

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

June 21st, 2017

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on June 21st, 2017, at Offley Hay Village Hall, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.20pm.

- 75/17). Present were:-**
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| Councillor G. Garner (Chairman) | Councillor P. Baskerville |
| Councillor B. Delanchy | Councillor J. Leather |
| Councillor P. Mullee | Councillor D Jacques |
| Councillor E. Amos | Councillor P. Alcock |
| Councillor R. Langford | Councillor A. Le Monnier |
| Councillor M. Starkey | Councillor C. Marshall |
| Councillor J. Jones | |
| Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk) | |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Price, P. Jones and County and Borough Councillor J. Pert.

The meeting was preceded by a minute's silence to show our sympathy for those affected by recent tragedies in Manchester, London Bridge and Grenfell Tower.

The meeting opened with prayers

- 76/17). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.
- 77/17). Public Participation:-** There were no members of the public present.
- 78/17). To confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on May 17th, 2017:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.
- 79/17). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**
Councillors P. Jones and J. Pert were not present, but Councillor J. Jones provided an update in his absence:
In the light of the recent tragic fire at Grenfell Tower Kensington, the conservative members of the Borough Council met on June 19th 2017 with the leader of Stafford Borough Council, Patrick Farrington, to consider any responses to this tragedy which our own councils may need to make. County and Borough Councillor Pert has also met with Tim Clegg, chief executive of Stafford Borough Council, concerning these matters. Councillor Pert also met with Karen Armitage, chief executive of Stafford and Rural Homes, which is conducting a survey to check all its properties are in order.
- 80/17). Committee Reports:-**
Traffic Management Committee:- The next meeting of the committee will be held on July 5th, 2017, following a meeting with Richard Rayson on June 29th. The state of the Newport Road pavement was noted, as being overgrown and unsuitable for prams/wheelchair access.
Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Baskerville had the following updates:
Croxton play area:- the seat has now been installed by Rod Sheard. The replacement of the 2 damaged posts was undertaken – 1 was successfully replaced and the other made safe, as it had rotted and broken away at ground level. It could not be removed at that time.
Clock:- The faulty amplifier has been replaced, and the clock is fully functioning. The clerk is looking into replacement of the bulbs, and is awaiting a new contact in Eon to discuss options.
Former County and Borough Councillor Frank Chapman has mowed the lawns by the toilet area.
Policy and Resources Committee:- Councillor Garner presented a report on the meeting held on June 7th, 2017. The minutes had already been circulated to members
- The spreadsheet of the precept was circulated to members. The committee felt that it would be advantageous to move to computerised accounts by 2018/19, in order that the council can be provided with a monthly budget breakdown that will enable a more detailed breakdown and analysis of spend as we move through the year.
 - The insurances/deeds were circulated and found to be in order.
 - The committee discussed the request for funding from Sheila Slaney of Stone/Eccleshall Girlguiding, on behalf of Jasmine Holland, who was raising funds to go to Pune in India in

August. Jasmine has been selected to represent the division on a trip to Sangam World Centre. During her time, Jasmine will work with girls in the local community, and with other guides from around the world. The committee recommended a funding offer of £100 be extended to Jasmine. **The Council were in favour of this course of action.**

- With regards to the siting of condolence papers in the event of the death of a monarch/member of royalty, it was agreed to write to the church wardens of Holy Trinity church to ask if they would hold the papers. The acknowledgement to the letter was positive, but it is pending agreement at their next meeting, which is on July 17th. The arrangements for any further locations could be addressed at a later date.
- Online Banking access – the clerk outlined the key points in the request for online access to the Parish accounts. It was accepted that this was necessary for effective running of the accounts, and acknowledged that although the access will allow for electronic payments, the clerk will only use the access to view the accounts, and transfer funds between the current and the reserve account. Councillor P. Jones will be provided with a monthly statement to check all was in order, and the clerk will update the risk assessments to reflect this. **The Council were in favour of this course of action and the paperwork was signed.**

The minutes of the Policy and Resource Committee were accepted by the Council.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Mullee reported there will be a footpaths committee meeting on 5th July 2017. The footpath from the Church to Shaws Lane is overgrown, and he has asked Dave Smith to cut it back within the next week.

81/17).

Liaison Representatives:- There was no report to receive from the Allotments Association.

Eccleshall Community Centre:- there has been no recent meeting but Councillor Amos reported that the pump to the cellar is now working, and the old chairs have been donated to the allotments association or thrown away. Councillor Amos confirmed that regular checks are in place for fire risk assessments, health and safety and disabled access. Gas and electricity safety certificates are up to date.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor J. Jones reported the following:

- The mangers and baskets were put up on Sunday, June 4th. Over 40 volunteers helped with this task and Johnson Hall Nurseries did an excellent job in delivering everything in good time. The watering contract (4 times per week) started on June 5th.
- The Open Gardens weekend enjoyed superb weather and a record attendance with 438 programmes sold over the two days. The feedback so far has been very positive.
- The new Christmas lights have now been purchased and they are trialling various batteries.
- The Ecclian Society Lunch this month is being held on Wednesday, June 21st.
- The next committee meeting is being held in early July and a barbecue is planned for July 15th.

Tourism:- Councillor Jones reported that the Borough Council had put in a bid to the heritage lottery grant to support the planned redevelopment of Stafford town park.

Young People:- Councillor Marshall reported that the youth club had successfully bid for a £3000 grant which will be used to employ a temporary youth worker. The youth worker would work to encourage young people who are currently causing problems in the area, and encourage them to engage in activities such as visits to skate parks. Meetings will be undertaken in the next two weeks to progress the project.

Croxton News – Councillor Langford reported the following:-

- All was progressing well with the Well Dressing preparations. There were 6 wells to be dressed, and these will be worked on from the Sunday to Friday prior to the event. Councillor Langford gave an overview of the planned events, and circulated flyers for distribution. Police commissioner Matthew Ellis was performing the official opening of the event and Councillor Pert will attend in his official capacity.
- It was noted that the Millennium Wood area was looking very good – Streetscene had made a good job of the play area and the hedges had been trimmed.

Slindon Residents:- Councillor Leather advised that they were still waiting for the speed limit change, after the initial agreement date of May 31st. The issue will be raised with Richard Rayson at the upcoming meeting.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Le Monnier reported that the next meeting was this evening. The redecoration is complete, and an open day is planned for 10th September.

82/17). Community Transport:- Councillor J. Jones advised that the project was still in progress. The next step was the production of a flyer, to take to the various local clubs and associations, to promote the project and look for users who would be interested in the service. There are a number of drivers who have volunteered to support the project. It was suggested that it would be worth looking into the 'Communities mean Business' group, who may have funding available to support the project.

83/17). New Developments:-

Taylor Wimpey site:- Further to the sinkage problem in St. Chad's Road, the repairs have been completed and there has been no further incidence of sinkage to date.

Western Power has notified residents of electricity supply interruptions on Monday 26th June, to install new equipment to meet future demands. Work will be at the substation in St. Chads Road.

Bovis:- Concerns were raised as to the condition of the land on Badger's Croft that was sold to Bovis last year. The clerk contacted Rob Ellam at Bovis, who acknowledged that that land was in need of maintenance, and also that he expected the connecting footpath to be closer to completion. Mr. Ellam has advised he will flag up both items as a priority and provide a timeline for completion of the work, which should be in July.

It was noted that the entrance to the Bovis development in general had a scruffy appearance, with excess signage, signage blown over, and that the kerb line by the roundabout was not completed.

The council also noted that there were signs blown over and an excess of signage at the Taylor Wimpey site, and agreed that the clerk would contact both developers to ask if they could review their current signage and overall tidiness of the sites.

Roundabout feature:- Councillor Delanchy summarised an update received from Councillor Pert: Councillor Pert has received the technical information so that the structural engineers can start to work out the technical details that the Parish need to be able to site the Eagle structure on the roundabout on the A5013. Once this is complete, he will approach the borough for a pre-application discussion to ensure any significant concerns have been addressed before making the planning application. Amey are positive about the works involved, providing it is fairly simple and there is a link between the structural engineers to clarify the work involved.

With regards to lead time, he is expecting a lead time of about three weeks on the structural engineer's side to start the works, and potentially a week's work to turnaround the final drawings and specification. If a planning application is submitted a week after that, with a turnaround from the Borough Council of up to eight weeks, this would mean thirteen weeks away plus the sculptor's lead time to make the eagle, prior to installation. So as a notional timeline, this would be seventeen weeks in total. The Parish Council acknowledged that they would expect to see all costings to be able to approve the project, prior to proceeding with the planning application.

84/17). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

- **Elford Common** – a complaint had been received regarding dog fouling, with owners not clearing up after their dogs, and also querying regulations with regards to dogs on leads. The Clerk was to contact footpaths and the dog fouling enforcement team at the Borough Council to enquire about options regarding signage and what laws apply to the common. It was noted that the Parish Council would prefer signage that was less unsightly than the large orange signs.
- **Warmer Homes Stafford** – the Council had received information from Stafford Borough Council regarding their affordable warmth service, which has been re-tendered for an additional two years, and is managed by Marches Energy Agency (A Shrewsbury based fuel poverty and energy efficiency charity). The scheme offers Borough residents free and impartial support to help lower bills, by offering advice, home visits, signposting to additional services and helping those in need to access grants and financial support for energy efficiency improvements and other support with energy costs. Residents can be referred or apply directly, and the agency have supplied literature to help us advertise the scheme. The Council expressed reservations about the scheme as there have been instances of work carried out to improve energy efficiency, for example incorrectly installed cavity wall insulation. The Clerk will look into the scheme and find out more information regarding professional certification prior to the council agreeing to promote the scheme.

- **Email from John Baldry, Eccleshall Neighborhood Watch group** - Mr Baldry contacted the council with concerns about potential increases in anti-social behaviour, resulting from new residents on the Bovis development. The Council feels it appropriate that Mr Baldry will continue to monitor the situation and keep the Council updated as necessary. Any further developments will be discussed as they arise. The Council has requested Councillor Pert to provide clarity on the housing policies associated with the Taylor Wimpey and Bovis developments, at the next meeting where he is in attendance.
- **Update on Copmere End and Kerry Lane railing damage** – Highways have repaired the fencing at Kerry Lane, and have booked repairs in for Copmere End, although this has not been flagged as high priority. Councillor Jacques will look to remove vegetation from the repaired site at Kerry Lane.
- **Email regarding overgrown tree in Eyeswell Alley** – A resident contacted the council requesting advice on how to get an overhanging tree pruned back. The Council will contact the rights of way team to flag up the issue for inspection. The Council advised that it is within the rights of the resident to cut back the parts of the tree that are overhanging their own property, and return it. The Clerk will feedback to the resident concerned.
- **Police and Fire Consultation survey** – an email has been sent on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire, requesting completion of a survey relating to the proposal to align the governance of the police and fire services into one combined support and administration service. The email outlines potential savings, better value for money and room for service investment. The email does not highlight if this plan would result in loss of jobs, and the council have declined to comment on the proposal.
- **Request for siting of promotional van for intu potteries shopping centre** – a request was made for a day's location for a van promoting the shopping centre. The promotional company were identifying potential sites for the promotional tour. The Council felt that there was no suitable location available and declined to participate.
- **Crown surgery follow up** – the Council had requested information about the assessment criteria for patients eligible for continuation of the telephone prescription service, but has received no response to date. There had been no further complaints, so the Council agreed there was no need to pursue the matter further.

85/17). **Chairman's Report:-** The chair had attended a Chairmanship skills course on 20th June, with Councillor Le Monnier, and had found it informative.

86/17). **Accounts:-**

Retrospective approval was granted for the payment of the following accounts:-

Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – <i>Training</i> - LGA 1972 s.111	20.00
B.T. - Adoption of phone boxes at Fair Oak/Croxton -	2.00
Creative Copy 'n' Colour – Newsletters & Walks Leaflets – LGA 1972 s.142	288.00

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

S. Worden - Salary - LGA 1972 s. 112	981.35
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	118.23
PAYE - LGA (<i>Financial Provisions</i>) 1963	2.80
NHI - LGA (<i>Financial Provisions</i>) 1963	106.81
Pension LG <i>Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995</i>	303.04
Chairman's Allowance 2017/18 - LGA 1972 ss. 15 (5)	29.38
TGM Grass and hedge cutting - <i>Open Space Act 1906 s10</i>	258.00
C. Heelis - salary for handover period, LGA 1972 s. 112	459.38
Fawns Recreational Services - <i>Open Space Act 1906 s10</i>	144.24
Rod Sheard install seat Croxton/refurb notice board- <i>Parish Council Act 1957 s.2*</i>	160.00
Community First – Community Centre Insurance - LGA 1972 s. 145	1519.46
Purchase of tool for Play area work (P Baskerville) - <i>Open Space Act 1906 s.10</i>	25.69

Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – <i>Training</i> - LGA 1972 s.111	40.00
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All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

87/17). **Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:-** July 19th, 2017, Broughton Parish Rooms, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.