

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

January 22nd, 2014

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on January 22nd, 2014 at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

1/14). Present were:-	Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chairman)
	Councillor E. Amos	Councillor M. Starkey
	Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Mullee
	Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor J. Allen
	Councillor B. Apps	Councillor D. Jacques
	Councillor L. Serjeant	Councillor G. Garner
	Borough Councillor J. Pert	Councillor M. Dodkins
	Borough / County Councillor Chapman	1 member of the press
	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)	1 member of the public

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Jones and von Elbing.

2/14). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- There were no requests to receive.

3/14). Public Participation:- The members of the public present did not wish to raise any issues.

4/14). Minutes of the Council Meeting held on November 20th, 2013:- The minutes, which had been circulated previously, were agreed and signed.

5/14). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

Councillor F. Chapman:- Councillor Chapman referred to the recent Bus Service Review concerning those services subsidised by the County Council. The Clerk had written to the Cabinet Member to raise concerns about the consultation and the librarians had been thanked for their assistance in publicising the review. The message remained 'Use it or lose it!'

Councillor Chapman referred to matters discussed at a recent Highways Seminar and encouraged the Council to become involved with a County Council scheme, Ice Busters, and help with the gritting of pavements and other public areas.

It was stated that the School had been fully consulted regarding the withdrawal of the Crossing Patrol on Newport Road and as Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel Councillor Chapman reported that a zero increase in the budget for 2014/15 was anticipated from the Police, County and Borough Councils. Councillor Chapman indicated that he had received concerns from local residents regarding a planning application had been submitted to accept and shred wood waste at Mill Farm and asked the Parish Council to consider the visual impact of the proposal, together with the potential increase in noise and dust.

It was noted that the area around the Rotary Seat on Stone Road was in need of weeding and litter picking and Councillor Dale replied that it was hoped that Drake Hall Prison would be able to assist with this and other general improvement tasks around the town.

Councillor J. Pert:- Referred to open forums that were being held in Stafford and the surrounding areas by the Commissioning Group concerning the future of Stafford Hospital and encouraged Councillors to become involved. Stafford Borough Council was seeking nominations for Community Awards and Councillor Pert suggested that volunteers in Eccleshall were nominated. Network Rail was compiling a list of local businesses to participate in improvement projects and were also recruiting apprentices, names could be put forward. Eccleshall Cricket Club had been shortlisted for a Sport Award by Stafford Borough Council.

6/14). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- There was nothing to report.

Enhancements Committee:-

- Tree Planting – The Burgage:- It was resolved to place an order for five Trees – Prunus Amanogawa, from Chew Valley Trees at a cost of £538.02 inclusive of VAT. Mr Clift had

submitted a quote to plant the trees and the cost of the trees and installation would be covered by a grant from the Local Community Fund.

- Carols around the Christmas Tree:- Councillor Dale reported that the event had been attended by approximately 160 people. Due to the inclement weather after singing at the cross roads, the Pillar Clock and Selwyn Court the singers had congregated in the Church to sing more carols. Hot punch had been served by members of the Ecclian Society and it was hoped that the event in future years could follow this revised format.

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on February 5th, 2014 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee:- Councillor Allen reported on a meeting of the Committee held on December 4th, 2013.

Precept 2014/15:-The minutes and budget details had been circulated to Councillors prior to the Parish Council meeting. The Committee made the following recommendations:-

1. The Committee recommended that the following amounts from reserves were earmarked:-
 - Maintenance of the Community Centre - £5000.00
 - Maintenance of Croxton Play Area / open space - £2500.00The proposal was approved with two abstentions.
2. It was reported that £615.68 remained in the Milwood Homes Fund and consideration was to be given for the allocation of this funding on community or open space projects.
3. Mrs Heelis reported that the Concurrent Allowance from Stafford Borough Council for 2014/15 would remain unchanged at £3733.00.
4. The Precept had remained unchanged since April 2011 and the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that a precept of £50160.00 was levied to allow for costs associated with various projects including:-
 - Work associated with the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Repairs to the Pillar clock plinth
 - Maintenance of Croxton Play Area / open space
 - Maintenance of Eccleshall Community Centre.

Mrs Heelis advised that this was an increase of 2.8% amounting to 70p over the year for a Band D property. The proposal was approved by 8 votes to 5 - Councillors Delanchy, Jacques, Dodkins and Apps voted against the motion and Councillor Mullee abstained.

Footpaths Committee:- There was nothing to report.

7/14). **Liaison Representatives:-**

Allotments Association:- Councillor Starkey reported on the AGM of the Association held on December 4th, 2013, when new Officers had been elected. The retiring Chairman had reported on a successful year which had seen improvements to the site including toilets and storage facilities and the first social event, which had been welcomed by members.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Baskerville reported that 40 volunteers had helped to remove the Christmas lights and trees on January 5th, 2014. The first walk of the New Year would take place on January 26th and the Luncheon Club had met on January 15th. The Oak posts had been surveyed and 4 were in need of replacement, new posts had been ordered and Mrs Heelis was liaising with Shane Latham at the highways regarding installation.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Dodkins reported that the bookings were good.

There were no reports to receive from the **Tourism Bureau, Business Focus Group or Communities Mean Business.**

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins reported that a new Deputy Headmaster had been appointed and was due to take up post shortly.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale indicated that the monthly Country and Western Dances, which had been very popular for many years had ceased and the Committee had organised alternative social events. Almost 100 people had attended a dance on New Year's Eve and a programme of live music had been arranged for 2014 and 2015 with Dandy booked for June 21st during Festival week.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins reported that Emma Austin was to visit Japan with a view to arranging an exchange visit for the young people. Membership of the club continued to grow and the young people had served a buffet at a meeting of the Community Means Business Group.

- 8/14). Neighbourhood Plan:-** Councillor Pimble reported that the returned questionnaires had been analysed and at a recent meeting group members had agreed to look at the main topics raised – housing, traffic, open space and employment. Councillor Delanchy would Chair the Planning Committee meeting on February 5th, 2014 to enable Councillor Pimble to attend a Forum Meeting at Stafford Borough concerning the production of Neighbourhood Plans, together with the support and resources available

Bob Keith from Planning Aid was to attend a meeting of the Group on February 4th, 2014 at 2pm at Eccleshall Community Centre.

At a meeting of the Stafford Borough Support Group on Monday January 13th, 2014 Alex Yendole, Planning Policy Manager, had confirmed that a large development at Cold Meece would be too isolated from the Key Service Village and not sustainable locally. The development was a strategic housing matter and too large to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 9/14). Clerks report and correspondence:-**

Civic Amenity Visits 2014/15:- It was agreed to request a visit from the refuse lorry bi-monthly as previously for 2 hours.

Old Fire Pump:- The Clerk read an email from the Fire Station Manager at Eccleshall, David Steele. Mr Steele refuted the previous understanding that the pump was to remain at Eccleshall Fire Station as the facility had received planning permission to extend. Relocation of the equipment was still required and despite attempting to contact the Co-op Mrs Heelis had not managed to have any discussion about the possibility of relocating the tender at the front of the Co-op premises. Councillor Dale had subsequently spoken to Ms Butcher and hoped to enter into further dialogue.

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription 2013/14 – It was resolved to discontinue membership of the Association as there appeared to be little benefit for the Parish Council.

Croxton Playing Field – Annual Inspection:- Mrs Heelis was authorised to request Wicksteed to undertake the annual inspection and request the opportunity to accompany the inspector to consider any repairs required to the safety surfacing. The cost of an accompanied inspection was £71.00.

Eccleshall library:- An email had been received about potential changes to library services. Mrs Heelis had circulated the email to those with access to the internet. It was proposed to include an item in the Parish Council Newsletter about the consultation process and how residents can submit their comments.

Eccleshall War Memorial:- The Clerk reported that the memorial had been awarded Grade 11 Listed Building status by English Heritage. It was agreed to contact Stafford Borough Council Conservation Officer to ascertain whether permission would be required from the Borough if anyone wished to clean the memorial or undertake any other work, or whether a Church Faculty would override this requirement. Councillor Baskerville indicated that he felt it would be beneficial to point the memorial to help keep water out. This could be investigated once the process for undertaking any work had been clarified. It was thought that the memorial was erected by public subscription and was not in the ownership of the Parish Council or the Church.

Use of the Parish Crest:- A request had been received from a marketing company on behalf of The Kings Arms to display the crest on the premises on canvas in old style frames. The Council had no objections.

Staffordshire Diary of Village Festivals and Events:- The Community Council was compiling a diary of events in Staffordshire and Mrs Heelis was asked to pass the form onto Councillor Jones and Peter Bertram for completion.

Bench to Bench Walks:- Councillor Dodkins referred to two walking leaflets describing locations of benches in Eccleshall and the distances between. The leaflets were designed to encourage stroke victims and those with difficulty walking to get out and exercise. It was agreed to circulate the leaflets to members for further consideration.

10/14). Chairman's Report:- There was no report to receive.

11/14). Accounts:- Mrs Heelis referred to the list of accounts and payments to date that had been circulated to members. It was noted that income had been received from the Local Community Fund of £764.00 and Wayleaves of £32.51.

The Clerk referred to the following accounts, which had been paid since the last meeting:-

Woods Christmas Tree Farm- <i>Concurrent allowance</i>	1394.00
Creative Copy 'n' Colour - Newsletters - <i>LGA 1972 s142</i>	258.00
Data Protection - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	35.00
A. S. Electrical Services - Install Tree Lights - <i>Concurrent Allowance</i>	300.00
Stafford Borough Council grasscutting - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s10</i>	414.00
D, Smith - clean bus shelters - <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s.1</i>	6.31
Zurich Municipal - Council Insurance - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	2170.50

Retrospective authorisation was granted.

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2528.83
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	121.78
SBC Civic Amenity Visits - <i>Concurrent Allowance</i>	204.00
A. S. Electrical Services - Remove Tree Lights - <i>Concurrent Allowance</i>	120.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

12/14). Items/ Date and venue for the next meeting:- February 19th, 2014, Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.