

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

July 15th, 2015

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on July 15th, 2015, at Broughton Parish Rooms, at 7.30pm.

100/15). Present were:-	Councillor D. Pimble (Chairman)	Councillor G. Garner (Vice-Chairman)
	Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Baskerville
	Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor P. Jones
	Councillor B. Davies	Councillor D. Jacques
	Councillor C. Marshall	Councillor M. Dodkins
	Councillor D. Dyer	Councillor P. Mullee
	Councillor E. Amos	Councillor L. Taylor-Potts
	Councillor R. Langford	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)
	Borough Councillor J. Pert	County Councillor Chapman.
	7 members of the public	1 member of the press

The meeting opened with prayers

101/15). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- There were no requests to receive.

102/15). Public Participation:- None of the members of the public present wished to raise any matters.

103/15). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on June 17th, 2015:- The minutes had been previously circulated to members. Councillor Langford proposed an addendum to clarify that 45 out of 372 HGV's recorded at the roundabout in the centre of Eccleshall over a 9 hour period, were Gist lorries. With this additional information noted, the minutes were approved and signed.

104/15). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

County Councillor F. Chapman:- Councillor Chapman said that current systems were not efficient and there was a lot of duplication between the various authorities. Discussions were ongoing with the Chief Executive Officers of Stoke on Trent and the District Council.

- Changes to the Fire Service were being implemented in order to reach the required savings of £1.7m. The second appliance was to be removed from Stone Fire Station but current staffing levels would be maintained. Smaller appliances were under consideration as was the type of response despatched to emergency calls. The safety of fire fighters was always important but a crew of five firefighters was not necessary in every instance.
- Councillor Baskerville commented that it was anomalous that the Fire Service were cutting the budget when PFI money had been used to fund two new stations locally and would represent a public debt for the next 25 years. Councillor Chapman indicated that the Chief Fire Officer argued that these stations were intended to become community hubs with other facilities.
- Councillor Amos enquired about the possibility of a bus stop sign on the A519 coming into Eccleshall. Councillor Chapman indicated that he aware of the problem especially for a visually impaired person and agreed to pursue the matter.
- Councillor Chapman indicated that he would not be standing as County Councillor in 2017 but would be happy to support his successor in the role.

Councillor Pert thanked Councillor Chapman for his perseverance in promoting Stafford Street and Castle Street for resurfacing works.

- A recent rural housing event had focused on the opening of a scheme in Swynnerton.
- Gist had applied for a licence to cover the Christmas period and an additional route to Nottingham, which would equate to an increase of 4 additional vehicle movements per day. Councillor Pert had held discussions with the company about the possibility of re-routing vehicles through Stone, but this would have huge financial implications.
- Raleigh Hall and Gist had undertaken to conduct a 24 hour study of vehicles going through Eccleshall to establish their destinations and the companies concerned. The study would be carried out after the current works had been completed.
- Raleigh Hall Properties had undertaken not to develop the rest of the land within the site boundary for distribution or other vehicle related activities.

- It was noted that the whole site employed 530 workers, 80% of which lived within a 10 mile radius.
- The NatWest Bank was arranging for a mobile Bank to visit Eccleshall starting in August.
- Members were encouraged to download an App available from the Borough Council for the purposes of reporting fly tipping, dog fouling etc.
- Small capital grants were available for groups with less than 50 members who could provide match funding.

Councillor Jones- Councillor Jones indicated that as Mayor he was unable to be involved in political matters. The Mayor and Mayoress had attended Five Eccleshall events in their official capacity.

105/15). Liaison Representatives:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor Taylor-Potts reported on the meeting of the Traffic Management Committee held on July 1st, 2015 when Councillor Taylor-Potts had been re-elected as Chairman of the committee and Councillor Dyer, as Vice-Chair.

Representatives of the Committee had met with Mr C. Mitchell, Community Highway Liaison Manager on June 23rd, 2015. Mr Mitchell had indicated that he would be leaving Stafford Highways at the end of July and introduced Mr Rayson, who would be taking over the role of Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager for the Stafford Area. It was noted that there were no other changes/developments in the County Council at present that would affect the Parish.

Mr Rayson had been informed of issues that were of local concern and various matters were discussed including the ownership of blue brick areas in the High Street, matters affecting Croxton and Slindon, the ongoing road works in Eccleshall and the impending night time closures, details of which, had been posted on the notice board in the High Street and also on the Parish Council website.

A meeting had been arranged with Mr Rayson on September 24th, 2015, however, Mr Rayson had also requested an opportunity to have a walk round Eccleshall with several members of the committee to get a feel for the issues within the community and get to know it a little better. It was agreed to arrange such a meeting and invite Councillor Chapman to attend.

It had been noted that some Gist lorries were using the High Street and Mrs Heelis had contacted the Company who had asked if registration numbers could be taken.

5 Year Plan:- The Plan, which had been prepared by Mr L. Serjeant had been amended slightly and circulated to members prior to the meeting. All voted in favour of the adoption of the Plan and thanks were to be relayed to Mr Serjeant.

The Management of Accidents and Traffic had been added to the list of priorities and Mrs Heelis was asked to request statistics on accidents in the Parish.

- Councillor Pimble referred to the speed cameras that had been installed in Woodseaves and it was agreed to raise this matter with Mr Rayson
- Councillor Langford queried whether a Vehicle Activated Sign could be provided in Croxton and it was suggested that she liaise with Councillor Pert in the first instance.

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on October 7th, 2015 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

The minutes of the Traffic Management Committee were adopted by the Council.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Pimble reported that a meeting of the Enhancements Committee held on July 8th, 2015 had been inquorate and therefore, Chair and Vice-Chair had not been elected. The following items had been informally discussed and were referred to the Parish Council:-

Croxton Play Area:- The removal of up to 4 trees, reduction in the height of the hedge and the provision of a sign had been discussed and referred to the next committee meeting in August.

Grass Verge opposite Boughey's Well:- The NHT had been scheduled to erect posts around the grass verge, however, following discussions with the adjacent landowner and County Highways it had been decided to postpone the work. Those present were in agreement that the installation of

posts would obstruct maintenance of the hedge and verge and also remove the only available parking space for the play area. The matter would be considered further at the next meeting.

Toilet area:- It was noted that the bushes required trimming.

Elford Common and Pool:-

If the willows around the pool were removed the ducks would have nowhere to nest.

Some of the wooden posts around the triangle of grass at the top of Kerry Lane were rotten. Mrs Heelis was asked to speak to Mr S. Latham at Highways with regard to the pot holes on the car park

Councillor Baskerville indicated that the Eccles Society would be replacing the wooden seat, which had been damaged recently by a group of young people having a barbecue.

Benches / Seats:- The Lion's Head seat at Slindon was in reasonable condition.

It was agreed to request Mr Eaton to repaint the blue metal bench on the corner as previously. Mr Eaton had last undertaken this work in 2012 for a cost of £40.

Drake Hall:- The two seats had been refurbished and it was agreed to locate one at the corner of Churchfield Road and Gaol Butts and the other on The Burgage facing the Stone Road. Mrs Heelis was asked to obtain the necessary permissions with a view to the Highways installing the one at Gaol Butts and Mr Sheard the seat at The Burgage, which would require paving slabs underneath as it was on a grassed area.

Mrs Heelis had been contacted by Ms Williams (Activities Hub Manager) at Drake Hall and the railings at The Washpits had been cleaned and the area weeded. The seat required washing down with a mild bleach and this would be undertaken shortly.

It was proposed to arrange for Drake Hall to undertake small cleaning and weeding projects in certain areas.

Streetwatch – Progress with the reconstruction of the carriageway works was to be monitored to ensure appropriate materials were used. Mrs Heelis had met the foreman on site who had indicated that it was the responsibility of the bus companies to advise their customers of any proposed changes to timetables / routes throughout the duration of the works. The Clerk had contacted contact Arriva but to date no reply had been received.

Fire Tender Display and Lectern:- The final text had been agreed for the display and amendments to the lectern. Shelley Signs had removed the top of the lectern. The quotations of £475 for the internal sign and £675 for the lectern were approved by the Council. Mrs Heelis had completed an application for funding from the Local Community Fund. Unfortunately only £300 was available.

Village Sign:- The sign had been refurbished and returned. Councillor Pimble thanked Councillors Dyer, Mullee and Starkey for their assistance re-installing the sign.

Land @ Bishops Court:- Quotations were to be sought for the manufacture of the support required for the metal plaque from Fields in Trust.

