

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

March 18th, 2015

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on March 18th, 2015 at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm.

26/15). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor D. Jacques
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor M Starkey
Councillor G. Garner	Councillor M. Dodkins
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor P. Jones
Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor R. Langford
Councillor E. Amos	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)
8 members of the public	Ms E. Crout – SBC Streetscene
Borough / County Councillor Chapman	Borough Councillor J. Pert.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Taylor-Potts and Serjeant.

27/15). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- There were no requests to receive.

28/15). Emma Crout – SBC Streetscene:- Emma introduced herself as the Business Development Officer with Stafford Borough Council and outlined the services available through the Borough Council for local communities, including:-

- Horticulture – including the provision of plants and hanging baskets.
- Arboriculture
- Grounds Maintenance
- Cleansing – including the removal of dog fouling.

Councillors referred to issues with dog fouling, especially on Stone Road, High Street and Newport Road. Emma indicated that she would relay this information to the enforcement officer and request new signage. Any information which could help to identify offenders was welcomed.

Councillor Langford requested a visit of the road sweeper to ensure that Back Lane in Croxton was cleaned before the Well Dressing on July 4th, 2015.

Councillors queried the arrangements for weed killing especially on the High Street and Stafford Street. Emma indicated that some areas were the responsibility of the Borough Council, others the County Council.

Emma was thanked for attending the meeting.

29/15). Public Participation:- Mr Ranson queried why there was a 0.04p increase on the Rate Bill attributed to Eccleshall Parish Council when it had been stated that the precept levied was the same as for 2014/15? The Clerk confirmed that the Precept requested remained unchanged and that the discrepancy was due to a slight change in the level of the Local Council Tax Support Government Grant.

30/15). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 18th, 2015:- The minutes had been circulated together with the agendas for the meeting. Councillor Starkey referred to the report from the Allotments Association and indicated that the plots which had flooded were numbers 63 and 64 and not 16 and 24 as recorded in the minutes. The Clerk made the necessary amendments and the minutes were agreed and signed.

31/15). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

Councillor F. Chapman:- Councillor Chapman reported that he had made representations about the proposed new access to Raleigh Hall off the A519 and the target date for the hearing of the application was May1st, 2015. Councillor Pimble referred to a Road Safety Audit, which had been submitted on the last day of the consultation period. The Audit raised grave concerns about numerous issues including lighting and speed restrictions which would surely negate the application? Councillor Chapman indicated that he would no longer be a Borough Councillor after the elections in May and deferred the matter to Councillor Pert.

It was understood that the reconstruction and resurfacing of the A519 through Eccleshall was imminent and Councillor Chapman indicated that he continued to express concerns to Severn Trent and the County Highways about the drainage and a lack of capacity for sewage.

The Fire Service was currently consulting on proposed operational changes and a public consultation session would be held at the Gatehouse Theatre on March 30th, 2015 at 6pm.

Councillor Chapman referred to the announcement by the Chairman at the last meeting that he intended to retire at the forthcoming elections and thanked Councillor Dale for his positive leadership. An article in the Sunday Times had listed Eccleshall in the top 50 most desirable places to live in the Country and Councillor Chapman indicated that the Chairman had raised the profile of Eccleshall during his years on the Council.

Councillor J. Pert:- Councillor Pert expressed disappointment at the closure of the NatWest Bank despite concerted efforts by many people to retain the branch in the town. Councillor Pert indicated that he would follow up the commitment to provide a mobile banking facility and also retain the cash machine, which had been out of use since the closure of the branch.

It was noted that Councillor Pert was aware of the Road Safety Audit concerning the Raleigh Hall access application and he indicated that the Borough Council would continue to accept additional comments submitted prior to the hearing. Councillor Pert intended to meet with the applicant to discuss alternatives and also the anticipated level of traffic.

Councillor P. Jones:- Reported that he was liaising with an Officer at the Borough Council regarding dog fouling issues in Eccleshall and was working with the Clerk to produce leaflets and posters to promote the importance of maintaining a litter free and clean town. The project had been funded by a grant from the Local Community Fund.

32/15). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- There was no report to receive.

