

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

June 20th, 2012

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on June 20th, 2012 at Offley Hay Village Hall at 7.30p.m. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

85/12). Present Were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble
Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor J. Allen.	Councillor L. von Elbing
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor L. Serjeant
Councillor B. Apps	Councillor G. Garner
County Councillor H. Butter	Borough Councillor J. Pert
Borough Councillor F. Chapman	
4 members of the public	Mrs C. Heelis - Clerk

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Jones, Dodkins, Mullee, Amos and Jacques.

The meeting opened with prayers.

86/12). To receive the Declaration of Office from Vice-Chairman Cllr. Pimble – The declaration was duly received.

87/12). Public Participation:-

Mrs C. Colaluca, a resident of Sturbridge spoke about problems experienced by local residents of noise and smell from the Saint Gobain factory at Raleigh Hall and also expressed concern about HGV related traffic problems on the Swynnerton Road which had increased since Gist had relocated there. Good relationships had been established with Raleigh Hall over the years, but local residents considered these two companies were detrimental to the area.

Mrs Colaluca indicated that despite meetings with John Edwards, (Managing Director of Raleigh Hall), David Salter, (Saint Gobain Site Manager) and Sean Baker and Phil Edge (Technical Officers SBC) and assurances that all doors adjacent to the fan room would remain closed at all times the main door was still left open, allowing toxic fumes from the chemical 'Napathalene' to escape.

Councillor Baskerville stated that he understood that the chimney had not been fitted with the filter as proposed due to problems with the supplier and Mr Slater had advised that fitting would be undertaken on Monday June 25th. It was understood that Mr Edwards had also expressed concern about the situation and Mrs Heelis was asked to write to Mr Edwards, Mr Slater and Stafford Borough Council to request that the emissions of noise and odour from the plant were addressed as soon as possible. Councillor Dale asked that the item be retained on the Planning Committee agenda until it had been satisfactorily resolved.

Mrs Colaluca referred to the volume of traffic and excessive speeds of vehicles and the vibration and potential damage to properties particularly between 8pm and 4am and indicated that Mr Edwards had stated that he would provide an access road to the A519 if the County Council would agree to provide a junction. Mrs Colaluca also asked the Council to consider the erection of signs indicating 'Police Speed Check Area' to act as a deterrent.

The Chairman reported that representatives of the Parish Council had met with Mr Piper from Gist to discuss concerns about the volume of lorries and disturbances reported by residents during night time hours. Mr Piper had indicated that it was unlikely that the lorries were Gist and there was no evidence to prove that this was the case, the company wished to work with the community and that all complaints would be responded to. Councillor von Elbing indicated that the complainants had been asked to supply details of HGV's movements but no feedback had been received.

Mrs Colaluca stated that she was able to record evidence of the company and numbers of movements and Councillor Apps suggested that the Parish Council carried out a 24 hour monitoring session similar to that undertaken on the B5026. It was agreed to discuss the matter with Mr Mitchell, Highways Community Liaison Officer in the first instance and retain as an agenda item on the Traffic Management Committee.

Tree of Light – Mr B. Metcalfe from the Rotary Club of Eccleshall Mercia referred to the Tree of Light, which for the last few years had been erected during the Christmas period, outside The Kings Arms to raise money for a nominated charity by residents pledging donations in memory of a loved one. The Club wished to erect the tree in a more prominent location and proposed that the area outside the public conveniences would be suitable. It was stated that this land was in the ownership of Stafford Borough Council and it was agreed to make enquiries and advise Mr Metcalfe of the procedure and who to contact.

88/12). To confirm the minutes of the Council AGM held on May 16th, 2012:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

89/12). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

County Councillor H. Butter reported that he had been approached by the Allotments Association for funding towards the erection of a shelter / store and was opening the Croxton Well Dressing at 12.30pm on July 7th, 2012. Councillor Butter would be meeting with Mr C. Mitchell, Highways Community Liaison Officer on June 25th, 2012.

Borough Councillor J. Pert referred to the latest consultation from Network Rail regarding proposals for improvements to the Norton Bridge railway junction and encouraged people to attend one of several consultation sessions.

Reference was also made to a Planning Application for various improvements at Izaak Walton Golf Course at Cold Norton, which would involve 120 vehicle movements per day and could have a considerable impact on Eccleshall. Councillor Pert encourage members to complete a broadband survey, which was being led by the County Council and congratulated the Youth Club on securing a part time Youth Development Worker.

Councillor F. Chapman indicated that he had received numerous complaints about HGV's and considered that the volume and speed of heavy traffic was unsuitable for the town and the local roads. Councillor Chapman was arranging for additional speed enforcement and a survey to record the speed and numbers of vehicles on the A5013.