Dog / litter bins:- It was proposed to note areas where bins were needed and invite an Officer from Stafford Borough to attend a site visit.

Roundabout on Stafford Road:- An full planning application had been submitted for the 130 homes off Stafford Road and it was proposed to consider a suitable feature for the roundabout. Members were asked for any suggestions.

Community Action:- An email from Councillor Davies had been circulated to all Councillors proposing a scheme to involve volunteers in weeding, litter picking, sweeping and basic maintenance tasks. The proposals were welcomed by the Council and it was agreed to consider the actions required to implement such a scheme. Mrs Heelis was asked to check the insurance implications. Proposals for inappropriate use and the improvement of the Beech Road Play Area were to be considered for referral to the Borough Council.

Civic Service:- The Council agreed to continue with the annual Civic Service and Mrs Heelis was asked to contact Rev. Graham to ascertain whether the event could be hosted by Holy Trinity later in the year and if so arrange a suitable date.

The next meeting of the Enhancements Committee was arranged for August 19th, 2015, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting of the Committee would be held on September 2nd, 2015 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- It was noted that a meeting of the Footpaths Committee would be held on July 16th, 2015 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm.

- 106/15). Liaison Representatives:-** There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Community Centre, Slindon Residents, Ecclian Society, or Tourism Bureau
Business Group:- Councillor Jones reported that Caroline Law was the new Chairperson.
Young People:- The Youth Club continued to attract new members. It was noted that the popular Space scheme was to be re-launched and activities would take place from July 20th – September 4th, 2015.
Offley Hay Village Hall:- a new Treasurer had been appointed and the level of bookings throughout the summer was positive.
Well Dressing:- Councillor Langford thanked the Parish Council and those members that had attended the event for their support. The next Well Dressing would take place in 2017.
Festival:- Arrangements were underway for the 25th Street Market in 2016.

- 107/15). September Parish Council Newsletter;-** Mrs Heelis asked members to send her any items for inclusion in the Newsletter.

- 108/15). Clerk’s Report and Correspondence:-**
Neighbourhood Plan:- It was reported that the date for the submission of responses to the Plan had passed and the Borough Council had appointed an Inspector to undertake the examination in late August.
Carol Sheets:- The Clerk was authorised to order a re-print of the carol sheets.

- 109/15). Chairman’s Report:-** Councillor Pimble reported that he had attended the Stone Civic Service in June.

- 110/15). Accounts:-** Mrs Heelis reported that a grant of £2500 had been received from Stafford Borough Council towards the cost of summer watering.

The following accounts had been paid since the last meeting:-

Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – Training - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	45.00
Community First – Community Centre Insurance - <i>LGA 1972 s. 145</i>	1573.92
D. Smith – Footpaths maintenance - <i>HA 1980 s.143</i>	32.50
Harry Stebbing Workshop – refurbished sign	1477.80
FoSSA (Tithe Map Digitisation Project) <i>S.137</i>	50.00

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2336.94
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	42.15
Salaries & associated costs - August - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2336.94
Mrs. J. Hill Internal Audit - <i>Accounts & Audit Regs. 2003</i>	44.00
Trent Grounds Maintenance - grasscutting – <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	302.40
Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - <i>concurrent allowance</i>	105.00
Rod Sheard refurbish seats - <i>Parish Council Act 1957 s.2</i>	180.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.
 Councillor Jacques queried the purpose of reading out the accounts at each meeting and asked why recurring items could not be authorised once and in advance? Mrs Heelis stated that the recurring items such as salary, expenses and income tax were not always for the same amount and should be authorised on each occasion.

The audit report had been received from the Independent Internal Auditor and Mrs Heelis was commended on her bookkeeping.

An unqualified Audit Report had been received from Grant Thornton. However, attention had been drawn to new guidance on accounting for Fixed Assets. Mrs Heelis had previously increased the amount for the Community Centre by the annual Insurance cover and applied depreciation to the computer, which had been written off after 4 years.

New guidance indicated that:-

Once recorded on the asset and investment register, the recorded value of assets and investments must not change from year to year until disposal. Commercial concepts of depreciation, impairment adjustments, etc. are not appropriate for local councils. For reporting purposes therefore, the 'book' value of fixed assets will stay constant throughout their life until disposal.

The Clerk was authorised to settle accounts prior to the next meeting in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

111/15). Items/date and venue for next meeting:- September 16th, 2015, Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.