

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL – February 16th, 2011

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on February 16th, 2011 at Eccleshall Community Centre, Shaws Lane, Eccleshall at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

13/11). Present were:-	Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor J. Allen
	Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Baskerville
	Councillor L. von Elbing	Councillor M. Starkey
	Councillor E. Amos	Councillor J. Pert
	Councillor B. Apps	Councillor P. Jones
	Councillor A. Holl.	Councillor P. Allsop
	Councillor G. Garner	Borough/County Councillor H. Butter
	Mrs. C. Heelis (Clerk)	1 member of the press

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor J. Jones and Pimble together with Borough Councillor F. Chapman and the Police.

The meeting opened with prayers

14/11). Public Participation:- There were no members of the public present

15/11). To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on January 19th, 2011:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

16/11). Police:- The Clerk read a report from the Police, which indicated that of 48 incidents in the area since the last meeting, 5 of which were of note.

17/11). Reports from Borough Councillors:- Councillor Butter reported that the County Council was making cutbacks to various local services and some libraries were threatened with closure, although Eccleshall Library did not appear to be at risk at the present time. Councillor Butter indicated that he had been unable to attend the recent meeting with Mr. C. Mitchell from Staffordshire Highways due to a previous engagement but would be meeting with the Officer shortly to discuss prioritisation of local issues.

18/11). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management:- Councillor von Elbing referred to the minutes of a meeting held on February 2nd, 2011, which had been circulated with the agendas. The minutes contained a report from a meeting held on January 28th, with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Knowles from Staffordshire Highways. Mr. Knowles advised that there were no Capital Projects planned in Eccleshall Parish during 2011/12.

Green Lane / Newport Road;- Speed data collected during October 2010, showed a slight reduction in speed, which it was thought could be attributed to the presence of the speed camera van. The van would continue to visit on a regular basis. Mrs. Heelis was asked to refer to this downward trend in speed in the next Parish Council Newsletter. The Committee would continue to monitor the situation.

Slindon:- The Parish Council had not received any further correspondence from the residents and it was agreed to take no further action until the recommendations from the speed limit review were available. Improvements to the footpath were expected to be undertaken in the next financial year.

Wetwood:- The Police had stated that the accident in October 2010 had been caused by the speed of the motorcycle. The coroners report had yet to be received, which would include any recommendations for improvements to the road. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

Wootton:- Residents of Wootton had raised concerns about HGV's accessing the single track no through road and problems with flooding at the junction of Wootton Lane and Newport Road. Mr. Mitchell indicated that a request for signage indicating no HGV's could be added to Councillor Butter's list of issues for prioritisation through the Divisional Highways Programme and the flooding would be investigated.

Mere Rise:- Mr. Mitchell indicated that the kerbing work would be undertaken in the current financial year.

Redhills:- The speed data had not identified any significant issue with speeding vehicles and there was no record of any accidents at the junction. With the VAS Sign by the Green Lane Junction further action was unlikely and the committee did not consider this issue to be a high priority

Bank Holiday Markets:- Mr. Mitchell was to arrange meetings with all interested parties and Councillors Pert and von Elbing indicated that they would like to attend.

Parking – Stone Road:- Neighbourhood Watch had raised issues about vehicles parking on both sides of Stone Road and suggested that double yellow lines could be painted on the road adjacent to the Co-op entrance. It was agreed to monitor the situation and collate any relevant evidence for consideration of the Local Parking Committee in October.

Bus Service 432 / Review of bus service consultation:- Councillors von Elbing, Amos, Allsop and the Clerk had attended at meeting with officers from the County Council in response to the current consultation. The County had been asked to take into consideration various issues including extending the 432 service to the Railway Station. Negotiations were ongoing with other service providers to replace the existing service run by Arriva maintaining current service levels as far as possible. Usage would be monitored until new 5 year contracts were issued in September. It was noted that a significant increase in the number of people using the service was required in order to make it sustainable.

The Committee had reviewed and updated the Five Year Plan.
The minutes of the Committee were accepted by the Council.

