

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

June 15th, 2016

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on June 15th, 2016 at Offley Hay Village Hall, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 8.45pm.

79/16). Present were:-	Councillor D. Pimble (Chairman)	Councillor P. Mullee
	Councillor L. Taylor-Potts	Councillor C. Marshall
	Councillor E. Amos	Councillor B. Delanchy
	Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor M. Starkey
	Councillor R. Langford	Councillor J. Leather
	County Councillor Chapman	Borough Councillor Pert
	1 member of the public	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Davies, Jones, Garner and Jacques.

The meeting opened with prayers

- 80/16). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.
- 81/16). Public Participation:-** The member of the public present did not wish to address the meeting.
- 82/16). To confirm the minutes of the AGM of the Parish Council held on May 18th, 2016:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
- 83/16). Vacancy – Horsley Ward:-** Mrs Heelis reported that no election had been called and the Vacancy had been advertised. Anyone interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council to represent the Horsley Ward was asked to contact Mrs Heelis by July 1st, 2016. Expressions of interest had been received from six electors to date.

It was noted that a letter of resignation had also been received from Councillor B. Davies. Councillor Davies indicated that owing to other commitments she would be unavailable to regularly attend Parish Council Meetings over the next few years. Mrs Heelis had advised the Borough Council of the vacancy and notices had been displayed indicating that an election would be called if ten electors of the Parish contacted the Returning Officer no later than July 7th, 2016. If no election was called the Parish Council would be able to consider applications and co-opt two new members at the Council Meeting on July 20th, 2016.

- 84/16). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**
Councillor Chapman commented on the proposed road closures in and around Eccleshall parish and advised reported that work on Meece Road was due to start shortly with work on the motorway bridge on the B5026 to commence in September. The A5013 was expected to be closed for three weeks during August whilst the roundabout into the Bovis site was constructed. The County Council continued to make difficult decisions concerning services as other departments withdrew financial support.

Councillor Pert reported the following:-

- The Eccleshall Neighbourhood Plan had been formally adopted by Stafford Borough Council and would now form part of statutory development plan for Stafford Borough and be used when determining planning applications in Eccleshall Parish.
- Progress had been made with the refurbishment of the Toilet Area, the building was to be re-painted and the doors refurbished together with the installation of a power supply to the newly planted tree. Councillor Pert was asked to establish the situation regarding the funding of four stone troughs, proposed by the Ecclian Society to enhance the area.
- Councillor Pert referred to a Bill on Housing and Planning which was currently going through Parliament, which would require the provision of a percentage of starter homes in addition to affordable homes on new developments. The Bill promoted the development of Starter Homes, available to qualifying first-time-buyers at a discount of at least 20% less than the market value. Councillor Pert asked what the Parish Council's views were on these proposals.

- The Bill also placed a positive obligation on the Planning Authority to set aside sufficient plots and to have a register of interested parties for self-build houses, which could have an impact on the defined Neighbourhood Plan Boundary in the future.
- Councillor Pert referred to a consultation regarding the merger of Stafford and Newcastle colleges and encouraged members to consider the proposed changes.
- There was nothing to report on the Taylor-Wimpey development, Councillor Pert had 'called in' the applications.
- Police and members of the Community Speedwatch Partnership had visited Croxton and there had been requests to reform the Community Speedwatch Group.

85/16). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management:- Councillor Taylor Potts reported that the next committee meeting was to be held on July 6th, 2016, following the meeting of the Planning Committee,. A meeting with Mr R. Rayson was scheduled for June 23rd, 2016 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 4.30pm. Members were asked to forward items for discussion to Mrs Heelis. Councillor Amos reported that a new bus timetable had come into effect on June 12th, 2016.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Baskerville reported that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for September 7th, 2016, meanwhile liaison with Stafford Borough Council regarding the toilet area was ongoing.

Policy and Resources:- The next meeting was to be held on June 29th, 2016 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Mullee indicated that reports of overgrown and damaged stiles and obstructions were being submitted by Footpath Marshalls. Mrs Heelis was prioritising the issues and passing work orders to Mr Smith. Staffordshire County Council had contacted the Clerk seeking permission to put disks on 12 stiles in the Parish indicating that they have been replaced by the Eccleshall Ramblers in conjunction with Staffordshire County Council. It was considered that this would be inappropriate as there was no such group as Eccleshall Ramblers and no acknowledgements were displayed on other stiles repaired and replaced by Mr Smith.

86/16). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Tourism Bureau, Young People or Offley Hay Village Hall.

Allotments Association:- Councillor Starkey reported that barbecue was to be held on Saturday June 18th, 2016 at 1pm.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Baskerville indicated that the mangers and baskets had been erected on June 5th, 2016, the baskets were decorated with streamers and Union Jack Flags and were hung from the buildings. The Society would be holding the usual second hand tool stall on the day of the Street Market.

Community Centre:- Councillor Amos reported that the Chairman had expressed concern about a water leak on the Taylor Wimpey land, which was going through the Community Centre meter. Support was requested from the Parish Council to arrange for the developer to trace the supply to the Community Centre and cap the pipe. Mrs Heelis indicated that Taylor Wimpey had been contacted and the matter was in hand.

Slindon Village Hall:- Councillor Leather reported that several residents had contacted him concerning a large summer house, which had been built at the rear of Brockton View and was not shown on the approved plans for the extension 15/22860. The clerk was asked to report this matter to Stafford Borough Council.

Croxton News - Councillor Langford reported the following:-

- 100 residents had attended a party held at Broughton Parish Rooms to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

- Planters had been placed at the entrances to the village and would be maintained by local residents.
- 2000 leaflets had been printed of a Heritage Trail around Croxton, which had prepared as part of the Well Dressing Festival and only 20 copies remained. Councillor Langford enquired whether the Parish Council could arrange a reprint. Details were to be forwarded to the Clerk to enable a quotation to be obtained from Creative Copy 'n' Colour.
- The organisers of the Eccleshall Show were to be advised to contact the Clerk for an application for funding and it was suggested that an approach was also made to Support Staffordshire.

87/16). New Developments, roundabout feature / street names:- It was noted that the roundabout was under construction and discussions were ongoing with the developer and highways regarding the proposed feature. Mr Rayson had forwarded a list detailing the procedures for the installation of such features. The Council agreed that an application for planning permission should be submitted subject to confirmation of funding being provided from Bovis. The matter would be discussed further at the meeting with Mr Rayson on June 23rd, 2016.

Street names:- Discussion of street names for the Taylor Wimpey site remained in abeyance pending planning approval.

88/16). Neighbourhood Plan:- The Plan had been approved by Stafford Borough Council and adopted. The Eccleshall Neighbourhood Plan would now form part of statutory development plan for Stafford Borough and used when determining planning applications in Eccleshall Parish.

89/16). National Salary Award:- The Clerk reported a National Salary award announced by the SLCC and NALC for implementation from April 2016 with a further increase effective from April 2017. The increases in accordance with SCP 25 were noted and agreed by the Council.

90/16). Civic Service:- The Council voted to continue with the annual service and Mrs Heelis was asked to ascertain whether a service could be held at St Peter's Church, Broughton later in the year and if this venue was unavailable then to contact St Chad's Slindon.

91/16). Road Closures:- Details of road closures had already been provided by Councillor Chapman.

92/16). Clerk's Report and correspondence:- The following items of correspondence were reported and discussed:-

Citizens Advice Bureau:- A request for funding towards the refurbishment of local offices in Cannock, Rugeley, Stafford and Stone. This matter was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

English Civil War re-enactment:- Mr R. Egan proposed a meeting with an appointed Councillor to discuss the hosting of a weekend of activities and a re-enactment event. Mrs Heelis was asked to respond that there was no suitable open space in the Parish for such an event and suggest that contact may be made with Eccleshall Castle.

Parking: Councillor Amos had received an anonymous communication concerning parking on pavements and a suggestion that a leaflet drop could be undertaken to remind people that it is an offence and a health and safety issue to park on the pavement. The correspondence was noted and the Parish Council would continue to monitor these problems and make representations to the Police as necessary.

Croxton Pavement:- Mrs A. Jones had expressed concern at the vegetation encroaching on the pavement by the Playing Field and also referred to the overgrown hedge. Mrs Heelis had replied that the Neighbourhood Highway Team had been requested to side out the footpath on the next visit on June 23rd, 2016 and indicated that the hedge was cut once a year, usually in July. Mrs Jones suggested that the Parish Council obtained a quote from Trent Grounds Maintenance to cut back the vegetation on the footway or to alternate cuts between the field

side and the footway. Mrs Heelis was asked to reiterate that the overgrowth on the pavement was the responsibility of the County Council and should be reported through the www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit website. Mrs Heelis was asked to contact Shane Latham to request that this work was undertaken Neighbourhood Highway Team as a matter of priority. Councillor Langford again referred to the condition of the verge on the opposite side of the road next to the junction with Back Lane and indicated that if the junction was considered dangerous for a tractor to pull out onto the highway, then surely it was also unsafe for cars.

Appearance and tidiness of Eccleshall – Councillor Chapman proposed that a further letter was distributed to businesses and property owners in the town to encourage them to keep frontages swept and clear of litter and weeds. The Parish Council was in agreement and copies of the letter would be signed by County Councillor Chapman, Borough Councillors Pert and Jones and the Parish Council Chairman.

93/16). Chairman’s Report:- Councillor Pimble reported that he had attended the inauguration of James Graham as the new Rural Dean of Eccleshall.

94/16). Accounts:- Mrs Heelis reported that the Grant for £2500 towards the cost of Bloom had been received from Stafford Borough Council. The following account had been paid since the last Council Meeting:-

Creative Copy ‘n’ Colour – Newsletters – LGA 1972 s.142	258.00
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Authorisation was requested for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	2401.86
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	47.72
Trent Grounds Maintenance - grasscutting – Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10	351.00
D. Minshull - Allotments fencing - Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908 s.29*	545.04

**Mr R. Milne, Chairman of the Allotments Association had advised that the work had been carried out satisfactorily. The invoice was to be paid from funds allocated in the 2015/16 precept.*

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

95/16). Date and venue for next meeting:- July 20th, 2016, Broughton Parish Rooms, 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed 8.45pm.