cost of the printing having been received from both The Community Paths Initiative and the Local Community Fund. The review of the 12 leaflets was also almost completed with only two walks remaining to be checked. It was agreed to have the leaflets printed at an approximate cost of £500 although Mrs Heelis was requested to investigate possible sources of funding.
- Mrs Heelis reported that bids were invited for funds from the Community Paths Initiative for 2012/13.
- **Watering:-** It was resolved to waive Standing Orders and invite Stafford Borough Council to tender for the watering contract for 2012. Members were unaware of anyone else who may be able / willing to undertake the work as cost effectively as the Borough.
- **B5026 road closure:-** it was reported that the B5026 would be closed from March 26th to April 4th for carriageway repairs between Church Lane and 100 metres north west of Shut Lane.

22/12). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that he was liaising with the Music Teacher from Sir Graham Balfour School about the possibility of the band accompanying the carol singing in December.

23/12). Accounts:- Authorisation was sought for payment of the following:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2196.36
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	29.42
Holy Trinity - Churchyard maintenance - <i>Section 137</i>	195.00
Holy Trinity - Floodlighting Contribution - <i>Concurrent Allowance</i>	150.00
Broughton C of E - Churchyard maintenance - <i>Section 137</i>	135.00
Croxton C of E - Churchyard maintenance - <i>Section 137</i>	135.00
Croxton Methodist - Churchyard maintenance - <i>Section 137</i>	85.00
Slindon PCC - Churchyard maintenance - <i>Section 137</i>	135.00
Eccleshall Methodist - Churchyard maintenance - <i>Section 137</i>	85.00
Broughton Parish Rooms - Grounds maintenance - <i>Section 137</i>	55.00
Eccleshall Community Centre - Hall Hire - <i>LGA 1972 s.134</i>	750.00
Offley Hay Village Hall - Hall Hire - <i>LGA 1972 s.134</i>	125.00
Broughton Parish Rooms - Hire - <i>LGA Act 1972 s.134</i>	125.00
D. Jacques - storage of footpath materials - <i>Concurrent allowance</i>	5.00
D. Smith - Footpaths Maintenance - <i>HA 1980 s.143</i>	24.32
Pictorial Meadows - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	41.20
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	122.77
Chairman's Allowance- <i>LGA 1972 ss. 15 (5)</i>	150.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

24/12). Items, date and venue for next meeting:- March 21st, 2012, Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.