

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

June 15th, 2011

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on June 15th, 2011 at Offley Hay Village Hall at 7.30p.m. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

63/11). Present Were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor J. Allen
Councillor G. Garner	Councillor L. von Elbing
Councillor P. Allsop	Councillor M. Dodkins
Councillor E. Amos	Councillor D. Jacques
Councillor M. Starkey	County Councillor H. Butter
Mr B. Apps	Mr P. Mullee
Mr P. Vickers	Mr R. Lee
3 members of the public	Mrs C. Heelis - Clerk

Apologies were received from and Borough Councillors Pert and Chapman

The meeting opened with prayers.

64/11). Public Participation:- Ms C. Gregory referred to an item in the June Parish Council Newsletter concerning the proposed development of houses on the Bishop Lonsdale site, which she considered misleading as it was stated that the school move to a single site was not subject to the success of the development plans. Ms Gregory indicated that Bshop Lonsdale School was an unsatisfactory facility and the funding was required to enable the school to expand and develop.

Councillor Pimble replied that Councillor Chapman had advised the Council at a previous meeting that the school would move regardless of the development and Ms Gregory was advised to write to Councillor Chapman. The Parish Council had understood during discussions with the County Council over many years that the move to a single site, which the Parish Council supported, was dependent on the development. However, the County Council had reneged on their commitment to provide community recreational facilities and had failed to consult with the Parish and residents.

Councillor Dale reiterated that the Parish Council supported the move of the school to a single site but also had to support local residents in a bid to secure an appropriate development and was committed to obtaining community facilities, which were sadly lacking in Eccleshall.

Mr E. Ranson asked if the Council's Standing Orders could be accessed on the website and if not could they be uploaded? This matter was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

Bob Lee referred to a St. John Ambulance project which was designed to reduce the level of social exclusion in rural areas for the disabled and elderly. The Parish Council was not being asked for funding but merely to support the scheme. A purpose built vehicle had been designed to transport up to three wheelchairs and seven people, the vehicle would be equipped with a response bag and trained personnel. Users of the service would be required to pay a fee but could travel up to 25 miles or for six hours. Members were invited to attend the launch of the project on July 4th, 2011 at the Ambulance Training Centre at Cheadle from 11am – 3pm and further details could be obtained from Bob.

65/11). To confirm the minutes of the Council AGM held on May 18th, 2011:- The minutes, which had been circulated with the agenda were agreed and signed.

66/11). Presentations by candidates standing for co-option:- Following recent elections there were two vacancies on the Council one on the Croxton Ward and one on the Horsley Ward. The meeting was advised that Mr A. Holl was unable to attend and had withdrawn his application. Mr Apps and Mr Vickers indicated that they were prepared to stand for either vacancy, however, Mr Mullee only wished to be considered for co-option to the Horsley Ward.

Copies of the application forms had been circulated with the agendas. The candidates were asked to leave the room and each returned to give a presentation.

67/11). Ballot – followed by signing of Declaration of Acceptance and Register of Interest Forms:- A ballot was held for each ward and Mr Apps was co-opted to represent Croxton and Mr Mullee for Horsley. The new members were welcomed onto the Council and the appropriate forms were completed and signed.

Mr Vickers was thanked for his interest and the Chairman indicated that he hoped he would not be deterred from standing again if a vacancy arose.

68/11). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

County Councillor Butter invited applications for funding from the Local Community Fund and advised the Council that two thousand pounds had been raised locally to replace name plates which had been stolen from the war memorial at Broughton.

Councillor Jones reported that the planning application for development at Bishop Lonsdale School had been deferred by the Planning Committee of Stafford Borough Council on June 8th but the application had been resubmitted without any amendments and would be reconsidered on June 29th. Councillor Jones had met with various Officers from the Borough and was liaising with the Events Office to establish whether any support was available for Eccleshall.

69/11). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor von Elbing referred to minutes of a meeting held on June 8th, which had been circulated. The following matters had been discussed:-

Mr Hill and Mr Palmer from Broughton had attended the meeting and expressed concern about the speed of traffic on the road at Wetwood. The committee had asked the residents to provide details of any other accidents in the locality that they were aware of. The Coroner's report following the fatal accident in 2010 stated that speed was the most likely contributory factor and Mr Mitchell had indicated that the current limit was deemed appropriate for the road. County Councillor Butter confirmed that he was pursuing the implementation of improvements to the lining and signage including SLOW markings on the carriageway on the approach from Loggerheads.