Councillor Chapman referred to the changes to the Norton Bridge Junction, which he considered would not be of benefit to the local area and could result in more traffic passing through Eccleshall. Councillor Chapman also advised members of his position as Vice Chairman of the County Council and various other roles and indicated that representations could be made about speeding and other issues on the web site:- Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership.

90/12). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor von Elbing referred to copies of notes from the meeting with Mr Piper from Gist, which had been circulated. Representatives would meet with Mr Mitchell, Highways Community Liaison Officer on June 21st and the next meeting of the Traffic Management Committee would be held on July 4th, 2012, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Enhancements Committee:- It was agreed that Councillor Dodkins may join the committee.

- **Croxton Play Area, Tree:-** Following concerns about the Ash tree in the hedge raised by Councillor Jacques the Chairman and Clerk had met Mr Hambley, a tree surgeon. A quote of £250 for an inspection of the tree had been received and Mrs Heelis was asked to seek an alternative quotation. Councillor Pimble queried whether it was necessary to inspect the tree or if it could be felled as it was not protected or in a prominent location. Mrs Heelis was asked to investigate further and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Enhancements Committee.

Drainage:- It was reported that complaints had been received from Anne Jones, a resident of Croxton about the stream on the boundary of the Playing Field. The water from the fields runs adjacent to her property and into a gully that runs underneath the road and the play area to emerge at the bottom boundary of the Playing Field. With recent rain silt and debris from the field had blocked the pipe and the stream was becoming clogged up. The farmer had re dug the ditch and the gullies were emptied and jetted. Mrs Jones had asked the contractor to strim a path to the ditch and along it and it was agreed to arrange a site visit with a view to adding this work to the maintenance schedule. Ann and Steve Jones had since cut back the undergrowth round the stream and dredged it and Mrs Heelis was asked to send them a letter of thanks. It was further agreed to inspect the outfall from the pipe on a weekly basis when the play area was checked, to ensure there was no blockage, together with an annual dredging of the stream. Any other obligation lay with the Farmer and the highways authority.

- **Castle Street Enhancements:-** Mrs Heelis reported that there had been no response to the design competition, which had been launched in the June newsletter. The Headteacher had been advised of the competition and it was suggested that details were sent to the Youth Club.
- **Seat – corner of Stone Road / Stafford Street:-** It was agreed to accept a quote from Peter the Painter to repaint the bench at a cost of £40.
- **June Newsletter:-** The newsletters had been distributed and good feedback received.
- **Southwell:-** Mrs Heelis and Councillors Dale and Baskerville had met Anna McLauchlan from Stafford and Rural Homes on the area and Ms McLauchlan had indicated that subject to the provision of more detailed information the SARH would look favourably on leasing the land to the Parish Council for provision of a skate facility and possibly a youth shelter. Anna had sent the Clerk a title plan of the area. It was agreed to invite play companies to visit the site to suggest options for skate boarding and assess the suitability of the area with a view to preparing a package to present to SARH. Funding opportunities would also need to be explored. The young people would be consulted when a draft design was available.
- **Bishops Court:-** Members considered that the area was unsuitable for the skate ramps and the committee recommended that the quotation from PPL was the best value option and it was resolved to consult the neighbours with regard to proposals for the erection of a goal post, swings and youth shelter. The Council agreed to the exploration of funding opportunities and investigation of the Section 106 finance from the development on Castle Street when feedback from the residents had been received. Councillor von Elbing suggested that contact was made with the Community Council to establish whether the scheme may be eligible for funding from Communities Mean Business. The Planning Officer had advised that planning permission was not required for equipment not exceeding 4 metres in height or 200 cubic metres in capacity.
- **Christmas Trees:-** Woods Farm at Solihull had quoted a highly competitive price for the supply and delivery of all the trees together with lifting equipment. Mrs Heelis was asked to contact Mr Woods to ascertain whether it would be possible for Councillors Dale and Baskerville to visit the farm to ensure that the specifications for the trees could be met and establish what date an order would be required in order to provide the trees in November 2012.

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

Policy and Resources Committee:- There was nothing to report and a committee meeting would be convened when necessary

Footpaths:- Councillor Allen reported that there had been no meeting of the committee, however, complaints had been received from walkers using Footpath 4 who had been charged £1 for crossing the field when the bank holiday markets were held. Councillor Butter indicated that as Chair of the Countryside Panel he had been asked to report offending landowners and Councillors Allen suggested that he spoke to Mr P. Rochfort, Rights of Way Officer, who had written to the landowner in respect of this matter.

91/12). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from Offley Hay Village Hall, Tourism Bureau, Business Focus Group, Young People or Communities Mean Business.

Allotments Association:- Councillor Starkey reported on progress with the storage facility / shelter.

Ecclian Society:- Mrs Heelis reported that the hanging baskets, flower mangers, flags and streamers were erected on May 27th and thanks were extended to all involved. A news flash had been issued advising members of a donation to Holy Trinity Church towards increased security to try to curtail thefts of lead from the roof. 14 gardens had been open during the Open Gardens at the weekend, with many complimentary comments received from the 360 visitors about the character and atmosphere of the town.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that the leak in the Jubilee Room roof had reappeared and the contractor had been contacted.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Mrs Heelis reported that prizes had been purchased from the Chairman's Allowance for those children whose poems had been published in the June newsletter and it was hoped these would be presented during a morning assembly.

92/12). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

Age Concern:- A letter requesting a donation had been received from Age Concern and Mrs Heelis was asked to respond in the usual manner that the Policy of the Parish Council was only to give grants to groups within the Parish.

Network Rail:- It was noted that the proposals for the Norton Bridge junction improvements were displayed in Eccleshall Library. Members were urged to attend one of the public meetings and consider the documentation in the library or on the website. The deadline for the submission of comments was July 20th, 2012 and the matter would be discussed and a response formulated, at the next meeting of the Planning Committee on July 4th.

Code of Conduct:- Mrs Heelis reported that Councils were required to adopt a new Code of Conduct and information was awaited from the Borough Council, as historically the Parish Council adopted the Code provided by the Borough and this was published accordingly. When details were available a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee would be convened. Registers of Interest completed by Councillors would be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer for display on the website in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Bill.

Croxton Well Dressing:- All members were invited to attend the well dressing on July 7th, 2012, which would be officially opened by Councillor Butter at 12.30pm. The Clerk had been advised that marquees would be erected on the Croxton Playing Field where several activities would be held. Mrs Langford had assured Mrs Heelis that appropriate insurance cover was in place.

Stone Road Parking:- Mrs Heelis reported receipt of 5 emails from local residents expressing concern about the parking situation on Stone Road. It was agreed that the situation remained unchanged and that it was important to save parking spaces for the businesses in the town and enhance the vibrancy of the local economy, not create additional problems with further restrictions. Double yellow lines elsewhere in the town were not enforced and would be unlikely to prevent those visiting the Animal Feed Business from parking. Double yellow lines would allow traffic speeds to increase and the parking issue would move further up Stone Road. Concerns about vehicles parking on the pavement were to be referred to PCSO Lutwyche and Mrs Heelis was asked to prepare notes asking drivers to refrain from blocking the pavements, which could be placed on windscreens. This matter would be raised with Mr C. Mitchell at a meeting on June 21st. Mr Mitchell had previously indicated that parking related Traffic Regulation Orders would be reviewed by the Local Parking Committee in due course and prioritised against existing commitments.

Play facilities:- Alison Edwards had also expressed concern at the lack of facilities for under 5's. It was proposed to assess whether the addition of several small pieces of equipment at the Borough owned Beech Road site would be beneficial and if so an approach could be made to the Borough Council. Unfortunately, there was a shortage of land in Parish Council ownership for the provision of facilities.

Road Surface – Castle Street:- A letter had been received from Mrs Swinnerton, The Forge, Castle Street about heavy vehicles, man hole covers and nearby development causing damage to their property. The letter had been forwarded to Mr Mitchell who had replied that extensive studies have shown that vibrations generated by vehicular traffic are rarely significant enough to cause structural damage to an otherwise sound building. Unless the vibration were generated as a result of poor maintenance or highway alterations the matter was beyond the responsibilities of the highway authority, however, an inspector had been asked to visit the site to inspect the man hole cover.

Audit 2012/13:- The Audit Commission proposed to appoint Grant Thornton to audit the annual returns of all small bodies in Staffordshire from 2012/13 for five years. The members of the Parish Council were unaware of any reason why this should not be acceptable.

93/12). Chairman's Report:- The Chairman reported that he had been invited to attend the Civic Service of Newport Town Council and Stone Town Council and would escort the Mayor when he visited the Festival on June 23rd.

94/12). Accounts:- Mrs Heelis reported that since the last meeting £220 had been paid to Mr Sheard for the refurbishment and repair of seats in the Parish and the Chairman had inspected the seat at Byanna and deemed the repairs acceptable.

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2214.26
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	78.92
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	120.00
Peter Eaton - Painting Clock - <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s.2</i>	380.00
June Newsletter - <i>LGA 1972 s.142</i>	1988.00

All were in agreement and the cheques were signed.

95/12). Items, date and venue for next meeting:- The next meeting would be held on July 18th, 2012 at Broughton Parish Rooms commencing at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm.