

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

January 20th 2010

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on January 20th 2010 at Eccleshall Community Centre, Shaws Lane, Eccleshall, at 7.30p.m.

1/10). Present were:-	Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice–Chair)
	Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Baskerville
	Councillor J. Jones	Councillor J. Allen
	Councillor B. Apps	Councillor E. Amos.
	Councillor J. Pert	Councillor M. Starkey
	Councillor P. Allsop	Councillor G. Garner
	Councillor L. von Elbing	Councillor A. Holl
	Mrs. C. Heelis (Clerk)	

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor P. Jones, Eccleshall Police, Borough Councillor F. Chapman and County / Borough Councillor H. Butter.

The meeting opened with prayers

2/10). Public Participation:- There were no members of the public present.

3/10). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on November 25th 2009:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

4/10). Police:- The Clerk read a report indicating that there had been 69 incidents on the Eccleshall area since the last meeting, 9 of which were of note.

5/10). Reports from Borough Councillors:- There were no Borough Councillors in attendance. Concern was expressed that Councillor Jennings had not attended a meeting of the Parish Council since February 2009 and was reported to have indicated to the press that he would support the development of a retirement village in Eccleshall. The Chairman proposed that a letter was sent to the Leader of the Conservative Party to raise this matter and ask if Cllr. Jennings remained the elected member for Eccleshall Ward as he rarely attended meetings, was difficult to contact and did not represent the Parish Council or local residents. The motion was passed with one abstention.

6/10). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management:- Councillor Pert reported that the next meeting of the committee would be on February 3rd, following the meeting of the Planning Committee. A meeting was scheduled with Officers from the Highways Department on Friday January 22nd and works to improve the visibility splays at the Newport Road / Green Lane junction were almost complete. The visibility railings, which had been damaged recently, would be replaced with verge marker posts.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale indicated that work on the area around the toilets had started.

Elford Common:- It was reported that there was a large number of dead fish at Elford Pool and a representative from the Environment Agency had agreed to visit the site on Thursday morning. It was possible that the fish had died because the pool was shallow and had been frozen over preventing gases given off by detritus from escaping. Councillor Pimble advised that the hire of a machine to lower the level of the pool would cost around £500.00 per day. Mrs. Heelis had again contacted the BTCV but it appeared that Anna Reeves was no longer working there. It was agreed to establish a daily rate to clear the pool and remove vegetation from the perimeter from Jackson and Pugh. Authority to incur costs of up to £1000.00 was delegated to the Chairman and Chair and Vice-Chair to enable work to proceed.

An additional 50 whips had been planted around the car park at the common by members. The next meeting of the Enhancements Committee would be held on March 3rd, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources:- Councillor Allen referred to copies of the minutes from the meeting held on December 9th 2009, which had been circulated with the agenda together with a spreadsheet detailing the proposed precept for 2010/11.

Seat – Stone Road:- Mrs. Heelis had written to the Landlord of 'The George' seeking a letter agreeing to the installation of a seat, however, no response had been received. Councillor Pimble had spoken to M/s Slater who had advised that they would not be happy with a seat in this location as young people could use it to gain access to the wall. It was agreed to defer a decision on this matter until the next meeting, following further discussion with Mr. Mitchell from the Highways.

Notice Board:- The Clerk circulated details of quotations received from Fitzpatrick Woolmer, Greenbarnes, Shelley Signs and Malcolm Lane. After some discussion it was resolved to order a board from Greenbarnes at a cost of £2425.94 plus VAT together with 2 zinc plaques from Photocast for an approximate cost of £50.00.

It was noted that a grant of £1500.00 had been received from the Local Community Fund towards the purchase of a seat and notice board. It was resolved that the remaining finance for the notice board would be vired from the unspent amount of £1725.00 allocated for watering in the 2009/10 precept.

Grant request – Eccleshall Scout Group:- Further details had been obtained regarding the trip to Siberia in summer 2010. 7 leaders and 22 scouts and explorers hoped to take part at an approximate cost of £1,469.40 per person. The Committee recommended that a grant of £600 was made towards the cost of the international camp in the next financial year. This grant would be Section 137 expenditure. All were in favour.

Precept 2010/11:- Mrs. Heelis referred to spreadsheets showing the current financial situation and a projected precept for 2010/11. Whilst some of the headings were underspent the amounts were small with the exception of the insurance and watering. It was noted that the concurrent allowance would be maintained at the 2009/10 level of £5815.00. The Council accepted the following recommendations:-

- That a precept of £47,500.00 was levied for 2010 / 11
- £500 for the computer was transferred to earmarked reserves with a view to upgrading / replacing equipment purchased in March 2005.
- £550.00 remaining the Traffic Management Budget would be carried for to the next financial year.
- Any unspent finance from the allocation for grants would be transferred to the next financial year.
- Other unspent finance would be transferred to reserves.

It was noted that the estimated balance at the end of March 2010 was £58,250.00 of which approximately £23,000.00 was earmarked (Milwood Homes Fund £5,446.08) and a further £12,000.00 from reserves was committed to the Community Centre.

Meetings between Councillors and Developers:- The Council resolved to adopt a Policy stating that members should not attend meetings with developers without the clerk or another councillor being present.

Thanks were extended to Councillor Allen and the Clerk for the preparation of the precept and associated papers.

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee were adopted by the Council.

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

7/10). Liaison Representatives:-

There were no reports to receive from Offley Hay Village Hall, The Ecclian Society, Business Focus Group, Tourism Bureau or Bishop Lonsdale School.

Allotments Association:- There had been no meeting of the Association, however, members had received a list of meeting dates for the year.

Farmer's Market:- The market scheduled for January 23rd had been cancelled as a result of the bad weather. The next market would be held on February 27th 2010.

Slindon Village Hall:- Councillor von Elbing reported that residents were again requesting support for traffic issues through the village and had invited Councillors von Elbing and Pert to attend a in February to discuss these matters.

Eccleshall Community Centre:- Councillor Dale indicated that he was in the process of resolving planning permission queries regarding the proposed hedge.

Communities Mean Business:- Councillor von Elbing reported that groups now had to fund a project and reclaim the finance, according to a recent EU directive, which was causing problems for applicants. Discussions were taking place with the County and Borough Council with a view to resolving this anomaly.

Young People:- Councillor Holl stated that he had completed a grant application form for funding from the Community Development Department of the County Council. Members were asked to consider assisting Councillor Holl with the youth role.

First Responders:- Councillor Garner reported that he had attended the AGM on December 8th 2009. The group hoped to involve more people to man stalls and deal with paperwork. It was hoped to fund a new vehicle shortly to replace the existing one. 2 new Responders were in training and the area covered by the First Responders had been increased to include Yarnfield. Councillor Garner was asked to establish who had determined this extension to the area, as it would affect local coverage and entail extra travelling for the Responders.

8/10). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

Civic Amenity Visits 2010/11:- The Council resolved to request bi-monthly visits as previously. It was noted that there would be a slight increase in cost from £94.70 per visit to £97.45.

Helicopter nuisance:- The Clerk referred to emails received from Mr. Brys of 'The Laurels', Stone Road. Mr. Brys expressed concern about a yellow and black helicopter hovering over the town on a regular basis using a searchlight. Councillor Dale reported that he had arranged for Squadron Leader Neil Hope from RAF Shawbury to attend the Council meeting on March 17th 2010 to discuss this matter.

Bishop Lonsdale CE (VC) Primary School:- Members were advised that the term of office for a Local Authority Governor was due to end on May 5th 2010. The Council did not wish to submit a nomination to be considered for appointment.

Best Kept Village 2010:- The Clerk reported that details of the competition had been received.

9/10). Chairman's report:- There was no report to receive.

10/10). Accounts:- Details of the accounts, including a list of amounts paid since the last meeting, had been circulated. Invoices paid since the November Council meeting had been agreed at meetings of the Planning Committee.

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2158.29
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	93.33
A.S. Electrical Services – remove tree lights – <i>Concurrent Allowance</i>	105.75
Pictorial Meadows - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	37.21
P. & M Edwards - 50 quicks - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	47.50
P. Jones – Council website domain name <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	10.55

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

Croxton Play Area:- The Clerk was authorised to request Wicksteed Playscapes to undertake the Annual Inspection and Risk Assessment at a cost of £71.00 plus VAT. Alternative quotes had been sought in 2009, however, Wicksteed had represented best value and a comprehensive report had been received.

11/10). Land rear of Eccleshall Community Centre:- It was noted that a meeting with Mr. J. MacDonald Head of Strategic Property, Staffordshire County Council was scheduled for January 29th 2010.

12/10). Items / Date for next meeting:- February 17th 2010, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.