

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

July 19th, 2017

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on July 19th, 2017, at Broughton Parish Rooms, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.10pm.

88/17). Present were:-

Councillor G. Garner (Chairman)	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor D Jacques
Councillor E. Amos	Councillor P. Alcock
Councillor R. Langford	Councillor A. Le Monnier
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor J. Jones
Councillor T. Price	2 members of the public
Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk)	

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Delanchy, P. Jones, Leather, Marshall and County and Borough Councillor J. Pert.

The meeting opened with prayers

89/17). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- There were no requests to receive.

90/17). Public Participation:- Miss Webberley addressed the council with regards to a rumour regarding Ferndale House, Ginger Lane, Croxton. Miss Webberley had heard that the property had been sold to a Housing Association to use as a residence for young offenders. Miss Webberley wished to know if this was true, and if so, could she be advised details of the rehabilitation programme, what crimes had been committed, if any, and what provision was being made for carers/supervisors. The Parish Council acknowledged Miss Webberley's concerns, and advised that they had not been consulted on any plans for the property. It was not clear whether the use of the property for young people's housing would require planning permission for change of use.

The Council requested that any further information Miss Webberley had received was to be forwarded to the Clerk. The council agreed that the Clerk will make enquiries with regards to the details of this matter.

91/17). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on June 21st, 2017:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.

92/17). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-
Councillors P. Jones and J. Pert were not present to provide an update.

93/17). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor J. Jones referred to the minutes from a meeting with Mr Rayson held on June 29th and a meeting of the Traffic Management Committee on July 5th, 2017, which had been previously circulated.

- **Traffic Management Committee re-elections** – Councillor P. Jones was re-elected as the Chair of the committee, and Councillor Leather as the Vice-Chair.
- **HGV Survey** – Following receipt of the survey responses, Councillors Jacques, Price and Langford will review the survey results, and visit the roads to identify the main areas of concern for flagging up to Highways. This will include the identification of roads that will benefit from 'unsuitable for HGV' signage. Mr Rayson agreed to supply a listing of the road numbers in the area to assist in the next stage of the work.
- **Refurbishment of Road Markings – Eccleshall and Croxton entrances** - The Clerk has circulated copies of Parish maps to the Traffic Management committee, for their input in determining the best locations for traffic calming measures, which will include roundels, sharks teeth, and white line markings. Once submitted, Mr Rayson and Shane Latham will review the plan and ensure that we get maximum value for the £500 budget that has been put aside.

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

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Baskerville had the following updates:

Pillar Clock:- Following notification of the clock lights not working, the Clerk contacted E.ON to request replacement of the light bulbs. E.ON advised that it would be beneficial to invest in converting the pillar clock lights to LED lights, which will provide excellent energy savings, and will last for approximately double the length of time over the current fluorescent lamps. The fluorescent lamps, whilst available at the moment, are likely to be phased out over time, so the clock will need to be converted at some point. To upgrade the clock lights will cost £404.04 plus VAT. Although this is a higher cost than a straightforward replacement cost of £94.00 plus VAT, once energy consumption and longevity of the lamps are added into the calculation, the upgrade becomes a more efficient option. The council voted to accept the recommendation to convert the pillar clock to LED lighting and the Clerk will contact E.ON to accept the quote and make provision for completion of the work.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting of the P&R committee will be held on August 16th 2017, following the meeting of the planning committee.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Mullee reported on a meeting of the Footpaths Committee held on July 5th, 2017.

- **Elections** - Councillor Mullee was re-elected as Chair of the committee and Councillor Alcock elected as Vice-Chair.
- **Grid References** – this is an ongoing project to update the walks maps with grid references. Councillors Baskerville, Mullee and Alcock, together with the Clerk, are planning to meet in August to review the maps and update the generic statement relating to the use of OS maps, add in the missing grid references, and where relevant, include information relating to the use of clip points in electric fencing.
- **Walk No. 2** – Mr. Davenport raised his concerns about the accuracy of Walk No. 2, and submitted a report with suggested amendments. Councillors Baskerville, Alcock and Mullee are also planning to re-walk the route.
- **Footpath 13, Shaw's Lane towards the church** – Councillor Mullee met with Ian Laing, Taylor Wimpey site manager, to express concerns at the uneven fencing that has been erected along the path, and the debris that had been left on the path after completion of the work. Mr. Laing agreed this was not acceptable and would look to tidy up the footpath. With regards to the fencing, it was noted that it had been erected following guidelines as to the required distance from each property. Councillor Mullee also enquired regarding Taylor Wimpey's plans for the hedge line along the path, as some had previously been removed. Mr Laing advised that the remainder of the hedge line would remain in place to the best of his knowledge, due to tree preservation orders.
In response to the letter from the Parish Council requesting support with improving the state of the footpath overall, Mr. Laing felt this would not be possible as they would not be able to access the footpath with the required machinery without damaging overhanging trees.
- **Footpath 14, adjacent to Johnson Hall/The Dells** – Councillor Mullee looked into a complaint regarding excess undergrowth on the path. Whilst it is accessible, Mr. Smith has been asked to put it onto his list of work for tidying up.
- **Footpath 115 between Cash Lane and Horsley Farm** – at present, there is no usable surface to walk on as the landowner has ploughed and sown too near the hedge. It was noted that the landowner has one month in which to put the path back to its previous condition.
- **Scouts request for supporting footpaths work** – Councillor Mullee has been approached by the scouts, who wish to become involved in footpaths work to support their community service award. The initial suggestion was the provision of footpath reports, but Councillor Mullee is discussing the possibility of providing more hands on support, which would be more beneficial to the community. Discussions are ongoing as to the appropriate level of support that can be provided.