Green Lane / Newport Road;- It was noted that speed enforcement on Newport Road was on going. Emails and correspondence had been received from two Action Groups, The Stafford Western Route A518 & A519 group, which was meeting at 7.30pm on June 20th at the Grosvenor Centre in Gnosall and a meeting arranged by Mr L Banks in Woodseaves to discuss the volume of traffic using the A519. Councillors von Elbing and Allsop had attended the meeting on June 10th, which had been attended by 60 – 70 people. No quantitative evidence had been presented regarding the volume of HGV's using the A519. Councillor M. Winnington had attended the meeting and pledged his support. The two groups had decided to amalgamate and now consisted of representatives from 11 settlements. Eccleshall residents had expressed concern about the volume of traffic and the speed of HGV's, although members considered that perception of speed was partly the issue. A resident of Spring Hollow was reported to have met with Mr W. Cash MP to request the imposition of a weight limit on the route. Mrs Heelis had been advised that there had not been any additional speed and volume data collected on the route since October 2010.

Bank Holiday Markets:- Following a meeting with representatives of the Police, Highways and the Market Organiser on Friday March 25th, 2011 some progress had been made in time for the May Day Bank Holiday event. However, barriers at Cats Hill Cross had been unmanned causing access issues for local residents and there were insufficient lanes with people collecting money from drivers wishing to park, causing traffic to queue on surrounding roads. The most contentious issue remained inconsiderate parking in the area. The Police would not authorise the use of no parking cones and enforcement action could not be taken without an order being in place. It was noted that some improvements had been made and the organiser appeared keen to cooperate. The goodwill of the organiser and the support of local police were essential to ensure that the impact of the markets was minimalized.

Following the last Market held on May 30th, 2011 Mr Pert had indicated that the organiser had appeared to have been working outside the approved Traffic Management Plan and there did not seem to be any road closures in place nor any appreciable presence of Lux operatives or 'no parking' cones. In contrast to the previous event the weather had been inclement and attendance poor. Councillor von Elbing agreed to contact Mr Mitchell to discuss arrangements for future events.

Parking – Stone Road:- No parking cones were in place to facilitate the turning of large vehicles using Stone Road as a diversion whilst the road from Cold Meece was being reconstructed. The Police had requested the extension of the coned area along Stone Road to the Nursery.

The Clerk had received an email from Neighbourhood Watch asking if the cones could be retained indefinitely as the parking restrictions made a considerable improvement to the traffic congestion in the area.

There followed some discussion about the potential outcome of the imposition of restrictions. Members agreed that Stone Road was easier to navigate with the cones in place but this resulted in vehicles parking further down Stone Road on the apex of the bend and on Hartlands Road. Restrictions could cause problems for people employed in the town and transfer the problems elsewhere. It was agreed to request a site visit with Mr Mitchell and seek his advice on this sensitive issue.

A meeting with County Officers to discuss Transport issues was to be held on Thursday June 30th, 2 – 4pm. Mrs Heelis was asked to circulate details to members. A response from D & G Buses indicated an intention to alter the route of Eccleshall bound journeys to allow passengers to board outside Sainsbury's in Chell Road as well as Goal Square. There was no plan to serve the railway station.

However, D&G Buses had since been taken over by Arriva and the clerk was asked to write to both companies to ask if it was proposed to maintain the current timetable for the operation of the 432 route and seek information about the timetable for weekends and evenings. It was agreed to copy this letter to the Passenger Transport Officer at the County Council.

The next meeting with Mr C. Mitchell was to be held on September 28th at 10am at Eccleshall Community Centre and the Committee was next scheduled to meet on October 5th following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

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

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported that Councillor Starkey had assisted with the planting of some wild flowers on Elford Common.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting would be held on July 8th, 2011 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- There had been no meeting of the Committee. Mrs Heelis advised that the cost of 2 metal kissing gates on Footpath 119 was £930, with a further £41 for the printing of 400 copies of a new walk leaflet and £577 for 1000 copies of the Favourite Walk Booklet. A grant of £519 (1/3rd of the cost) had been received from the Local Community Fund and the Clerk was awaiting written confirmation that the Community Paths Initiative would fund 1/3rd. The Parish Council agreed to finance the remaining third and the Clerk was authorised to order the kissing gates upon receipt of funding from the CPI.

