

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.10pm.

- 29/16). Present were:-**
- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Councillor D. Pimble (Chairman) | Councillor G. Garner (Vice-Chairman) |
| Councillor B. Delanchy          | Councillor M. Starkey                |
| Councillor R. Langford          | Councillor E. Amos                   |
| Councillor P. Baskerville       | Councillor P. Mullee                 |
| Councillor D. Dyer              | Councillor C. J. Leather             |
| Councillor D. Jacques           | Councillor P. Jones                  |
| Councillor C. Marshall          | Councillor L. Taylor-Potts           |
| 1 member of the press           | 2 members of the public              |
| Borough Councillor J. Pert      | County Councillor F. Chapman         |
| Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)           |                                      |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor B. Davies.

*The meeting opened with prayers*

- 30/16). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.
- 31/16). Public Participation:-** The members of the public present did not wish to address the meeting.
- 32/16). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
- 33/16). Report from County Councillor Chapman:-** Councillor Chapman reported the following:-
- The flowering trees on the Burgage had been pruned and a local resident was maintaining the area.
  - The diseased Horse Chestnut trees outside the Toilets had been felled and the area was already looking better, although the stumps required grinding.
  - The Local Community Fund allocation for 2016/17 had been reduced to £7,500 Changes had been made to the criteria for funding and Councillor Chapman indicated that the fund for his area was already oversubscribed.
  - The Police and Crime Panel had met for the last time before the elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner on May 5th, 2016.
  - Councillor Chapman continued to press for the proposed roundabout on the Stafford Road to be enlarged. Councillor Pimble indicated that at a meeting with Bovis, Councillors had been advised that the width would be increased to 9.5m.
  - Councillor Chapman indicated disappointment at the proposal to build additional homes on the Bovis site, However, it was noted that the Parish Council had raised no objections as the additional homes were sited away from existing houses and it was hoped that Bovis would fund the purchase and erection of a feature for the centre of the roundabout.
- Report from Borough Councillor Pert:-** Councillor Pert reported the following:-
- He had attended an annual conference held by VAST.
  - A Housing Needs Survey within Stafford Borough had been undertaken, which had brought forward some unexpected data. Councillor Pert indicated that he would be happy to share some of the data with Councillors and was hopeful that he could work with the Parish Council to develop practical ideas regarding housing and health and wellbeing.
  - A new Women's Refuge had been opened and thanks were extended to those who had supported fund raising events.
  - Councillor Pert shared the disappointment expressed by Councillor Chapman at the proposed increase in the number of homes on the Bovis site, however, he had not 'called in' the amended application as he considered that it would receive approval.
  - The Taylor Wimpey application had been 'called in' as he considered some of the drainage issues and the provision of play equipment required further discussion.

- Councillor Pert had been involved in discussions concerning street names for the Bovis development and was working towards the eradication of pot holes. Now that the trees at the Toilet area had been felled he would press for improvements to the appearance of the public conveniences and the site in general. The Arboricultural Officer had suggested that a Colorado Blue Spruce would be suitable for planting on site and this matter was referred to the Enhancements Committee Meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for consideration.

Councillor Langford referred to litter on the roads in and around the Parish. Councillor Pert confirmed that whilst Streetscene continued to collect rubbish from the verges, areas adjoining the motorway were the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

**Report from Borough Councillor Jones:-** Councillor Jones reported that he had officiated at an historic ceremony to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former County/Borough Councillor Henry Butter.

**34/16). Committee Reports:-**

**Traffic Management Committee:-** Councillor Taylor-Potts reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Mrs Heelis indicated that a response had been received from Sir William Cash MP regarding the Private Members' Bill - Highways Improvement, Traffic Regulation and Traffic Management, which had been presented to Parliament for a second reading in March 2016. Councillor Garner provided a summary of the background and progress of the Bill. Following the general election in May 2015 Sir William Cash had undertaken to represent the concerns of constituents regarding Heavy Goods Vehicles using the A519 and the effect on people, properties and roads. A petition had been presented requesting the imposition of a speed restriction and weight limit on HGV's using the A519, objecting to the proposed new access road off the A519 to Raleigh Hall and requesting that advice be given to Satellite Navigation Companies to the effect that the A519 is not a primary route. Sir William Cash stressed that Private Members Bills rarely became law.

The Secretary of State for Transport had indicated that Local Highway Authorities were responsible for managing the highway network in their areas. It was a matter for the Stafford Borough Council and County Council to object to the Planning Application for the new road access to Raleigh Hall if it was considered that the new access would have unacceptable implications on the A519. Neither the Department for Transport or local authorities had any direct power over the routing guidance offered by satnav devices.