The minutes of the Footpaths Committee were accepted by the Council.

Councillor Alcock raised concerns regarding an area on footpath 13, past the end of Churchfield Road. The retaining wall along the footpath has cracked as a result of tree roots encroaching underneath the wall, and there is a concern it may fall onto the footpath. It is also a hazard to the property at 50 Churchfield Road, although this is not inhabited. The tree is located on land owned by the Church.

The Parish Council requested that the Clerk bring the issue to the attention of the landowners, the Diocese of Lichfield, for appropriate action.

94/17). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from Eccleshall Community Centre, Tourism, Slindon Residents, or Offley Hay Village Hall.

The Allotments Association:- A meeting was held of the Allotments Association on July 17th, and the following was reported:

- The current account balance recorded £635.80, with an expected spend in the near future of £200 for water bills.
- All workable plots were taken, with 2/3 plots taken out of work for the treatment of mare's tail. Two plots were not being worked satisfactorily and the secretary has written to the plot holders asking for their intentions.
- The leak in the cabin roof still requires rectifying.
- A grant application for nearly £4000 has been made to the Health, Wellbeing and Community Officer, Mr. Upton, for the provision of fencing around the plots. A response is expected shortly.
- The allotments are still experiencing thefts of produce, and have put a combination lock on the fence as a deterrent.
- The Summer BBQ is planned for August 12th and all are welcome. Tickets are £5/adult and £2.50/child. For tickets, contact Mr or Mrs Milne. The next meeting is planned for October 16th and the AGM will be held on December 4th.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor J. Jones reported the following:

- Open Gardens. The final count for visitors to Open Gardens over the two days was 484, which was a record number and produced a substantial profit for Eccleshall in Bloom funds.
- The Ecclian Management Committee and Eccleshall in Bloom Committee met on July 11th at the Royal Oak.

Agenda items and discussions included:

Displays for the Eccleshall Show.

Ongoing testing of batteries for the Christmas lights.

The purchase of troughs for the Stone road Welcome to Eccleshall sign.

Autumn planting of bulbs.

Update of the map on Eccleshall information board at the library.

Satisfaction was expressed with the watering of the street planting.

- The Ecclian BBQ was held on July 15th and was attended by 50 members. The dry, warm weather helped to make it an enjoyable evening.
- The Ecclian lunch club is meeting today at Bistro le Coq, Stowe by Chartley.

Young People:- Councillor Price advised that the group is currently advertising for a Youth Worker. This is a result of the successful funding bid. Councillor Price will be involved in the selection process.

Croxton News – Councillor Langford reported the following:-

- There was good support at the Well Dressing, and visitors were still coming up to two weeks after the event. Part of the funds raised will go towards replacing the pads and batteries in the community defibrillators, which need renewing every 5 years at a cost of approximately £500. It was noted that the relevant County and Parish Council contractors had done an excellent job with regards to the cutting of hedges and grass areas. The only complaint was the overgrowth of the footpath grass – the inside edge was cut but not the side by the road. This area does not fall within the Parish Council's responsibility and it was noted that it is difficult to maintain all areas with the limited resources available. The next Well Dressing has been arranged for 6th July 2019. Councillor Garner reported that at the Stafford Mayor's Charity Appeal he had received feedback from two guests about how they had spent a beautiful day at the Well Dressing. They thought it was a wonderful occasion and the village looked lovely.

- With regards to the ownership of the BT phone boxes in Croxton and Fair Oak, it was noted that the hedge surrounding the Croxton phone box has new owners. Councillor Langford will advise

the new owners that the Parish are planning to repurpose the phone box that is sited within the hedge.

95/17). Community Transport:- Councillor J. Jones advised that they were awaiting delivery of the flyer, produced by the County Council, to circulate around the various local clubs and associations to promote the project.

96/17). New Developments:-
Taylor Wimpey site:- Councillor Baskerville flagged up the recent need to re-iterate to residents the procedure of contacting the Clerk with any issues regarding the Taylor Wimpey site. She will liaise with Ian Laing, the Taylor Wimpey site manager. Councillor Baskerville received a verbal complaint about the surface of St. Chad's Road, and has advised the resident to contact the Clerk.

Bovis:- It was noted that signage has gone up today with regards to a planned 6 hour closure of Stafford Road on Sunday 23rd July, but the Council has not been made aware of any planned closures. The land at Badgers Croft, sold by the Parish Council to Bovis in 2016, is still in need of tidying. The Clerk is liaising with Rob Ellam of Bovis to provide an update with regard to the expected completion date. It was also noted that the roundabout planting requires attention and the Clerk will also flag this up with Mr. Ellam.

Roundabout feature:- There has been no further update since the report received by Councillor Pert. The Council has received two items of correspondence from residents, providing feedback on the proposed eagle sculpture. Mr McCoig expressed concerns about the reasoning behind the selection of an eagle for the sculpture, and the source of funds required to support the project. The correspondence from Mr Cole suggests that a more natural, planted look to the roundabout would be preferable. The Council commented that the proposal has been publicised in the press for some time, and the Clerk will feedback to the residents that their comments have been noted in the meeting.

97/17). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

- **NOx sensors** – Following the request from Mr. Clark to site a NOx sensor in the centre of Eccleshall, the clerk contacted the Borough Council, who have agreed to locate a monitoring site at the main crossroads in Eccleshall Town Centre.
- **Overhanging tree in Eyeswell Alley** – the Right of Way team at the County Council have advised that as the tree is not impeding walkers or the public footpath to the right of way, they will not take any further action, and have contacted the resident to advise they liaise with the owner of the tree.
- **Elford Common** – following up from the Elford Common dog fouling complaint, the dog fouling team at the Borough Council investigated the common and found one incidence of dog fouling. They have also advised regarding the methods of reporting incidents, which the Clerk has passed on to the resident who raised the issue. The Clerk has also received orange stickered notices for use on the Common. The Council requested enquiries be made to the Footpaths team at the County Council to see if any of the white signage, as seen on footpaths, could be provided instead. Councillor Langford will use some of the stickers up in Croxton, where dog fouling is also an issue.
- **Death of a Monarch condolence papers** – Holy Trinity Church has written to confirm they are happy to act as a venue for the hosting of condolence papers for Eccleshall. It was agreed that any further venues could be finalised at a later date.
- **Staffordshire Subsidised Bus Review Consultation** – the SPCA has circulated a letter from the County Council, announcing their intention to launch an 8 week consultation on four potential options for provision of subsidised bus services in 2018/19. The consultation will launch on 24th July 2017, with feedback being encouraged either online, or via paper forms located in public libraries. Parish Council will receive a separate consultation form. Concerns were raised with regards to the 13a bus, which is a subsidised bus that runs at a peak time for commuters and college students in the morning. Withdrawal of this service will leave a gap between 7 and 9.22am. The council also raised concerns that the method of providing feedback is insufficient, and that many people who use the buses will not be made aware of the consultation. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Mr Deaville, the

Cabinet Member for Commercial, copied to Councillor Pert, to request a public consultation meeting in Eccleshall, to give residents the opportunity to receive clear information on the proposed options and to provide their feedback. It was also requested that appropriate notice be given, so that the meeting could be advertised accordingly in the press and via posters.

- 98/17). Chairman's Report:-** In addition to attending the Stafford Mayors Charity Appeal, the Chair, along with Councillors P. and J. Jones, attended the service at Holy Trinity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the church rooms. As the current vicar, James Graham, is retiring at the end of July, the council agreed to send a card to thank him for his work in the community over the last 17 years and to wish him well in his retirement.

99/17). Accounts:-

Retrospective approval was granted for the payment of the following accounts:-

Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – <i>Training</i> - LGA 1972 s.111	35.00
3rd Eccleshall Guides - LGA 1972 s.137	100.00

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

S. Worden - Salary - LGA 1972 s. 112	969.15
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	94.24
PAYE - LGA (<i>Financial Provisions</i>) 1963	15.00
NHI - LGA (<i>Financial Provisions</i>) 1963	106.81
Pension LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	303.04
TGM Grass and hedge cutting - <i>Open Space Act 1906 s10</i>	258.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk was authorised to settle any invoices, which were presented before the next Council Meeting, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

- 100/17). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:-** September 20th, 2017, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.