

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

July 21st 2010

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on July 21st, 2010 at Broughton Parish Rooms at 7.30p.m. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

83/10). Present Were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Plimble (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor G. Garner
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor J. Jones
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor J. Pert
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor B. Apps
Councillor A. Holl	Councillor E. Amos
PCSO D. Lutwyche	
Ms. J. Wilkes-Mellor, Youth Support Worker	
County / Borough Councillor H. Butter	
1 member of the press	1 resident
Mrs. C. Heelis - Clerk	

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Baskerville, von Elbing and Allsop together with Borough Councillor F. Chapman.

The meeting opened with prayers.

84/10). Public Participation:- Mrs. C. Stuart did not wish to raise any matters.

85/10). Jessica Wilkes-Mellor – Leader Youth Support Worker:- Jessica explained that she was working for SCYVS and was part of the Communities Mean Business Programme. Part of her role was to work on the Us2 project to support uniformed and local youth groups by providing positive activities and places to go. The scheme involved exploring local views and opinions and providing opportunities for young people to try new experiences and develop their social, mental and spiritual needs.

A community fun day was planned on August 27th at Woodseaves with local artists and businesses involved demonstrating activities that young people could become involved with. Consultation was planned with schools and local communities in an attempt to engage young people and ascertain what activities they would like to participate in.

Councillor Holl indicated that he had spoken with Jessica and explained that although several projects had been tried in Eccleshall recently, these had been unsuccessful, largely due to lack of support from parents and children.

Jessica agreed to attend the Council meeting September to report on the findings and discuss the implementation of preliminary ideas.

Councillor Dale thanked Miss Wilkes-Mellor for attending the meeting and commended her enthusiasm.

86/10). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on June 16th, 2010:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

87/10). Police:- PCSO Lutwyche gave a report on crime in the Parish since the last meeting. 45 incidents had been recorded in the Parish but only 2 were of note. Councillors welcomed the addition of two new Officers at Eccleshall Police Station – PC Bev Tomkins and PCSO Louisa Bromley.

88/10). Reports from Borough Councillors:- Councillor Butter reported the following:-

1. The application for funding towards three kissing gates on Footpaths 8 & 9 had been submitted to the County Council.
2. Work was to commence on Friday July 23rd on Footpath 13 from The Washpits to Shaws Lane.
3. The Milestone at Broughton was to be installed on July 27th. Councillor Allen and Mr. Wright had marked the location.
4. New curtains at Broughton Parish Rooms had been partly funded from the Local Community Fund.

5. St. Peter's Church, Broughton was pleased to be hosting the Civic Service on October 24th 2010 and the Parish Rooms had been booked for refreshments following the service.

Councillor Butter referred to the availability of funding from the Communities Mean Business Programme and urged local groups to consider suitable projects.

Councillor Butter suggested that an article on businesses in Eccleshall could be included in a future Parish Council Newsletter to seek local opinions on the level of service provided by traders in the town.

89/10). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor Pert reported that the next meeting of the committee would be held on October 6th, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

A traffic survey had been undertaken on July 2nd in conjunction with Loggerheads Parish Council, to record numbers and types of vehicles travelling on the B5026 between Loggerheads and Eccleshall in both directions. Councillor Pert thanked the Councillors who had given up their time to carry out the survey. The results would be discussed in depth at the next meeting of the Traffic Management Committee. However, during a twelve hour period there had been only a very small number of HGV's using the route.

Enhancements Committee:- Committee members were reminded to visit Elford Common in advance of the next meeting to assess the benefits of implementing the works proposed in the report compiled by Mr. Haslam. Councillor Dale reported that Mr. Haslam and Mr. Buxton (Environment Agency) had agreed to plant 100 flag iris in the pool on Saturday July 24th commencing at 10.30am.

Policy and Resources Committee:- Councillor Allen referred to minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on July 7th, which had been circulated with the agendas.

- **Internal Audit Controls:-** The committee had reviewed the spreadsheets and recommended that the existing controls remained adequate. All were in agreement.
- **Precept:-** Spreadsheets had been circulated detailing expenditure incurred in the current financial year in relation to budget allocations together with details of amounts spent and remaining in the Milwood Homes fund (£5551.08).
- It was noted that £1,250 had been allocated for grants in the current financial year together with £390 carried forward from 2009/10. £1,040 remained after making a grant to the Scouts of £600. The Council discussed whether finance should be taken from reserves or vired from underspent budget headings to enable the provision of some funding to all eligible applicants, or whether contributions should remain within the amount allocated, regardless of the merits of the applications. The question was deferred to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