Enhancements:- Councillor Dale reported that he had met with Mr. C. Sanders to consider the pruning of trees off the Eyeswells Footpath and a site visit had been held at Elford Common to with regard to clearing the spring and forming a dew pond. These issues would be discussed in detail at the next committee meeting on February 23rd.

Policy and Resources:- The next meeting would be held on March 2nd, 2011 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Allen indicated that a leaflet was to be devised detailing a circular route using the newly installed kissing gates, funding had been provided through the Community Paths Initiative. A bid was being submitted for funding through the Initiative for further works and a reprint of the Favourite Walks Booklet.

19/11). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Eccles Society, Tourism Bureau, Slindon Residents or Young People or Communities Mean Business.

Allotments Association:- Councillor Apps reported that at a meeting held on February 14th, the committee had discussed facilities for the disabled and participation in the Open Gardens event. Details of proposals for a portacabin to provide storage, shelter and toilet facilities were to be forwarded to the Clerk in time for the meeting of the Enhancements Committee on February 23rd. One large plot was to be divided into two and it was proposed to reserve another plot, which was currently being treated for Mares Tail, for disabled users,

First Responders:- Councillor Garner reported that the Methodist Church had offered a room for use as a base two days a week. One day would be funded by the Church and the other by the Stone Lions.

Farmers' Market:- Councillor Allsop stated that the next market would be held on February 26th, and stall holders had been invited to represent Eccleshall at the Norbury Festival in May.

Business Focus Group:- The AGM would be held at The George on February 28th.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Dates would be circulated with regard to re-arranging the visit, which had been cancelled in December for interested members.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale indicated that the Jubilee Room had been re-decorated and new curtains and carpets would be ordered shortly.

Councillor Dale referred to proposals to construct 6 playing pitches for the Eccleshall Eagles on the Swynnerton Road and minutes from a recent meeting of the Indoor Bowling Club, which reported that the football team had made an offer to provide a Bowling Green on the site. The Chairman expressed

surprised that Councillor Pert had not consulted the Community Centre or the Parish Council concerning this matter when negotiations regarding the provision of a bowling green at the rear of the Community Centre had been ongoing with the County Council for many years.

Councillor Pert expressed surprise that anyone would have an issue with the proposals and indicated that he did not understand the Chairman's concerns about a possible conflict of interests.

20/11). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

Newsletter:- Mrs. Heelis requested items/photographs for inclusion in the March newsletter.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:- The Trust had identified Jackson's Coppice and Marsh as an appropriate site for improving links with the local community. Information was sought about groups in the area who may be interested in being involved with different aspects of the reserve. The Trust was hoping to provide a range of events and activities at the reserve. Mrs. Heelis was asked to include an item in the Parish Council Newsletter. It was proposed to display information on the Parish noticeboard and invite Helen Dale to address the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

Elections:- Councillors Apps, Starkey, Allsop, Garner and Amos and Mrs. Heelis had attended an Election Workshop at the Borough Council. It was noted that nomination packs for election to the Parish Council, would be available shortly from either the Clerk or the Borough Council. Upon completion applications should be returned to the Borough Offices by noon on April 4th, 2011.

Parish Crest:- The Rotary Club of Eccleshall Mercia had requested permission to use the Parish Crest on a bannerette. The bannerettes depicted a scene or logo representing aspects of the area represented by the club. All were in favour of the use of the crest for this purpose and Mrs. Heelis was also asked to provide explanatory notes to explain the components of the shield.

21/11). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale had nothing to report.

22/11). Accounts:- Mrs. Heelis reported that interest of £8.26 had been received since the last meeting together with a VAT repayment of £2,512.97. Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2180.24
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	47.21
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
Pictorial Meadows - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	39.14
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	113.06

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

Watering:- It was resolved to waive Standing Orders and invite Stafford Borough Council to tender for the contract for 2011. Members were unaware of anyone else who may be willing to tender for the contract and last year Mr. Parton had indicated that he was unable to undertake the work as cost effectively as the Borough.

23/11). Items/date and venue for next meeting:- March 16th, 2011 Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.
There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting at 8.10pm.