

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL -

June 16th 2010

A Meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on June 16th, 2010 at Offley Hay Village Hall at 7.30p.m. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

71/10). Present Were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor L. von Elbing
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor J. Pert
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor J. Jones
Councillor A. Holl	Councillor P. Allsop
Councillor E. Amos	Councillor B. Apps
1 member of the press	1 resident
Mrs. C. Heelis - Clerk	

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Garner and together with County/Borough Councillor H. Butter, PCSO D. Lutwyche and P.C. K. Green.

The meeting opened with prayers.

72/10). Public Participation:- Mrs. C. Stuart did not wish to raise any matters.

73/10). To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 19th, 2010:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

74/10). Reports from Borough Councillors:-

Councillor Chapman reported that he had passed photographs illustrating the condition of the cobbled area on Castle Street and the parking situation to Mr. D. Wilson, Head of County Highways and Mr. T. Manders, Planning and Regeneration SBC. Mr. Chapman had also visited the site with Mr. Maryon and Mr. Wilson to emphasize the issues and in consultation with the Parish Council, would continue to lobby the County and Borough Councils with a view to providing funding to refurbish the area.

It was noted that remedial work had been undertaken on the bends by Walton Hall School to prevent flooding of the carriageway. Following representations to the County Council the pavement on Stafford Road had been swept of chippings resulting from the recent resurfacing work and vegetation had been cut back. Mr. Chapman had also advised Streetscene that the toilet area required weeding and Ground Alder at the rear of the seat on the crossroads needed to be removed. A request had been submitted to the County Council for vegetation on Newport Road overhanging the pavement to be cut back.

Councillor Chapman informed the meeting that he was a member of the Development Control Committee, which met every third Wednesday, which may prevent him from attending some Parish Council meetings.

Councillor Pert thanked Councillor Chapman for his intervention and assistance with issues arising from inconsiderate parking on lanes around Sturbridge during the Bank Holiday Markets. Mrs. Heelis had contacted the Borough and County Councils together with the Police with little response, but the Police had taken action following an approach from Councillor Chapman.

75/10). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management:- Councillor Pert indicated that the road from Eccleshall to Great Brideford had been resurfaced and together with remedial work to address the pooling of water, should be a significant improvement. Councillor Pimble expressed disappointment that the opportunity had not been taken when the road markings had been reinstated to add solid white lines around Walton bends and discourage overtaking. The Clerk was asked to write and thank Mr. Mitchell for the resurfacing work and to express the Council's concern regarding the road markings.

It was noted that the Highways Department had stated that the Broughton Milestone, which had been painted and was at the Stone Depot awaiting installation, was unlikely to be installed in the immediate future as the job was classed as a low priority. Mr. Mitchell had suggested that the Parish

council could arrange for the installation. The Clerk had raised this matter with Cllr. Butter, who had agreed to approach Mr. Mitchell on behalf of the Parish Council.

A letter had been received from Mr. Faulkner of 4, Redhills, who wished to register dismay at the suggestion to request a grit bin on Redhill, which he considered would be a misuse of public funds. It was agreed that the list of sites suggested should be sent to Mr. Latham, together with a copy of this letter to enable the County Council to decide whether any of the suggested sites satisfied the criteria.

Councillor Pert had liaised with Loggerheads Parish Council and agreed to undertake a traffic count on the B5026 on July 2nd 2010. Members were asked to contact the Clerk if they were available to assist.

Mrs. Heelis was asked to contact the County Council with regard to the school crossing lights on Newport Road and by the school, which had not been switched off as it was considered that they were not effective if they were in constant use.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported that at a meeting held on June 2nd he had been re-elected as Chairman of the Committee and Councillor Baskerville as Vice-Chair.

Croxton Play Area:- The recent Risk Assessment undertaken by Wicksteed Leisure had suggested that the gate was refitted to reduce potential pinch hazards. Mr. Heath had quoted £90 to remove the gate post and concrete in position, refit the fence and install a new spring to the gate. The committee had agreed to request Mr. Heath to undertake this work as a matter of urgency and this action was authorised by the Council retrospectively.

Weedkiller used on the picnic site and Washpits had proved very effective but unfortunately was no longer available from the Highways Department. Councillor Dale agreed to consider other products on the market.

Elford Common and Pool:- The committee had considered the report issued by Dave Haslam. It was agreed to request Mr. Haslam to liaise with Mr. Buxton, from the Environment Agency regarding a supply of silt containing invertebrates to aid re-colonisation of the pool, together with some aquatic plants to aid the recovery of the open water.

The area around the spring on the northern side of the site had silted up and flooded due to the colonisation of invasive plants, such as nettle and bramble. The report recommended that the silt build up could be removed and the surface vegetation scraped to create a shallow pond to control the drainage of spring water and a short length of boardwalk installed over.