Enhancements Committee:-

- **Fire Tender:-** Councillor Dale reported that a quotation of £495.00 had been obtained from Shelley Signs for a flat internal sign with aluminium feet, which would be easy to move and re-position. All text and images were to be provided by the Council. It was resolved to collate the necessary information and place an order with Shelley Signs.
- **Tree Bishops Court:-** Rob Keysor had been requested to survey a tree on Bishops Court open space adjacent to the access through to Market Fields. The householder at 10, Bishops Court had requested that the tree was reduced in size. It was proposed to reduce that side of the crown by 2 – 3m to clear the property and lift the crown over the footway, a quotation had been requested.
- **Eyeswell Footpath:-** The brash had been removed. Mrs Heelis had been contacted by a resident of an adjoining property who had requested the removal or pruning of a tree against the boundary. Councillor Dale agreed to visit the site and assess the situation.

The next meeting of the Enhancements Committee would be held on April 1st, 2015 , following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee:- There was no report to receive. Mrs Heelis indicated that a meeting had been arranged for May 6th, 2015 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- There was no report to receive.

33/15). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Ecclian Society, Tourism Bureau, Young People or Bishop Lonsdale School.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Dodkins reported that a medical company had booked the venue for a further week.

Community Centre Association:- Councillor Dale reported that a dance held on Saturday had been very successful and six afternoon tea dances had been booked throughout 2015.

34/15). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

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

Neighbourhood Highways Team:- The next visit was due on June 5th – 11th, 2015. It was agreed to request that posts be installed on the grass verge at Croxton opposite the Well to prevent vehicular access. Mrs Heelis was asked to write to Mr Griffiths, the local farmer, to advise him of this proposal and seek his cooperation to ensure that the area remained attractive and could be easily maintained. Members with any additional tasks for the team were asked to advise the Clerk.

Rotary Club:- The Rotary Club of Eccleshall Mercia had requested permission to use the crest and the emblem from the Village Sign on publicity material. There were no objections to this request providing copies of the items were made available to the Council prior to general display.

Defibrillator:- Mrs Heelis advised that the telephone kiosk at Slindon had been decommissioned and Mr Watson was enquiring with BT as to whether it could be purchased to locate a defibrillator. Following the installation of a defibrillator at the Community Centre an awareness/training session was to be held on April 10th, 2015.

Bus Stop Green Lane:- Following the last Council meeting Mrs Heelis had contacted the County Council regarding the issue of restricted visibility when the 23 bus was stationary at the stop on Green Lane. The bus company indicated that a site visit had been carried out to observe traffic flows on February 27th, 2015 between 10.25am and 11.10am. During the 45 minutes only 1 vehicle exited from Greenway and 1 entered. It was stated that with the bus at the stop there was a good view of traffic coming up behind it. The resident had contacted Councillor Garner to indicate that she did not concur with the survey, feeling that the traffic at the time the survey was carried out was not typical. Councillor Chapman offered to take the matter up and asked for the relevant information to be forwarded to him.

35/15). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale had nothing to report.

36/15). Accounts:- It was noted that the following accounts had been paid since the last meeting:-

Creative Copy 'n' Colour - Newsletters - LGA 1972 s.142	258.00
Pictorial Meadows - Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10	59.33

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries and associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	2506.71
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	87.81
Peter Eaton - refurbish sign metalwork and post - Parish Council Act 1957 s.2	80.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

Mrs Heelis was authorised to pay any accounts received before March 31st, 2015 in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

37/15). Neighbourhood Plan:- Councillor Pimble reported that 28 responses had been received during the public consultation period. A meeting had been held subsequently with Raj Bains and Alex Yendole, from Stafford Borough Council to discuss proposed modifications to the Plan. It was further noted that Gladman had submitted a detailed response and forwarded a proposal for a development of 150 homes off Shaws Lane. The steering group was to meet on March 19th, 2015 to discuss the responses received and a report would be issued in due course detailing comments and indicating whether or not the Plan would be amended in each case.

38/15). Date and venue for next meeting:- April 15th, 2015, Broughton Parish Rooms 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.