

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 8.50pm.

- 15/17). Present were:-**
- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councillor G. Garner (Chairman) | Councillor P. Jones       |
| Councillor B. Delanchy          | Councillor P. Mullee      |
| Councillor P. Baskerville       | Councillor R. Langford    |
| Councillor T. Price             | Councillor D Jacques      |
| Councillor P. Alcock            | Councillor E. Amos        |
| Councillor A. Le Monnier        | County Councillor Chapman |
| Borough Councillor J. Pert      |                           |
| 6 members of the public         | Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)     |

Apologies were received from Councillors Leather, Starkey, Marshall and J. Jones

*The meeting opened with a one minute silence in memory of David Pimble, who had sadly passed away on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

- 16/17). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.

- 18/17). Public Participation:-** A meeting had been held with representatives of Taylor Wimpey, Borough Councillor Pert, Borough / Parish Councillor Jones, Parish Councillor Delanchy, Mr Holmes (Planning) and Mrs Heelis on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, notes from the meeting had been circulated to local residents, who had raised issues about the site.

Ms Lynch spoke in response to the content of the notes and the actions arising from the meeting. Matters referred to, included the following:-

- Disappointment that the next meeting with Taylor Wimpey representatives and residents would not take place until March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Road conditions on Shaw's Lane had recently improved.
- Signage should have been in place before work commenced
- Residents of Trinity Road, affected by piling noise had not been contacted
- Flooding and drainage issues
- Finished floor levels
- Trees
- Community Involvement
- Western Power and Severn Trent works

- 19/17). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.

- 20/17). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**

**County Councillor F. Chapman:-** Councillor Chapman paid tribute to the work and life of David Pimble, whose death was a sad loss to the community. These sentiments were endorsed by all the Councillors present.

**Councillor Chapman reported the following:-**

- He had attended the opening of a GE Energy Connections State of The Art facility on Redhills which employed 49 different nationalities and apprenticeship scheme were available.
- A meeting had been held with Councillor Pert and Richard Rayson concerning flooding issues in the town. The County Council was to write to Severn Trent to express concern about increased pressure on sewers in Eccleshall from the new developments.
- Residents of Slindon were frustrated by the lack of progress with the implementation of the reduced speed limit and lack of funding for splinter islands in the carriageway.
- Negotiations were ongoing with Network Rail regarding lack of progress with repairs to the bridge at Mill Meece and the length of time traffic lights had been in place.

- The Neighbourhood Highway Teams were to continue until 2018 and Parishes would be contacted for appropriate works. Eccleshall had been highlighted as an example of good practice and relationships with the County Council.
- The County Council was expected to agree a 5% increase in the precept for 2017/18 and The Fire Service had approved a 1.75% increase.
- Part of the wooden fence around the Public Conveniences was rotten and the Parish Council was asked to agree to its removal.
- Councillor Chapman offered to paint the electricity supply cover green to make it less obtrusive.

**Borough Councillor Pert:-**

- I. Members were asked to monitor the progress with Sustainable Transformation Plans for the NHS to ensure that the provision of A&E was not lost from Stafford.
- II. At the meeting with Richard Rayson the issue of pooling water on Walton bends had been acknowledged and the County Council had agreed to support the residents meeting with the National Flood Forum on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, which had been arranged by Mr C. Archer.
- III. The Police and Crime Commissioner had recently launched a new web-based application to help in the fight against local crime, improve engagement with local communities and assist rapid information sharing.

Councillor Pert referred to the meeting with Taylor Wimpey on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and reported the following:-

- The meeting had lasted for two and a half hours and the notes were a record of agreed actions and not reflective of the depth of discussions, which had taken place.
- Taylor Wimpey indicated that they took the safety issues seriously and that a Site Manager would be present from February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Mrs Heelis was thanked for agreeing to act as a point of contact for any queries relating to the development, which would save duplication of effort. With regard to community involvement the ideas put forward were intended as a means of obtaining a commitment from the developer to contribute towards a project within the community by way of recompense for the disruption and inconvenience caused. The suggestion to provide funding for improvements at the Cricket Club had not been proposed by Councillor Marshall.

**Borough Councillor Jones:-** Councillor Jones referred to a recent radio programme about development companies, which had commented on the appalling pattern of management nationwide.