The committee had considered the following grant applications:-

- **Eccleshall First Responders:-** An application had been received for a grant of £880 towards the purchase of a defibrillator to meet new Health Authority standards. At the time of the committee meeting details were awaited of the most recent audited accounts, the necessary details had since been supplied and it was agreed that the application would be discussed at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.
- **Offley Hay Village Hall:-** The Village Hall was requesting £500 towards the creation of a hard core gradual slope onto the field to allow access for larger caravans. The revenue from the caravans was a valuable source of income for the village hall. The committee recommended that a grant of £500.00 was made towards this project the motion was carried, by nine votes to three.
- **Walton Hall Community Special School:-** The school was hoping to become a specialist school in art/performing arts and needed to demonstrate community support to attract funding from local and central government. The project involved the creation of a mini theatre with a café / bar the facilities would be available for community use. The Council resolved to express support for the project by providing a grant of £200.
- **Eccleshall Royal British Legion:-** It was resolved to contribute £60 towards the costs of the attendance of the Stone Scout Band at the Remembrance Day Parade.

- **Clerk's Contract and Annual Appraisal:-** Councillor Allen referred to the Clerk's Contract of Employment which stated that the Council would undertake an Annual Performance / Development review. Members agreed that a review was unnecessary at this time. The Clerk did not wish to raise any concerns of an employment nature.
- **National Minimum Wage** The Council resolved that the Handyman's remuneration would be increased from October 1st, 2010 to £5.93 per hour in accordance with the regulations.
- **Seminar:-** The committee had authorised the Clerk to attend a Health and Safety Seminar on July 14th, 2010 organised by the Parish Councils' Association at a cost of £20. Retrospective approval was granted by the Council.

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

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Allen referred to a letter from the County Council concerning an Application for the addition of an alleged byway open to all traffic between the highway next to Brann Farm and the highway north-east of Chapel, Offley Marsh. The Parish Council had been consulted about the addition of this byway in 1998 and had indicated that there was evidence the public walked the path and the Council had no objections. The Clerk was authorised to confirm that the Parish Council was aware of Councillors and members of the public who used the route and therefore, was in support of this addition to the Definitive Map.

90/10). Liaison Representatives:- Councillor Starkey reported on a meeting of the Association held on July 6th. There was currently a waiting list comprising 11 residents of Eccleshall Parish. Members had raised concerns about a concrete slab to the rear of the site. Councillor Dale requested further details to enable the Council to consider the matter. Fewer people had visited the site during the Open Gardens Event this year. Members were planning several events including a barbeque and a visit to another Allotment site in the West Midlands.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor P. Jones reported that Mr. P. Bertram would be hosting the annual barbeque on August 21st.

Eccleshall First Responders:- Councillor Garner reported that there had been no meeting but the group was holding a Promise Auction on September 18th to raise funds towards the purchase of a new vehicle.

Farmers' Market:- The next market was to be held on July 24th and would include entertainment by the Stafford Morris Men from 11am onwards.

There were no reports to receive from Offley Hay Village Hall, Tourism Bureau, Communities Mean Business, Slindon Village Hall or the Business Focus Group.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Pert reported that he had attended the retirement party of Ms. S. Holland. Mrs. Heelis was asked to write and thank the retiring Headteacher for her commitment and leadership during 15 years of service.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that one of the large windows to the front of the centre had been broken recently. Quotes were being sought to replace the windows on the front aspect with double glazed units, one quote had been received to date of £12,000. An investigation into the sunken path at the front of the building was ongoing and needed to be completed prior to commencement of work on the garden.

Festival:- Councillor P. Jones reported that feedback had been positive and the weather had been an added bonus. Thanks were extended to everyone who had played a part in organising the event. Councillor Jones and the team of volunteers were congratulated on what had been a marvellous festival.

91/10). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

- **Bus services:-** Councillor Amos referred to changes to bus services, which meant that people going from Eccleshall to Stafford Hospital had to alight at Chell Road and walk to either Mill Bank, the Railway Station or South Walls as the connecting buses no longer stopped at Chell Road. Mrs. Heelis was asked to write to Arriva with copies to Councillor Butter and the County Council to again request the extension of the service to the Railway

Station and also ask for representatives to attend either a Council or Traffic Management Meeting.

- The Clerk reminded members that risk assessment forms were required as soon as possible. Mrs. Heelis also informed the Council that the camera, purchased in 2002 was no longer operable. It had been noticed that the platform on the climbing frame at Croxton had bowed and was a potential pinch hazard. A photograph of the fault would be sent to the manufacturer as the product was under guarantee. Councillor Garner had reported a fault on the seat located at the Southwell Estate and the Chairman agreed to inspect the problem.
- Mrs. Heelis informed the Council of a request for a new seat by The Burgage against the wall closest to Eccleshall. The matter was referred to the Enhancements Committee and Mrs. Heelis was requested to approach Stafford Rural Homes to ensure that there would be no objections to a seat in this location.
- The Clerk stated that she had accompanied PC Green on a visit to Mrs. Colaluca at Hawthorn Cottage, Sturbridge. Mrs Colaluca had raised concerns about the speed of HGV's on Swynnerton Road. Mrs Heelis had advised the resident to write to the Highways Department and Henry Butter. The matter was referred to the Traffic Management Committee for consideration.
- Councillor Apps had requested the painting of a footpath on the left hand side of Small Lane from the High Street to the Doctors Surgery. This matter was also referred to the Traffic Management Committee.
- A letter had been received from Mr. D. Caddick of Hilcote Gardens requesting a sign warning of a concealed entrance. Mrs. Heelis indicated that Hilcote Hall was in Chebsey Parish, although this matter had been raised in the past with Mr. Mitchell. The resident was to be advised to contact Mr. Mitchell, Councillor Butter and Chebsey Parish Council.
- A Local Council Day was to be held at the County Showground on October 4th, 2010 organised by the County Council and Staffordshire Parish Council's Association. There would be various workshops covering planning issues, IT and community led planning. Three representatives were invited to attend and Councillors Dale, Pimble and the Clerk expressed an interest.
- Mrs. Heelis requested items for inclusion in the September Council Newsletter.
- The Clerk was authorised to request Mr. Parton to cut the hedges at the Allotments, Elford Common and Croxton Play area and Trent Grounds Maintenance to trim the hedge bordering The Eyeswells Footpath.
- **Communities Mean Business:-** The Clerk referred to the availability of funding from the programme and details were available on request.
- **Bishops Court Open Space:-** Mrs Heelis reported that the matter was progressing. Stafford Borough Council had advised the Treasury Solicitor that the land was public amenity space and the Borough Council supported purchase by the Parish. The Borough Council owned a small strip of the land at the corner of Hartlands Road/Stone Road, which was planted with trees and had asked if the Parish Council was also interested in purchasing this area. The Council resolved to express an interest in the purchase of this land.

92/10). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale indicated that the Civic Service would be held at St. Peter's Church, Broughton on October 24th.

93/10). Accounts:-

Salaries and associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	2180.24
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	51.53
Salaries and associated costs - August - LGA 1972 s. 112	2180.24
Chairman's Allowance LGA 1972 ss. 15 (5)	200.00
Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - concurrent allowance	97.45
D. Smith - Footpaths - HA 1980 s.143	11.60

Walton Hall Community Special School - LGA 1972 s. 145	200.00
Offley Hay Village Hall - LGA Misc Provisions 1976 s. 19	500.00
Royal British Legion - LGA 1972 s. 137	60.00

All were in agreement and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk was authorised to pay invoices during August in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

94/10). Land at rear of Eccleshall Community Centre / Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dale referred to notes taken at a meeting with Council representatives and Mr. MacDonald on July 12th 2010, which had been circulated with the agendas.

Mr. MacDonald had indicated that following the receipt of comments from residents and the Parish Council discussions had taken place with the consultants and the plans had been revised to take account of the comments received. The revised plans showed an area of open space to the rear of the community centre about the size of the existing car park to act as a buffer zone and a footpath exiting the development to the west to join Footpath 13 access to access the town.

The location of the multi use sports pitch had been considered and the County Council had determined that the south site was the most beneficial position. Members had expressed reservations about the open space, which would be difficult to maintain and manage and disappointment that the proposals did not reflect the need for informal youth facilities within the community.

Mr. MacDonald had agreed to have a copy of the plan forwarded to Mrs. Heelis, but this had not been received in time for the meeting. Mr. MacDonald had also indicated that the County Council intended to submit the plans for outline planning permission and he would be happy to attend a meeting of the Parish Council Planning Committee at a later date.

Councillors Pimble, Dale and the Clerk had also met with Mr. R. Wickham and Mr. J. Harbottle from Howard, Sharp Chartered Surveyors, who represented the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance. Mr. Wickham stated that he intended to approach the Diocese in order to secure support for the preparation of an alternative scheme

Councillors Dale, Pimble and the Clerk were authorised to attend a meeting in Birmingham with Ms M. Taylor (Sport England) on July 27th and a further meeting at Eccleshall Community Centre on July 28th with Mr. J. Arnold (Sport and Leisure Manager SBC) in order to gain as much information as possible concerning the requirements and policies of Sport England and Stafford Borough Council, with regard to playing fields and open space/recreational facilities.

A discussion followed during which Councillors Holl and Pert expressed concern about jeopardising the transfer of the school to a single site by opposing the plans submitted by the County Council. It was reiterated that the Parish Council agreed the school was in desperate need of refurbishment and support had been expressed for the transfer to a single site. However, the Parish Council was committed to securing land for the provision of community recreational facilities at the rear of Eccleshall Community Centre.

95/10). Items/Date and venue for next meeting:- September 15th, 2010 Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.