

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.05pm.

- 15/16). Present were:-**
- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor D. Pimble (Chairman) | Councillor G. Garner (Vice-Chairman) |
| Councillor B. Delanchy          | Councillor M. Starkey                |
| Councillor R. Langford          | Councillor E. Amos                   |
| Councillor P. Baskerville       | Councillor P. Mullee                 |
| Councillor D. Dyer              | Councillor C. J. Leather             |
| Councillor D. Jacques           | 6 members of the public              |
| Mr A. Jones STW                 | Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)                |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Marshall, Taylor-Potts, Davies and Jones together with Borough Councillor J. Pert.

*The meeting opened with prayers*

- 16/16). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.
- 17/16). Public Participation:-** Mr S. Lightfoot spoke in support of a funding application submitted by Eccleshall Cricket Club. The Club had applied for £400 towards replacement nets and servicing the surfaces in the net practice area. A significant amount of funding had already been raised from a sponsored walk and race night.
- 18/16). Mr A. Jones – Severn Trent Water – Senior Network Technician:-**  
Mr Jones indicated that he had been made aware of flooding issues in Eccleshall and had agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting to discuss these issues and obtain further details. Severn Trent was regulated by Ofwat and the company was accountable to its customers. Flooding reports were taken seriously and as Senior Network Technician for the County, Mr Jones liked to resolve issues for the local residents.  
Mr Jones stated that he was not involved with new developments, only the existing network. Residents were advised to report flooding issues through the 24 hour call Centre, when they would receive a reference number to follow up the enquiry. However, for information or other queries Mr Jones could be contacted directly. Issues could also be reported using an online form and photographs of the incident could be attached.  
Only one flood had been reported to Severn Trent during the previous six years. Although several incidents had been reported which were found to be a result of blockages. Evidence was required of flooding incidents to enable a risk assessment to be undertaken and schemes prioritised. Mr Jones had brought along some questionnaires for completion. A survey undertaken in Stafford Street and Castle Street two years ago had elicited a negligible response. Mr Jones indicated that he would be happy to attend a public meeting, arrange a roadshow or spend some time giving out questionnaires in the town.  
  
Mr Jones was thanked for attending the meeting.
- 19/16). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
- 20/16). Report from County Councillor Chapman:-** Councillor Chapman stated that he was interested to hear the report from Mr Jones and indicated that sometimes there appeared to be a lack of connectivity between the various bodies involved. Some recent flooding had been attributed to blocked gulleys/gutters and residents were urged to report blocked gutters to Streetscene. Councillor Chapman and his wife had spent some time clearing the gutters several weeks ago. Letters had been distributed asking property owners in the town to keep the frontages of their properties free of litter and weeds and gutters free from leaves and detritus. Mr Rayson (Staffordshire Highways) was aware of the issues and had undertaken to ensure that gutters in Stafford Street were emptied as regularly as possible.

**21/16). Committee Reports**

**Traffic Management:-** Councillor Garner reported on a meeting of the Committee held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

**Slindon Speed Limit Request –** This request had been discussed with Mr Rayson and also at the committee meeting. It was noted that the report emanated from a Government directive regarding a change to the speed limit for HGV's from 40mph to 50mph on single carriageway roads, together with the concerns of local residents. A meeting was subsequently held at St. Chad's Church on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6pm.

At the meeting it had been apparent that a 40mph may be supported but that a 30mph would not. Mr Rayson had agreed to commission a review and feasibility study to assess the viability of a 40mph limit and to consider gateway features to delineate the entrances to the village. The Village Hall Committee had funds, which could help towards the cost and funding may be requested from the Parish Council.

The Committee recommended that the Parish Council agreed to consider supporting any recommendations resulting from the County Council review and the installation of gateway features. However, the Council considered that it was inappropriate to commit to any offer of support until the review had been undertaken and the recommendations were available for consideration. It was resolved to leave further consideration of this matter in abeyance until the review was completed.

**Roundabout – Stafford Road:-** It was reported that the developer and the County Council had agreed to re-design a larger roundabout and also re-consider the provision of a footway to the south side of Green Lane.

**Grass verge Croxton (opposite Boughey's Well):-** As reported at the Parish Council Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Mr Latham (Highways) had indicated that the Farmer was entitled to cross the verge as it was part of the public highway. If the Farmer was prevented from crossing the verge this would have serious safety implications as when exiting Back Lane with a tractor / trailer, visibility was poor and the Farmer therefore used the grass verge to access his field gate.

Although the hedge had been cut and the verge strimmed the verge would not be added to the urban cutting schedule. The area could be tidied up when the Neighbourhood Highway Team visited the Parish or alternatively, the residents could undertake to keep it tidy.

**Gateway Features:-** It was considered that the new developments off Stafford Road and Cross Butts/Shaws Lane were an opportunity to install gateway features on the Stafford and Newport Roads. Mr Rayson agreed to discuss the possibility of getting contributions from the developers towards gateway features.

**Gist:-** Mr D. George the new site manager had offered to attend the Council meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Councillors were asked to note details of Gist lorries coming through Eccleshall on the B5026. It had historically been understood that there was an agreement for Gist lorries to avoid Eccleshall High Street, but with changes in site managers this agreement now seemed to be disregarded.

Mr Rayson agreed to establish whether routes had been specified in the original planning permission. Members were asked to log details or take photographs of Gist vehicle being driven on the B5026 through Eccleshall.

**Flooding:-** Councillor Chapman referred to flooding in Castle Street last December and indicated that he felt this was as a result of drains blocked with leaves, which he and Mrs Chapman had subsequently cleared. It was stated that he still had reservations about the capacity of the drainage system and considered that it may not be adequate for the additional homes. Mr Rayson indicated that although he was in agreement, the new estates included attenuation measures which were supposed to alleviate flooding issues.

A gully survey was being undertaken by the County Council to provide information about the drains most susceptible to being blocked. Councillor Chapman was liaising with Borough Councillor Pert to ensure that gutters were regularly cleaned.

Mr Rayson indicated that the clearing of grids was a task that could be assigned to the Neighbourhood Highway Team. It was noted however, that the visits of the NHT were under review and due to a reduced budget may be less frequent in the future.

Councillor Chapman referred to the grass verge on Green Lane, which had been driven over and needed to be levelled and re-instated. It was agreed to place this matter on the list for the next visit of the NHT.

**Bus Stops:-** No adverse comments had been received regarding the temporary bus stops on Newport Road near to the junction with Green Lane and Cross Butts and Mr Rayson indicated that the County would be looking to make these stops permanent in the future.

**Seat – outside The George:-** Mr Davies would be expected to finance the relocation of the seat from The George to the The Crescent/Newport Road and a licence would be required from County Highways.

The minutes of the Traffic Management Committee were accepted by the Council. The next meeting would be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Enhancements Committee:-** Councillor Baskerville reported that there had been no meeting of the committee. Accompanied by Mrs Heelis he had visited Mrs Brown on Churchfield Road regarding trees on the Eyeswells that were overhanging her property. Last year a quote had been obtained from Mr Keyzor to remove four conifers and three robinias from the site adjacent to the fence for a cost of £330.00, but the work had not been ordered. It was agreed to seek an updated quote from Mr Keyzor and proceed if appropriate. Permission had been previously granted for one day's work by Mr Jackson, however, the work required was greater than previously realised. Councillor Jacques advised that a Tree Surgery Training School had been set up at the Sugnall Business Centre and agreed to forward the details to Mrs Heelis.

**Policy and Resources Committee:-** Councillor Garner indicated that the next meeting would be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 following the Planning Committee meeting. An application for funding had been received from Eccleshall Cricket Club. It was agreed to forward a grant of £400 to the Club as they had raised a large proportion of the funds required themselves and there was sufficient funds remaining in the precept earmarked for grants. Forwarding the cheque now would enable the club to prepare the nets and associated works ready for the new season.

**Footpaths Committee:-** The next meeting of the committee would be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 preceding the Planning Committee meeting at 6.30pm.

**22/16). Liaison Representatives:-** There were no reports to receive from the Children and Young People, Tourism Bureau, Business Group, Offley Hay Village Hall or Slindon Residents.

**Ecclian Society:-** Councillor Baskerville reported that six new oak posts had been erected in the High Street as a result of a formal structural survey. Thanks were extended to Mrs Heelis for liaising with Mr Latham (County Highways) regarding the installation of the new posts. At a meeting of the management committee in February members had discussed the summer planting, festival, scarecrow competition and the usual sale of garden tools. Working parties had been organised to prepare 70 flags and poles for erection. The Ecclian Dinner would be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at The Old Smithy and there were still some places available.

**Allotments:-** Councillor Starkey reported from a meeting of the Association held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The waiting list for plots had been cleared and there was one plot available. The members were to clear the weeds and hedge bottoms in preparation for the new fencing and gate and paint the outside of the cabin. A skip was to be ordered and it was proposed to develop a compost area and plant whips in the autumn. The next meeting of the Association would be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Community Centre:-** Councillor Amos indicated that a meeting of the Association had been held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Springfields Nursery had taken over the rooms vacated by the Pre-School. A new fire door and new locks were to be installed. The Green Room was being decorated and carpeted. An external light and light sensor had been fitted. Investigations into the leak in the ceiling in the Jubilee Room were ongoing. Councillor Amos stated that she had asked the members whether they were satisfied with the condition of the building and it had been indicated that a programme of work was in place, but an approach may need to be made to the Parish Council for financial assistance towards larger projects.

**Festival:-** Councillor Amos reported that the committee was taking bookings on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Eccleshall High Street for stalls at the festival. Businesses were already booking plots in the High Street for the Victorian Street Market in commemoration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup>, birthday.

**23/16). New Developments:-**  
**Bovis** - Councillor Pimble reported that following an approach from Bovis Homes a meeting had been arranged on Friday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to discuss in principle, a proposal to amend the planning application to allow for the development of an additional eight homes on the site. Councillors Pimble, Baskerville and Garner were authorised to attend. It was commented that the density of houses still remained lower than average. Councillor Pimble proposed that dense tree planting was requested along the site boundary approaching Eccleshall on the A5013 from Stafford.

It was agreed to request Bovis to fund a gateway feature or other enhancement project on, or by the roundabout. Councillor Pimble had prepared some sketches and photographs of designs, which might be considered and these had been circulated.

**Taylor Wimpey** – The Council would consider the revised layout and Flood Risk Assessment upon receipt of the amended application.

**24/16). Neighbourhood Plan:-** There was nothing to report.

**25/16). Clerk’s Report and Correspondence:-**

**Newsletter:-** copies of the draft Newsletter for March had been circulated. Mrs Heelis requested any comments as soon as possible.

**Damaged Railings:-** The Clerk reported that a vehicle had reversed into the railings outside The George on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Police had been advised and were investigating the incident. A witness had initially claimed that the vehicle was a Gist lorry and Mrs Heelis had contacted the site manager, but it had transpired that this was not the case after Mr George had checked the tracking devices in the vehicles on site. Partumis metal, the manufacturer, had indicated that replacement railings would be required and quoted a cost of £1654.48 plus VAT. The highways had been advised as they would need to co-ordinate the removal of the railings with Partumis so that the railings could be taken to the factory. Mrs Heelis had submitted an insurance claim for the cost of the replacement railings.

**Allotments:-** Mrs Heelis indicated that two quotes for the fencing and gate at the site had been procured. The order had been placed with Mr Minshull at a cost of £454.20 excluding VAT.

**Rotary Club Oak Tree – Stone Road:-** Mrs Heelis reported that it was proposed to remove one of the two limbs of the tree as Western Power was concerned about the proximity to overhead power lines. This would ensure that only minimal pruning would be required in the future.

**Litter Pick** - Councillor Davies was organising a litter pick on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 9am – 12 noon as part of the Clean for the Queen Initiative.

**Eccleshall District Rangers:-** A request for funding had been received for two Rangers who had been selected to represent their District, Division and Girl Guiding Staffordshire at an International Scout and Guide Jamboree in New Jersey in August and five Rangers selected to work on a community project in Italy in July. Consideration of this request was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration as Mrs Heelis had only received the paperwork earlier in the day and members had not been apprised of the details.

**26/16). Chairman’s Report:-** The Chairman had nothing further to report.

**27/16). Accounts:-** Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries and associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	2336.94
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	35.59
Holy Trinity - Churchyard maintenance - Section 137	195.00
Holy Trinity - Floodlighting Contribution - Concurrent Allowance	150.00
Broughton C of E - Churchyard maintenance - Section 137	135.00
Croxton C of E - Churchyard maintenance - Section 137	135.00
Croxton Methodist - Churchyard maintenance - Section 137	85.00
Slindon PCC - Churchyard maintenance - Section 137	135.00
Eccleshall Methodist - Churchyard maintenance - Section 137	85.00
Broughton Parish Rooms - Grounds maintenance - Section 137	55.00
Eccleshall Community Centre - Hall Hire - LGA 1972 s.134	750.00
Offley Hay Village Hall - Hall Hire - LGA 1972 s.134	125.00

Broughton Parish Rooms - Hire - <i>LGA Act 1972 s.134</i>	125.00
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	109.89
D. Jacques - storage of footpath materials - <i>Concurrent allowance</i>	5.00
Eccleshall Cricket Club	400.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

**28/16).** **Items/Date and venue for the next meeting:-** March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.