**It was agreed to discuss Taylor Wimpey issues at this point rather than Item 9 on the agenda.**

- Councillor Garner expressed amazement that it had taken until now for a Site Manager to be in-situ on the Taylor Wimpey Site and for a wheelwash facility to be installed. To date numerous empty promises had been made, very few of which, had been carried through. Finally, the situation appeared to be improving and the outstanding issues were gradually being addressed. Councillor Pert was thanked for his intervention and discussions with Management.
- Mr Wood and Mr Perrins from Taylor Wimpey had agreed to attend a meeting with Parish Councillors and local residents on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7pm, preceding the Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm. Councillor Garner agreed to Chair the meeting and indicated that any unaddressed / additional issues should be notified to Mrs Heelis by March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. The issues would be collated to avoid repetition and used to create an agenda. Mr Wood from Taylor Wimpey would be advised of the agenda prior to the meeting to enable the issues to be addressed.
- Councillor Delanchy indicated that work undertaken by Severn Trent and Western Power on St Chads Road could not be governed by Taylor Wimpey. The utilities were not required to give advance notice of works, even though Taylor Wimpey had requested that four weeks' notice was given to residents.

- Mrs Heelis was asked to request a drawing showing the connection of the boundary land drain to the onsite drainage system.
- It was noted that details of signage had been supplied to Mrs Heelis, who had indicated that the proposals were acceptable to the Parish Council, providing the Highways Authority was in agreement.
- Mrs Heelis reported receipt of an email from Mr Baldry regarding the suggestion that Taylor Wimpey could possibly resurface Footpath 13. Mr Baldry referred to the fact that the householders on St Chad's Road owned the footpath at the rear of their properties and asked if the refurbishment of the path would negate the need for public access from the development onto St. Chad's. The Clerk stated that the developer had been made aware that permission would need to be sought from the householders if the scheme was to proceed.

**21/17). Committee Reports:-**

**Traffic Management Committee:-** Councillor Jones referred to the minutes from a meeting with Mr Rayson held on January 26<sup>th</sup> and a meeting of the Traffic Management Committee on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, which had been previously circulated.

- Mr Rayson had considered possible sites for the installation of gateway features on the B5026 entering Croxton and on the 5 main routes into Eccleshall. It was noted that due to the narrow verges and pavements there was little possibility of installing any gateway features other than on the B5026 entering Croxton from the Loggerheads direction and the A519 entering Eccleshall from Slindon. The committee agreed to compile a list of all the features on the carriageway that required re-painting at the entrances to Croxton and Eccleshall in addition to faded SLOW markings, new SLOW markings on the A5013 approaching Linacre Road from Stafford, the roundabouts and pedestrian crossing to mark on a map. The work could then be programmed in one day and finance had been allocated in the budget for undertaking such improvements if required.
- **Lorries – Langot Lane:-** In response to concerns raised by Mr and Mrs Gough about lorries using Langot Lane it was proposed to undertake a survey of local roads which may benefit from 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs designed to focus driver's minds on the unsuitability of certain routes. However, it was noted that the signs were advisory and not enforceable and would not prevent use by local vehicles with access requirements.
- **HGV's on B5026:-** Mr J. Deaville had expressed concern at the unsuitability of the B5026 for articulated lorries. Mr Rayson, had indicated that A and B roads were designed to move traffic around and a weight limit could not be imposed on the B5026. However, a forum had been established with Freight Operators to encourage them to give more consideration to local communities.
- **County Council Workshop – February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 –** The purpose of the workshop was to highlight the opportunities for parish and town councils to take more responsibility locally for key service provision. This meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the current thinking of how local councils and the county council may better work together in the future with a particular focus upon Highways and Environmental Maintenance. Councillors P. Jones, P. Alcock, T. Price and the Clerk indicated they wished to attend.

The next meeting with Mr Rayson had been arranged for June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and the next Traffic Management Committee Meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

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

**Enhancements Committee:-** The next meeting of the Committee would be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

**Footpaths Committee:-** The next meeting would be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 6.30pm preceding the Planning Committee Meeting.

**Policy and Resources Committee:-** It was agreed that the Staffing Committee would meet as soon as possible after February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to consider applications for the Clerk's Post and conduct

interviews, with a view to appointing a replacement by the end of March. A date for the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee was to be arranged.

**22/17). Liaison Representatives;-** There were no reports to receive from the Young People or Slindon residents.

**Allotments Association:-** Councillor Starkey had submitted a report from a meeting held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

- The waiting list had been cleared with five plots remaining vacant.
- Prices were to be obtained for the repair of perimeter rabbit proof fencing and the reinstatement of dislodged sleepers on the lower road.
- Hazel whips were to be planted in the bottom hedge following repair of the fencing.