The report also recommended an annual inspection of the trees on the site but committee members considered that this was already covered in the annual risk assessments and condition surveys. Committee members had agreed to visit the site prior to the next meeting to assess the benefits of carrying out the proposed works on the spring and creating surfaced paths. A further report would be issued to the Council in September.

Annual condition surveys of assets and schedule of works:- Members were to undertake surveys prior to the next meeting of the committee on September 1st.

Substation, Newport Road:- Mrs. Heelis had contacted E-On to request that the site was tidied up.

Grassed Area – Horsefair:- Mr. Mitchell had indicated that he had no objections to the scheme in principle and agreed to provide details of statutory services under the area.

Land @ Bishops Court:- Mrs. Heelis reported that some progress was being made and the solicitor was waiting for a reply from the Treasury Solicitors. An interim invoice or details of costs to date had been requested from Mr. Gamson, as no payment had been made for the costs incurred dealing with this matter over the last few years.

The minutes of the Enhancements Committee meeting were adopted by the Council.

Policy and Resources:- The next meeting was scheduled for July 7th, 2010 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- There was no report to receive.

76/10). Liaison Representatives:-

Allotments Association:- No meeting had been held and there was no report to receive. Councillor Starkey agreed to act as spokesperson at future meetings.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor P. Jones reported on the erection of baskets and mangers, the Open Gardens weekend and a proposed stall for the sale of garden equipment at the Festival.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Allsop reported that the AGM had been held on June 10th when Mr. R. Powell had been appointed as Treasurer replacing Mrs. J. Goosey. Mrs. Dodkins continued as Chairperson and Mr. J. Crellin as Secretary. Mr. Allsop indicated that the Parish Council was to be approached for a grant towards the creation of a hard-core incline onto the field to allow larger caravans to access the site. The Clerk advised that although the grant earmarked in 2008/09 had been carried forward to 2009/10 this finance was no longer earmarked for the Village Hall and a new application would be required for funding.

Business Focus Group:- Councillor P. Jones reported that the group was very involved with the Festival and bags had been produced to promote the town.

Farmers' Market:- Councillor Allsop indicated that the next market would be held on June 26th from 9am to 2pm to coincide with the Festival. There would be 20 stalls, a hog-roast, BBQ and entertainment provided by the Stafford Morris Men.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that windows had been broken at the Centre and at the School, where there had also been an attempted break-in. The Association was investigating the cost of replacing the windows on the front of the building with double glazed units. Councillor Chapman volunteered to help source funding. Councillor Dale stated that the windows were in need of replacing and double glazing would help to retain the heat in the building and provide additional security. It was not known whether the gap above the main hall was adequate to allow for loft insulation.

Communities Mean Business:- Councillor von Elbing reported that at a recent meeting funding had been agreed for a project at a community centre in The Moorlands.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Pert reported that he had attended the Schools' Spring Fair and Sports Day. The Headteacher was leaving and a replacement had been appointed. A Governor had been recruited to fill the vacancy.

Festival:- Councillor P. Jones reported on the week of events planned for the Festival commencing on June 19th and indicated that the committee was grateful for grants from the County Council, Borough Council and the Co-op. Thanks were also extended to the Co-op for providing free parking on the day of the Festival.

There were no reports to receive from the Tourism Bureau, First Responders or Slindon Village Hall.

77/10). Police:- The Clerk read a report from PCSO Lutwyche. There had been 27 incidents in the Parish since the last meeting, 5 of which were of note. It was noted that the Traffic Wardens had visited the town regularly during the last few weeks.

78/10). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:- Mrs. Heelis requested contributions of colour photographs from around the Parish for inclusion in the Parish Newsletters.

A letter had been received from Offley Hay Village Hall seeking funding and Mrs. Heelis was asked to forward an application form and notes.

The Clerk referred to the letter from Mr. Faulkner, the contents of which, had already been reported

79/10). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that he had been invited to attend the Newport Civic Service.

80/10). Accounts:- Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2180.24
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	85.53
D. Smith - Footpaths - <i>HA 1980 s.143</i>	34.80
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	465.30
Creative Copy 'n' Colour - <i>LGA 1972 s.142</i>	258.00
Office Opportunities - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	545.67
Japlin - Computer - <i>LGA 1972 s. 111</i>	1204.38
Japhin toners x 6 - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	387.75

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

81/10). Land at rear of Eccleshall Community Centre / Bishop Lonsdale School:- Mr. MacDonald had indicated that he had been in discussion with the Diocese and First City Consultants and expected to have revised plans to present to the Parish Council representatives shortly.

82/10). Items / date and venue for next meeting:- July 21st, 2010 Broughton Parish Rooms at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm