

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

March 21st, 2012

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on March 21st, 2012, at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm, this meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

25/12). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor D. Pimble
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor D. Jacques	Councillor B. Apps
Councillor G. Garner	Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor L. Serjeant
Councillor L. von Elbing	Councillor P. Jones
Borough Councillor J. Pert	Borough Councillor F. Chapman
2 members of the public	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)

The meeting opened with prayers

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Dodkins and County Councillor H. Butter.

26/12). Public Participation:- Mrs C. Stuart raised concerns about trees overhanging the pavement at 28, Gaol Butts, causing pedestrians to walk in the road. It was agreed to advise the Highways Department of this matter. Mrs Stuart also asked if it would be appropriate to send a letter of congratulations to Eccleshall Eagles on the securing of funding for the sport pitches on Swynnerton Road. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr J. Busfield, the Chairman.

27/12). To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on February 15th, 2012:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

28/12). Reports from Borough Councillors:-

Councillor Chapman:-

- The application for a wind turbine at Hilcote had been called in and both the Parish Council and The Prison Authority had requested a site specific noise report.
- Thieves were loosening manhole covers in readiness to remove them and Councillors were warned to be vigilant
- Network Rail was consulting on a minor amendment to the proposed alignment of the B5026 at Norton Bridge.

Councillor Pert:-

- Grants were available from the Borough Council towards Jubilee projects. The funding was for capital works only and the scheme was being administered by the Staffordshire Environmental Fund.
- Funding of £25,000 had been awarded to Stafford Borough Council to provide a sports, Olympic and Jubilee legacy.
- The mobile skate park would visit Eccleshall in the summer possibly on the school premises.
- Students from Finland were due to visit the area in August as part of the exchange arranged in 2011.
- £50,000 grant had been awarded to Eccleshall Eagles Football Club from the Lottery towards the purchase and delivery of three full sized football pitches.

Councillor Chapman proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Pert for his championship of the young people of Eccleshall Parish.

Councillor Jones:-

- The Standards Board would be disbanded in June and the Borough Council was preparing an alternative scheme for implementation. Codes of Conduct and Registers of Interest would be required to be displayed on Council web Sites. Details would be forwarded to Parishes in due course.

- The Borough Council did not currently have a policy on wind turbines but officers were considering the matter and it was noted that the County Council already had a policy in place.
- Doorstep collections of small electrical items were to be started in addition to the usual weekly recycling / waste collection scheme.

29/12). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee – The next meeting was scheduled for May 2nd, 2012 following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale referred to the minutes of the meeting held on February 22nd, 2012, which had been previously circulated.

- **Picnic Site** – Councillor Dale indicated that he would try and clean the plaque on the boulder on the picnic site, which was partially illegible due to lichen and oxidation of the metal. Councillor Mullee reported that he had recently witnessed youths urinating on the boulder.
- **Croxton Play Area:-** The annual inspection and risk assessment had been undertaken by Wicksteed and no items of note were reported.
- **Benches:-** Thanks were expressed to Councillor Mullee for collecting two benches from Riverway in Stafford and storing them. One of the benches would be located on the south side of the Churchfield Road / Gaol Butts junction, subject to obtaining agreement from the Highways Department.
- **Condition surveys of assets and schedule of works:-** Copies of the details had been circulated and most of the issues involved refurbishment or cleaning of seats. The seat at Byanna had become detached from the foundation bolts and the rear foot bolt on the seat at Copmere was loose. Mr Sheard was to be asked to undertake repairs if possible.
- **Pillar Clock:** Advice was being sought about painting the clock and the work would be undertaken in 2012. Mrs Heelis reported that E-On had agreed to replace bulbs in the clock face.
- **Notice Board, Eccleshall Library:-** Mrs Heelis reported that the glass in the notice board outside the library had been smashed. Mr M. Pimble had removed the glass for safety purposes. It was agreed that shatterproof material should be used to re-glaze the board and Mrs Heelis would arrange for repairs to be undertaken.
- **Planning Committee meeting June 6th, 2012:-** Mrs Heelis had requested the meeting scheduled for June 6th, 2012 to be brought forward to May 30th, 2012. The Council was in agreement.

The next meeting of the Enhancements Committee was arranged for May 30th, 2012 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting was scheduled for April 4th, 2012 following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- Members had been invited by the Staffordshire Nature Conservation Trust to the opening of a new system of permissive footpaths on April 3rd, 2012 at 10am at the Sugnall Estate and the launch of a new leaflet on Jackson's Coppice and The Marsh.

Community Paths Initiative:- Mrs Heelis indicated that the deadline for the submission of bids for funding in 2012/13 was April 1st, 2012 and members were asked to identify potential schemes. Funding of £400 had been received from the Rights of Way towards the revised footpaths leaflets, which were currently being printed.

30/12). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from The Allotments Association, Offley Hay Village Hall, Bishop Lonsdale School or Communities Mean Business.

- **Ecclian Society:-** Councillor Jones reported on the activities of the Society.
- **Tourism Bureau:-** Councillor Jones reported that the next meeting would be held at 2.30pm on April 23rd, 2012 at The Royal Oak in Eccleshall and Councillors were welcome. The Bureau was launching a new web site to publicise events.
- **Community Centre:-** Councillor Dale reported that £30,000 of improvements were underway including double glazing to the front of the building and new curtains in the main hall. A new ceiling was being installed in the verandah and the toilets were being re-fitted. The garden in front of conservatory was to be landscaped.

- **Business Focus Group:-** Councillor Jones reported that Mr T. Hulse was now the Chairman of the Group. A meeting had been held regarding Crime Prevention and the traders were considering a suggestion to introduce a radio connection to help prevent fraud.
- **First Responders:-** Councillor Jacques indicated that the new car was now in service and thanks were extended to local residents, groups and businesses for their continued support.
- **Festival 2012:-** Councillor Jones reported that bookings were being taken for stalls at the festival.
- **Croxton Well Dressing:-** Councillor Apps reported on a meeting held on Monday March 19th, 2012 at St. Paul's Church Croxton. Broughton W.I had successfully obtained funding for a well dressing, the restoration of several historic wells and the creation of a heritage cycling / walking trail, which would be launched on July 7th, 2012. Councillor welcomed this initiative to preserve local history.
- **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations:-** Councillor Jones reported that the County Highways had refused permission for a closure of the High Street on June 3rd for a street party planned by local residents.
- **Young People:-** Councillor Dodkins had notified the Clerk that the young people had formed a committee and money for a Youth Worker was being provided by Communities Mean Business.
- **Community Garden Project:-** Help was sought with the design and creation of a community garden situated at the rear of Eccleshall Library. The young people were undertaking the project to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Eccleshall Library. A design session was planned for March 30th, at the library from 7 – 9pm and working parties would take place on April 3rd, 5th, 10th and 12th, when volunteers were invited to help.
- **Us2 Youth Strategy:-** A strategy was available providing guidance written by young people on how to involve children and young people in decision making in rural communities. Jessica Wilkes-Mellor indicated that's the project would end on March 31st and thanked the Councillors for their help and support over the last two years.

31/12). Housing Needs Survey:- Copies of the questionnaire proposed by Housing Plus had been circulated to members for comments. The Council agreed to the questionnaire being distributed with the addition of several minor amendments.

32/12). Neighbourhood Planning:- It was noted that eleven Parish Councils in East Staffordshire who had applied for funding from the Front Runners Scheme through East Staffordshire District Council had all been successful. In comparison Stafford Borough Council had refused to support Parish Councils' in the Neighbourhood Planning Process. The Royal Institute of British Architects had indicated that there may be other opportunities to apply for funding towards the development of Neighbourhood Plans in the future, although the format of the process and the criteria had yet to be established.

33/12). June Newsletter:- Councillor Dale reported that the special commemorative edition of the June Newsletter for the Queen's Jubilee was being compiled. Quotations had been obtained from Creative Copy 'n' Colour for 2500 copies of a 20 page booklet of £1988 and for a 24 page booklet of £2250. Funding sources were being investigated.

34/12). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:-

Eccleshall Community Centre:- The Clerk reported that emergency repairs had been undertaken to the flat roof over the Jubilee Room which was leaking, at a cost of £5,280. The Parish Council as owner of the building was asked to contribute towards these essential repairs as the Association was already in the process of undertaking improvements to the Centre with funds from reserves and other bodies. Councillor Dale declared an interest in this matter.

Councillor Pimble proposed that the Parish Council paid the full amount of the works. However, Councillor Delanchy proposed that the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and the Council resolved to accept the amended proposal.

Standing Orders:- Mr Ranson had requested the Policy and Resources Committee to review the decision not to make the Standing Orders available on the Parish Council Website.

Neighbourhood Highway Team:- The Clerk had received a list of the tasks addressed by the Neighbourhood Highway Team during the last visit. With the exception of clearing the pavement on Castle Street, painting the railings over the River Sow at Byanna and re-cutting grips and road gulleys all the tasks identified had been completed.

Parish Forum:- It was noted that the Parish Forum would be held on September 27th, 2012 and details of issues for discussion were requested.

Annual Parish Meeting:- The Clerk requested the submission of reports from Committee Chairman. The speaker at the meeting would be Mr P. Thurlow-Craig from the Stafford Borough Council Crime Prevention Panel.

35/12). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that the Civic Service in 2012 would be held on October 21st, at St. Chad's Church, Slindon.

36/12). Accounts:- Details of the accounts had been circulated. It was noted that £400 had received from the County Council towards the Footpath Leaflets and an invoice to Japhlin had been authorised at the Planning Committee Meeting.

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2196.36
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	85.80
Wicksteed Leisure - <i>Public Health Act 1875 s.164</i>	85.20
Creative Copy 'n' Colour March newsletters - <i>LGA 1972 s.142</i>	258.00
E-on Street lighting & maintenance – <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3</i>	13.55

The Clerk was authorised to settle any invoices received before March 31st, 2012 in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

37/12). Items/Date and Venue for next Meeting:- April 18th, 2012, Broughton Parish Rooms 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.