

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

June 19th, 2013

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on June 19th, 2013 at Offley Hay Village Hall, at 7.30pm, this meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee and followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

73/13). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor D. Pimble
Councillor B. Apps	Councillor P. Mullee
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor L. von Elbing
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor G. Garner
Councillor L. Serjeant	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor M. Dodkins	Councillor D. Jacques
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Jones
Councillor P. Baskerville	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)
Borough Councillor J. Pert	Borough/County Councillor Chapman

Apologies - There were no apologies to receive.

The meeting opened with prayers

74/13). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- No requests had been submitted.

75/13). Public Participation:- There were no members of the public present.

76/13). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on May 15th, 2013:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

77/13). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:

Councillor Chapman reported that he had been returned as Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel. Cllr Chapman had attended a meeting with Parish Councillors and Mr Chris Mitchell from Staffordshire Highways on Tuesday June 18th. Works were underway to prevent parking on the verge outside the BT Exchange on Castle Street and the area may then benefit from some planting. Councillor Chapman was liaising with the Parochial Church Council and Staffordshire Highways regarding repairs to the entrances of Holy Trinity Church. Small Lane was due for surface dressing in this financial year and if the Church accepted ownership it may be possible to assist with funding from the Local Community Fund.

Councillor Chapman was also liaising with the Highways regarding the possibility of lying tarmac on the area between the entrance to The George car park and Cherry Tree Close where the tarmac and paving slabs were in need of repair.

Funding was available from the Local Community Fund for local groups and anyone interested should contact Councillor Chapman.

Councillor P. Jones indicated that Councillor J. Pert and himself were shadowing cabinet members of Stafford Borough Council. Councillor Jones apologised for non-attendance at recent council meetings as often meetings of the Parish and Borough Councils' clashed.

Councillor J. Pert spoke of the Network Rail project to improve Norton Bridge Junction that was to commence shortly and indicated that he was liaising with Network Rail to prioritise use of local services and contractors to sustain and benefit the local economy. Anyone with questions was encouraged to contact Councillor Pert directly.

78/13). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management:- Councillor von Elbing apologised for being unable to attend the meeting on June 18th with Mr Mitchell and it was agreed that a report on the meeting would be presented to the next meeting of the Traffic Management Committee on July 3rd, 2013.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported that the meeting scheduled for June 5th, 2013 had been cancelled as it was not quorate.

- **The women from Drake Hall Prison** had been removing weeds from the town centre and the corner by the seat was much tidier. A list of seats in the Parish requiring cleaning and treating was to be forwarded to Ms J. Wright. It was also proposed that the group was asked to sand

down and stain the Parish Council notice boards at Offley Hay Village Hall and on The Highfields at Croxton, materials were to be supplied. All were in favour.

- **Telephone Box – The Washpits** – Mrs Heelis was asked to request the refurbishment of the Listed box.
- **Ash tree – Bishops Court:-** When N&J Tree Services had carried out a visual survey on the tree earlier in the year they had submitted a report advising a full climbing inspection and pruning to be undertaken in July when the tree was in full leaf. All were in favour and Mrs Heelis was asked to accept the quotation for a total of £195.00.
- **Queen Elizabeth II Field Plaque and Mount** – quotations were being sought for alternative mounts, which would be considered at the next meeting of the committee on September 4th, 2013.

Policy and Resources Committee:-

At a meeting held at 7pm preceding the Council Meeting Councillor Allen had been returned to the Chair. The Committee had considered several grant applications and made the following recommendations to the Council:-

- **Eccleshall Cricket Club.** Councillor Allen declared an interest in this item. The Committee recommended that a grant of £200 was made towards the cost of a bench at the club. All were in favour.
- **Eccleshall Scouts** - £500 had been requested towards a return visit from 25 scouts from Siberia. It was noted that £600 was given to the group in 2011. Members felt that £500 was a large proportion of the grant budget of £1250 and the committee proposed that £200 was contributed. This recommendation was accepted by the Council.
- **Eccleshall Neighbourhood Watch** – Councillor Amos declared an interest in this item. The Council accepted a recommendation from the committee that a grant of £100 was made to the group to help fund a further supply of 'No Uninvited Trader' Signs to erect around Eccleshall. £200 had been requested but Councillor Chapman had offered to provide some funding from the Local Community Fund.

Minutes from the meeting would be circulated with the agenda and presented at the Council Meeting on July 17th, 2013.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Allen reported that a fallen tree on Footpath 4 had been removed and Mr Smith had been issued with orders to clear vegetation from 'The Dells' Footpath and Footpaths 13 and 17.