**Eccleshall Community Centre Association:-** Councillor Amos reported that 40 additional new Chairs had been ordered. The Association was seeking quotes for work on the Elford Room to make it suitable for meetings. A suspended ceiling and new lighting was being considered for the Jubilee Room.

**Offley Hay Village Hall:-** The next meeting would be held on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Croxtan News:-**The Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Ellis was to open the Well Dressing on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. A grant of £350 had been awarded from the Staffordshire Community Fund.

**Visit Stafford:-** A meeting had been held at the Grosvenor Centre in Stafford.

**23/17). Cycle Parking and Public Cycle Pump:-** Councillor P. Jones had met with Karen Davies (SBC Partnerships Co-ordinator, to consider possible locations in Eccleshall for the installation of cycle parking and a cycle pump. Concerns were raised about installing hoops on the areas between the pavement and the Highway as they could obstruct visibility and the opening of car doors. Councillors were generally in favour of the idea, although a pump was not thought to be necessary as most cyclists carried their own equipment. Councillor Jones was asked to report back to the Council with suggestions of specific areas for the installation of parking hoops.

**24/17). New Developments:-**

**Taylor Wimpey Site –** This matter had already been discussed.

**Roundabout Feature –** Mrs Heelis reported that a meeting had been held with Mr Ratcliffe and Mr Rayson. The following had been agreed:-

- The 3m high branch pole was preferable and it was proposed to apply anti climb paint and keep the lowest branch out of reach.
- Lighting was not necessary and could detract from the sculpture as there was already sufficient light from the existing street lighting.
- Mr Rayson indicated that low level planting / shrubs would be acceptable no more than 600mm high. A gravel surface was not considered suitable it would need to be a bound material or setts. Granite setts with a number of spaces left for shrubs to be planted would be preferable.

Mr Rayson was very supportive of the sculpture and advised that licences would need to be obtained from the County Council. It had been established that planning permission was required and Mr Roper had indicated that the Branch pole would cost an additional £600. **The Council agreed to the submission of a Planning Application and the placing of an order for the sculpture when planning approval had been obtained.**

**25/17). Clerk's Report and correspondence:-**

Mrs Heelis reported the following:-

- Councillor Baskerville had removed the graffiti from the new bus shelter on Stafford Road.
- Two faces of the clock were displaying the incorrect time and the manufacturer was to visit to reset the time and restore the chimes.
- The posts for the play area were to be ordered from Fawns Recreational Services.
- The new facilities at Eccleshall Football Club were to be launched on March 1st, 2017. Councillors Garner and Jones agreed to attend the opening and Mrs Heelis had supplied a quote from the Parish Council for inclusion in a press release.
- It was agreed to ask Mr Upton (Health and Wellbeing Community Development Support Officer) to attend the meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, instead of March 15<sup>th</sup>, when Taylor Wimpey representatives were to attend.

- Receipt of a letter from Mr P. Allsop referring to the damaged Cheshire Railings at Copmere End. Mr Allsop requested the Council to make provisions for the clearance of vegetation and restoration of the railings. The Clerk had sent the email to Mr Latham (County Highways) who had confirmed that the railings were the responsibility of the Highways and indicated that it would be helpful if the vegetation could be removed by the estate or volunteers. Councillor Jacques had agreed to undertake the clearance of the vegetation and suggested that the Roy Went's Viewpoint could also be cleared with assistance from volunteers.

Mr Allsop had subsequently stated that he felt that normal procedure had not been followed as he had expected the content of the initial letter to remain confidential until receipt was reported to, and discussed by the Council, at the meeting. The Council endorsed the actions of the Clerk in researching the matter in advance of the meeting and forwarding the information to the relevant parties.

**26/17). Chairman's Report:-** There was no report to receive.

**27/17). Accounts:-**

**Recommended Pay Scales 2017 – 18:-** NALC and SLCC recommended an increase of 1% with effect from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The recommended increase of £192 to £224 per annum for SCP 20 / SCP 25 was noted and accepted.

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

Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - <i>concurrent allowance</i>	230.00
Trinity Mirror - Advert for Clerk - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	837.00

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2426.80
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	113.15
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
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	171.51
Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – <i>Training - LGA 1972 s.111</i>	20.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

**28/17). Items / Date of next meeting:-** March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.