

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

February 19th, 2014

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on February 19th, 2014 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee

13/14). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor E. Amos	Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor J. Allen
Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor L. von Elbing
Councillor B. Apps	Councillor M. Dodkins
Councillor G. Garner	Borough Councillor J. Pert.
Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)	3 members of the public

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

14/14). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations: There were no requests to receive.

15/14). Public Participation:- Mr Ranson referred to the decision taken at the January Council Meeting to increase the precept for 2014/15 and requested that the names of those who voted against the motion were recorded in the minutes. The Clerk affirmed that these details had been included.

Mr Ranson requested the Policy and Resources Committee to reconsider his request to make the Council's Standing Orders available on the Parish Council website.

16/14). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on January 22nd, 2014:- the minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.

17/14). Reports from Borough / County Councillors:-

Councillor Pert referred to the decision of the Council to increase the precept when other Authorities were maintaining the status quo or even making reductions. Councillor Pert queried the level of reserves held by the Parish and whether the increase would procure value for money for local residents.

Councillor Pert indicated that he had attended the consultation opportunity provided by Taylor Wimpey regarding the proposed development at the rear of the Community Centre and had been interested to read comments about the provision of a bowling green.

The Parish Council was encouraged to respond to a County Council consultation on Activities for Young People in Staffordshire, which was due to close on February 26th, 2014.

18/14). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor von Elbing referred to a meeting with Timothy Buxton from Staffordshire Highways held on Tuesday February 18th, 2014.

- The County Council had named Amey as its preferred delivery partner to provide integrated highways services and deliver savings for the county's taxpayers at the same time. The cabinet was currently examining the contract and negotiations were ongoing. A decision was expected shortly. If approved, the initial 10-year deal would see Amey maintaining the council's 6,000km of highways, delivering major flagship schemes and contributing to the running of the county's street lighting and rights of way and country park maintenance.
- **Traffic Monitoring:-** Data regarding the speed and volume of traffic through Eccleshall had been requested for use in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan as many of the respondents to the questionnaire had expressed concerns about the volume of traffic. Mr Buxton would advise Mrs Heelis of the contact details for the Data Manager, who could provide data and potential costs of undertaking new surveys, as this would enable the Parish Council to apply for additional funding from Locality.

Such surveys could possibly be undertaken through the DHP depending on the proposed use of the data. Councillor Pimble referred to the impact of proposed developments and expansion of

Raleigh Hall, which would exacerbate problems with infrastructure and increase the volume of traffic on major local routes. An indication of how authorities could work together to improve local roads and infrastructure was required for use in the Neighbourhood Plan to address the concerns and aspirations of the electorate. Development Control at the County may have information, which had been submitted to the Borough Council for use in the local Plan.

- **Stafford Street and Castle Street;-** Members had queried whether proposals for the roundabouts involved straightforward replacement or if different materials could be used to raise and define the roundabouts? Mr Buxton referred to space restrictions and indicated that works with other utilities were combined where possible. The Clerk would be notified of scheme details and anticipated timescales for the works.

Councillor Dodkins indicated that the PCSO's had expressed concern about parking on Castle Street, especially at weekend and would be contacting the Parish Clerk about this issue.

- **Small Lane:-** Mr Buxton agreed to inspect the resurfacing of Small Lane, which councillors indicated had not improved the surface as the chippings were all at the side of the lane with areas of bare surface exposed.
- **Entrances to Holy Trinity Church:-** Although footway repairs had been undertaken by Church Grove the surface was already breaking up and required remedial work. It was noted that the grass verge past Holy Trinity was deeply rutted and muddy as a result of being overridden by vehicles.
- **Footway Resurfacing – Slindon:-** The pavements in Slindon were being resurfaced and flooding issues appeared to have been resolved. The 30mph speed restriction was temporary for the period of the works.
- **Neighbourhood Highway Team:-** Parish Councillors were to be asked to notify the Clerk of any works required.
- **Request for speed restriction – Elford Heath:-** This issue remained on the Divisional Highway Programme List, but resources for the current financial year were already committed on other projects. There had been no accidents reported in the area.
- **Development rear of Eccleshall Community Centre:-** It was agreed to liaise with the County Council with regard to the application of appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders, prior to the submission of a planning application to prevent inappropriate parking and potential obstruction at the roundabout planned on Shaws Lane to access the development.

Councillor Dodkins, as School Governor, was asked to request the Headteacher to email any concerns about the development proposals to the Clerk. The school was also to be advised to submit any recommendations and comments to Taylor Wimpey.

Enhancements Committee:-

- Councillor Dale reported that 5 trees had been planted on The Burgage and some favourable comments had been received. The Clerk had included a picture in the March Newsletter to illustrate what the trees would like in flower and thanks had been extended to Councillor Chapman for funding the project and Mr Clift for planting the trees.
- A fallen tree, on the Eyewells Footpath was being removed by the landowner and the County Council Rights of Way Officer was to inspect flooding on the path.

The next meeting of the Enhancements Committee would be held on April 2nd, 2014 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee:- There had been no meeting of the Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- There had been no meeting of the Committee.

Bench to Bench Walks – Councillor Dodkins referred to two leaflets detailing benches in and out of Eccleshall to assist those with limited mobility to plan short walks between public benches. The leaflets were designed to be particularly beneficial to people recovering from strokes. The Council resolved to have 200 copies of each leaflet printed and displayed in Eccleshall Library. The leaflets would also be available to download on the Parish Council website. Thanks were extended to Councillor Dodkins and

to Mr R. Gillibrand for preparing the leaflets. Mr Gillibrand suggested that a circular route could be devised if a bench was located on Hilcote Lane near to the junction with Stone Road.

19/14). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Business Focus Group or Tourism Bureau.

Ecclian Society:- The Open Gardens would be held on 14th and 15th June, 2014 at the start of the Festival Week with the Eccleshall in Bloom Team holding a garden and garage tools stall at Church Lodge on June 21st, 2014. Mr and Mrs Bertram regretfully advised members that the large Ash tree in their back garden had become dangerous due to a fungal infection and was to be felled.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor von Elbing reported that daily bookings remained good and a new Boxercise class had recently commenced.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins reported that the new Deputy Headteacher had been appointed – Ms C. Hill. The PTA had held a Valentines Disco. Mr Middleton had attended the presentation by Taylor Wimpey about the proposals for the Land at the rear of Eccleshall Community Centre.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale indicated that the Committee was seeking quotes for the improvement of the overspill car park and the refurbishment of the Ladies Toilets. A recent dance night had proved very successful and was attended by 108 people.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins reported that Emma Austin was shortly visiting Japan and was the only volunteer on the trip. The Youth Club had been opened for two evenings during half term and membership continued to increase.

Communities Mean Business:- It was noted that an event was to be held at Stowe by Chartley in celebration of a project completed with CMB funding. Future funding was expected to be available from DEFRA for the provision of jobs in Rural Communities.

20/14). Neighbourhood Plan:- Councillor Pimble reported on the Planning Forum he had attended on February 5th, 2014, Mrs Heelis was asked to circulate the information from the meeting. The Forum had heard how the Local Plan was progressing and the Borough Council was currently consulting on the proposed Modifications, following the Inspector's recommendations.

At the Forum the Borough Council had proposed working with those councils containing Key Service Villages on an approach and apportionment of housing provision to assist with Neighbourhood Plans and ensure that the Local Plan delivers 1,200 new homes for these settlements over 17 years. Mr Yendole, Planning Policy Manager, had written to the Clerks of Key Service Villages seeking to work together to identify new settlement boundaries to replace the residential development boundaries. It was agreed to indicate that the Parish Council would like to enter into discussion with the Borough Council with regard to engaging in this project. Although it was stressed that the Neighbourhood Plan was for the Parish and would reflect the concerns and aspirations of the local community.

At the Forum Councillor Pimble had raised the issue about the availability of funding for Neighbourhood Plans and was advised that no funding was available. The Parish Council had been disappointed that the Borough had refused to progress any applications for the Front Runner Scheme, which had been available. Parishes in other areas had received £20,000 towards the preparation and publication of their plans. It was understood that the Local Planning Authority could apply for £5,000 for each Neighbourhood Plan designation and a further £5,000 upon completion of each Plan, although none of this funding was being passed onto Parish Councils in Staffordshire. It was agreed to apply for further funding from Locality to cover a highway survey, room hire and printing costs.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group was scheduled to meet on February 20th, 2014 and discuss key points for inclusion in a report to be included with the March newsletter. The next steps in the process would be to formulate policies for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.

21/14). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:-

- **Fire Tender:-** Councillor Dale reported that despite many calls and emails to the Co-op no response had been received. Details had been sent to another contact, if this failed to elicit a reply it was proposed to write to the Managing Director. Councillor Dodkins indicated that she had good communications with the Co-op and had a contact that may be able to help. Councillor

Garner had contacted Rupert Fletcher previously but although he indicated that he would be happy to store the Fire Tender it would be situated outside. Councillor Apps proposed approaching Katharine House.

- **Refurbishment of Eccleshall Post Office:-** It was noted that the Post Office was to close for refurbishments on Wednesday March 5th, 2014 at 5.30pm and re-open on March 31st, 2014 at 1pm. The refurbished branch would provide a modern open plan environment, the same products and services and longer opening hours. Other Post Offices in the area included Woodseaves and Croxton and would be available during the closure of the Eccleshall Branch.
- **Bus Service Review:-** Simon Tagg, Cabinet Support Member for Transport and the Connected County, had responded to concerns about the consultation process and explained that this was driven by a number of contracts being handed back by operators. It was confirmed that service revisions had taken account of consultation and previously received communications. Tender documents had been sent out with a view to operation of the revised network from April 29th, 2014. Parish Councils would be informed of service changes as appropriate.

22/14). Parish Council Newsletter:- Draft copies of the newsletter were circulated and the Clerk requested any comments as soon as possible.

23/14). Chairman's Report:- There was nothing to report.

24/14). Accounts:- Retrospective authorisation was granted for this payment for the following account, which had been paid since the last meeting:-

Chew Valley Trees - <i>Local Community Fund</i>	538.02
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Authorisation was requested or payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2253.16
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	27.20
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
Pictorial Meadows - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	49.44
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	138.78
D. Jacques - storage of footpath materials - <i>Concurrent allowance</i>	5.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

25/14). Items/date and venue for next meeting:- March 19th, 2014 Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

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