**Enhancements Committee:-** Councillor Baskerville indicated that the next meeting of the committee would be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

**Pictorial Meadow:-** It was agreed not to sow the seeds for the Pictorial Meadow on the Eyeswells footpath this year as the results in recent years had been disappointing and members considered that planting in other areas would be more worthwhile.

**Trees – Eyeswells Footpath:-** Mrs Heelis indicated that contact had been made with the Tree Surgeon at Sugnall Business Centre, but he had failed to turn up for a site visit. Colin Jackson had also been approached but had not submitted a quote to date. Rob Keysor had confirmed that the price quoted last year of £330 to fell and remove the trees would remain unchanged and the work could be carried out on Friday. It was agreed to accept this quote as it was imperative that the trees were felled as soon as possible before the birds started to nest.

**Watering Contract:-** The Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders and invite Stafford Borough Council to submit a quotation to undertake the watering of the mangers and baskets throughout the summer. Members were unaware of anyone else who may be able / willing to undertake the work as cost effectively as the Borough Council.

**Policy and Resources:-** Councillor Garner reported that a meeting of the Committee held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 had been inquorate. However, members had discussed the issues and the following items were presented to the Council for consideration and ratification:-

- **Precept details:-** Mrs Heelis circulated spreadsheets detailing the amount of precept remaining under each earmarked category. It was noted that £220 remained in the grants fund and there was some underspend in various allocations, which could be vired towards the installation of a power supply at the Toilet area. The Clerk advised that if all the invoices for work ordered were presented before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 the amount remaining in Reserves would be approximately £47,700.00.

- **Quality Council Scheme:-** Councillor Garner reported that the scheme had been revised and was now supported by the Parish Councils' Association. Applying for accreditation would involve additional work, but most of the requirements were already met by the Council, although more documents would have to be made available on the Parish Council Website.

Mrs Heelis indicated that she felt that the website would require some restructuring to enable documents to be located easily and there was also a registration fee and an accreditation fee to be paid. It was noted that there was no monetary benefits from receiving an Award.

It was agreed to defer submission of an application for Quality Status for consideration at a later date.

- **Request for funding:- Girlguiding:-** A funding application had been received from Eccleshall District Rangers. Two Rangers had been selected to represent their District, Division and Girlguiding Staffordshire at an International Scout and Guide Jamboree in New Jersey in August and a further five Rangers had been selected to work on a community project in Italy In July. The girls were required to raise funds towards their expenses, air fares and accommodation.

A grant of £200 was agreed towards the trips from the remaining precept earmarked for grants.

- **National Living Wage:-** Mrs Heelis referred to the introduction of the National Living Wage from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 which would compulsorily replace the National Minimum Wage for people over 25 years of age. The Council agreed that the remuneration of the Handyman and his assistant should be increased accordingly from £6.70 - £7.20 per hour.

The next meeting was arranged for June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm.

The minutes of the Committee were accepted by the Council.

**Footpaths Committee:-** Councillor Mullee reported that the next meeting would be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6.30pm.

Mrs Heelis reported that one dozen steppers and six Rights of Way posts had been ordered for delivery to the store at Sugnall Hall and Mr Smith was working his way through the items that had been reported.

Councillor Delanchy indicated that he had received a report of an issue on the Public Footpath adjacent to the Vernon Yonge. Members were asked to walk the footpath to assess the problem.

**35/16). Liaison Representatives:-** There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Business Group, Community Centre, or Offley Hay Village Hall.

**Ecclian Society:-** Councillor Jones reported on various activities including a dinner at The Old Smithy and meetings of the walking and lunch groups. The next committee meetings were scheduled for early April to finalise arrangements for planting, festival activities, tool stall and open gardens.

**Tourism Bureau:-** Councillor Jones reported that he would be attending the AGM of the Bureau next week.

**Festival:-** Councillor Jones reported that 45 stalls had been booked to date and Holy Trinity Church was involved organising the scarecrow festival and musical events.

**Slindon Residents:-** Councillor Leather indicated that the residents were awaiting feedback from the review of the A519 through the village.

**36/16). New Developments:-**

**Gateway feature by the new roundabout A5013:-** Councillor Pimble reported that at the meeting held with representatives from Bovis on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Company had indicated a willingness to fund a feature, possibly through a Section 106 agreement. Mrs Heelis had written Mr Holmes, Development Control Manager, Stafford Borough Council to ascertain whether such an agreement could be part of the Planning Approval.

Councillors Pimble and Baskerville, Mrs Baskerville and the Clerk had visited a sculptor in Bridgnorth to view a sculpture of an Eagle and had been very impressed with the quality and workmanship.

It was noted that a design would have to be decided upon very soon. Alternative suggestions put forward included a Bishops Mitre, a Horse and a coach and horses

However, it was thought that the feature would need to have specific characteristics:-

- At least 4m in height
- Be in an elevated position so as not to obstruct visibility
- Be a 3D design as opposed to flat and striking from all sides

Some members did not agree with the idea of an Eagle and Councillor Baskerville suggested that any Councillor with alternative ideas should contact the Clerk within a week with details.

Councillor Mullee asked whether the management company appointed by Bovis to maintain the open space around the site could also be employed to maintain a floral display in the centre of the roundabout. It was agreed that this proposal could be raised with Bovis but would have health and safety implications, whereas the proposed Eagle would not present any maintenance issues.

After some discussion Councillor Delanchy proposed that a sketch of an Eagle was prepared to enable a cost to be obtained, this could then be presented to Bovis. Councillor Garner seconded the proposal and the motion was passed with Councillors Mullee, Jacques, Taylor-Potts and Leather voting against the proposal.

**Street names:-** Mrs Heelis reported that names with a bird theme and a coaching theme had been submitted to Bovis. The Borough Council had agreed to names with a coaching theme as opposed to those of rare breed sheep which the Borough had initially suggested.

Road 1 - Wheelwright Drive  
Road 2 - Farrier Gardens  
Road 3 - Cartwright Walk  
Road 4 - Blacksmith Close  
Road 5 - Saddler Grove  
Road 6 - Stagecoach Way

Other suggestions for names of Bishops and former Headteachers would be retained for submission for the developments off Shaws Lane and Cross Butts.

**Transfer of open space – Badgers Croft:-** Mrs Heelis reported that the documents to transfer the land to Bovis Homes had been signed by the Chairman and herself.

**Taylor-Wimpey:-** Following a request from representatives of Taylor Wimpey for a further meeting, Councillors Pimble, Delanchy and the Clerk were authorised to meet the Officers on Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>. 2016 to discuss what amendments could be made to the site layout and drainage details in order to overcome the objections of the Parish Council. Councillor Pimble indicated that he was hopeful that comments made by the Parish Council would be taken on board and acted upon.

**37/16). Neighbourhood Plan:-** Mr Yendole, Forward Planning Officer, had been in contact with the Clerk and was in the process of preparing the documents for consultation. These would be available at Eccleshall Library and Croxton Garage as well as on the Borough Council website. Mrs Heelis would be sent a link to the relevant page for inclusion on the Parish Council website. The referendum was expected to take place on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the same day as the election for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**38/16). Parish Council Newsletter:-** It was noted that Ms Lees the post lady at Croxton had retired leaving an issue with the delivery of the newsletters in the Croxton area. Councillor Langford suggested that the Clerk contacted Mrs Roe who organised delivery of a quarterly magazine to local residents to enquire whether the delivery team would be willing to deliver the Parish Council newsletter at the same time. It was agreed that the number of newsletters be reduced to two per year for a trial period – one in June and the other December. Alternative ways of circulating the document were discussed including Facebook, and email.

**39/16). Clerk's report and correspondence:- Mrs Heelis reported the following:-**

- Unfortunately, Mr George from Gist had been unable to attend the meeting tonight but hoped to come to a future meeting.
- The damaged railings had been removed and replacement railings were being manufactured by Partumis Metal of Rugeley.

- A litter pick organised by Councillor Davies on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as part of the Clean for the Queen campaign had disappointingly only been attended by three people – Councillors Davies and Pimble and Ms V. Ingamells.
- Mr Jones from Severn Trent was to hold a public information session on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 in Eccleshall Library. Accompanied by Councillor Pimble he would visit businesses in the town from 10am followed by the session in the library from 11am. Mrs Heelis was arranging publicity for the event in the hope that residents and property owners would come forward with flooding issues.

**40/16). Chairman's Report:-** There was no report to receive.

**41/16). Accounts:-** Mrs Heelis reported the following accounts paid since the last meeting:-

SPCA Training LGA 1972 s.111	£20.00
Charles Heath repairs to bus shelters - Parish Councils Act 1957 s.1	£280.00
Partumis Metal Replacement railings (Insurance claim)	£1,985.38

It was noted that £1554.00 had been received from Zurich in respect of the damaged railings together with a VAT refund amounting to £1761.40.

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following:-

Salaries and associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	2336.94
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	75.13
Creative Copy 'n' Colour – Newsletters – LGA 1972 s.142	258.00
Chairman's Allowance 2015/16 - LGA 1972 ss. 15 (5)	185.00
Travel outside the Parish Cllr Baskerville - LGA 1972 s.111	41.00
3rd Eccleshall Guides – LGA S. 137	200.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

Mrs Heelis was authorised to pay invoices presented before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

**42/16). Items /date and venue for the next meeting:-** April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Broughton Parish Rooms, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.