Mrs Heelis reported that an approach had been made to James Du Pavey and agreement secured to replace an advertisement for Heywoods on the back cover of the walk booklet at a cost of £50. Reeds Rains had yet to advise the Clerk whether they wished to include an advert as previously. This finance would reduce the costs incurred by Parish Council to reprint the booklet.

The Chairman invited Councillor Jacques to attend future committee meetings to determine which committee(s) he would like to join.

70/11). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments, Community Centre, Slindon Residents or Communities Mean Business.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Jones reported that a damaged post outside Moet had been replaced and the Society was researching replacements for the Troughs outside John Pershall Court. The Calendar for 2012 had been drafted and the Christmas Lights would be switched on, on November 28th as the Business Focus Group had planned a late night opening event on December 1st.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor von Elbing reported that bookings were steady and a table top sale and strawberry tea was to be held on June 18th, 2011.

Tourism Bureau:- Councillor Jones reported that he had attended a meeting at The Homestead Caravan Park, Shutt Green, Brewood on Tuesday June 7th, 2011 which was attended by twenty members. Bedroom browsers – a new leaflet holder for hotels and B & B's containing details of local events and places of interest was being produced and would be distributed widely in the Borough. An updated website was also being created containing various details.

Farmers' Market:- the next Market would be held on June 25th, 2011.

Business Focus Group:- Councillor Jones reported that the group held a formal business meeting every other month with a social gathering in between. A Busking Contest would be held in the town on June 25th, in conjunction with the Farmers Market from 10 – 4pm. Councillor Jones confirmed that he had received a letter from the Clerk about weeds in the blue bricks that were the responsibility of the premises and a letter had been distributed seeking support from the owners to ensure that Eccleshall remained an attractive place to live and work.

First Responders:- Councillor Jacques reported that the new vehicle would be delivered shortly.

Community Centre:- Councillor Mullee advised the Chairman that youths were regularly congregating at the Centre and gaining access to the roof. Councillor Dale was grateful for this information and would advise the Police.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Mrs Heelis was asked to write to Mr Middleton advising that Mr Pert was no longer a Parish Councillor and suggest that Councillor Dodkins would like to act as a representative if this was acceptable. The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to continue dialogue and work with the school to strengthen relationships.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins reported that drop in sessions had been arranged at the Library and several events were planned during the summer including a summer skills challenge. Enquiries were made regarding the use of the pool table at the Community Centre and it was noted that Jessica was able to collect and store this for use by the young people.

71/11). Allotments – request for Parish Council to submit a planning application for a shelter / store:- The Parish Council had previously indicated support for proposals for a shelter/store on the site, which was in the Parish Councils ownership. Councillor Pimble had volunteered to assist with a planning application and as Parish Councils were eligible for a 50% reduction in the cost of planning applications it was resolved to submit the application at a cost of £85.

72/11). Clerk's Report and correspondence:-

Police:- Mrs Heelis indicated that according to the Crime Mapping area of the Staffordshire Police website there had been 8 crimes in Eccleshall during April. There was very little detail provided of the crimes or the location. An Officer would be available in Eccleshall library on July 7th at 11am. The newly appointed Local Policing Team Commander had been unable to attend tonight's meeting but the Clerk had been assured that he was investigating the issue of the sponsored vehicle at Eccleshall.

Members were invited to attend the Mayoress's Afternoon Tea at the Upper House, Barlaston on July 13th, 2011 at 3pm at a cost of £10 each, the proceeds would go the Mayor's Charity Appeal.

Council Web Site:- Mrs Heelis reported that she was experiencing problems with updating the site and was authorised to obtain details from various companies to set up and manage a site, which would be interactive, easier to navigate and less time consuming to update on a regular basis. This matter would be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee.

73/11). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that he would be attending the Civic Service of Newport Town Council.

74/11). Accounts:- Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2196.36
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	40.08
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	120.00

Creative Copy 'n' Colour - <i>LGA 1972 s.142</i>	258.00
Malcolm Gray photocopying - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	9.84
Stafford Tourism Bureau membership renewal – <i>LGA 1972 s.144</i>	27.50
D. Wallace - materials for seats - <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 ss. 1</i>	59.96
SBC Grass cutting - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	144.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

75/11). Items / Date and venue for next meeting:- July 20th, 2011, Broughton Parish Rooms 7.30pm

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