79/13). Liaison Representatives:-

Allotments Association:- There had been no meeting of the Association but Councillors were invited to attend an Open Afternoon on June 29th, 2013 from 2 – 4pm when the cabin would formally be declared open.

Ecclian Society:- The Council congratulated the Ecclian Society on being honoured with The 'Queens Award For Voluntary Service'. The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire would present the certificate and engraved crystal on a date to be confirmed. The award coincided with the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the Society. Councillor Jones reported that the Open Gardens weekend on June 15th and 16th had been excellent. Mr Bertram has asked Councillor Chapman to investigate the problem of the toilets being closed at weekends.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor von Elbing reported that the programme of decorating was continuing with the planned refurbishment of the Copmere Room and the fire door in the main hall was to be replaced.

Tourism Board:- Councillor Jones indicated that the group continued to meet bi-monthly with the next meeting to be held at Ingestre.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins reported that a Totally Locally Day had been held at the school. Sports Day was planned for June 28th with a picnic lunch for everyone. Year 6 leavers were having a disco and a new teacher would be employed from September.

Business Group:- Councillor Jones also referred to the Totally Locally Careers Fair and A Big Cuppa morning at the offices of Hacking Ashton on June 27th, 2013 between 10am and 12 noon in aid of Katharine House Hospice.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that a new pump had been fitted and a new boiler was on order. Mrs Heelis was asked to contact Steve Emery to request removal of their signage and scaffolding, which had been left following the roof repairs.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins indicated that the youth club continued to go from strength to strength with 54 young people involved and more volunteers were needed. Thanks were extended to Richard Vaughan and to April Lewis for their valuable input and assistance sadly, both would be leaving in the summer,

Communities Mean Business:- Councillor von Elbing reported that funding was still available and encouraged local groups to submit applications. A new funding period was scheduled to start in 2015.

80/13). Neighbourhood Plan:- Councillor Pimble reported that a new Neighbourhood Officer Ms Raj Bains, had been appointed by Stafford Borough Council and was to meet with himself and the Clerk next week. The next meeting of the group would be held on July 11th, 2013 when the Ms Bains would be able to advise members whether the Designated Area had received approval. An application had been submitted for Funding and Direct Support from Locality and a decision was expected shortly.

81/13). Clerk's Report and correspondence:-

NHT:- Mrs Heelis reported that the gang had carried out 5 days' work in the Parish and completed footpath clearance work at Croxton and Eccleshall. The damaged verge by Holy Trinity Church had been soiled and reseeded, however, the day after a vehicle had been driven over the repaired area! The crew had installed the wooden posts on the Washpits today as additional days had been allocated to Eccleshall, which were not taken up by a neighbouring parish. The next scheduled visit to the Parish would be on October 15th, 2013.

Gist:- The Clerk reported that Mr A. Baugh from Gist had offered to attend a meeting of the Council and it was agreed to invite him to the Traffic Management Committee Meeting on July 3rd, 2013.

Well Dressing:- Members were invited to attend the Croxton Well dressing On July 6th, 2013.

Dog Fouling:-The Environmental Health Service was refreshing the Dog Fouling Campaign that was launched in 2011. The web site included a confidential email address to report dog fouling offenders, an on-line survey and details of a free primary school age dog responsibility educational talk. New publicity materials were available including banners, bin stickers, calling cards and A3 posters for shops and notice boards.

Bus Shelter – Croxton:- It was noted that the bus shelter at Croxton had come away from the brick foundations. Mrs Heelis would ask Mr Sheard to inspect it and ascertain if he could carry out repairs.

Grass Cutting:- Concerns were expressed about the grass cutting around the town, Mrs Heelis indicated that the County Council owned areas were due to be cut in the next few days and it was agreed to monitor the situation.

82/13). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that he had been invited to Civic Services in Newport and Stone.

83/13). Accounts:- The Clerk reported receipt of a VAT refund of £1151.93, a grant from the Local Community fund towards the railings on Castle Street of £1250, a grant from Stafford Borough towards Bloom of £2500 and £1000 from Eccleshall Community Centre.

The Council granted retrospective authorisation for the payment of an invoice to Steve Emery for the roof repairs at the Community Centre of £5694, which had been paid since the last meeting.

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following:-

Salaries and Associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	2230.16
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	41.09
Trent Grounds Maintenance - Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10	231.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

84/13). Items/Date and Venue for next meeting:- July 17th, 2013 Broughton Parish Rooms 7.30pm.

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