

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

November 16th, 2016

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on November 16th, 2016, at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm, this meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

- 136/16). Present were:-**
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| Councillor G. Garner (Chairman) | Councillor P. Jones |
| Councillor P. Baskerville | Councillor B. Delanchy |
| Councillor M. Starkey | Councillor J. Leather. |
| Councillor R. Langford | Councillor T. Price |
| Councillor E. Amos | Councillor D. Jacques |
| Councillor A. Le Monnier | Borough Councillor J. Pert. |
| Mr P. Alcock | 2 members of the public |
| Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk) | Mr A. Jones – Severn Trent |

The meeting opened with prayers.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mullee, Marshall and County Councillor F. Chapman

- 137/16). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** No requests had been received.
- 138/16). Vacancy - Eccleshall Ward:-** There was only 1 candidate for the vacancy and Mr P. Alcock was duly co-opted and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.
- 139/16). Public Participation:-** Mr Archer referred to an article in the Staffordshire Newsletter in September, which indicated that Severn Trent stated there had been no reports of flooding in the area. Mr Archer indicated that the foul and surface water drainage system is the responsibility of Severn Trent and separate from the Highway drains. During heavy rainfall in Eccleshall the foul and surface water combine and the drains at the junction of Churchfield Road / Gaol Butts and on Stafford Street overflow.
- Mr Archer believed that the creation of a modelling system to ascertain whether the existing drains can cope during extreme weather conditions is futile unless the source of the resulting large volume of surface water could be identified. The sewerage works is unable to cope with current levels and the under capacity could lead to the discharge of untreated waste into the River Sow.
- 140/16). Flooding Issues – Mr A. Jones, Severn Trent:-** Mr Jones responded that there were some discrepancies in the article in the Newsletter, which had been badly worded and Severn Trent was aware of highway flooding in Eccleshall from surface water.

Although Mr Jones was aware of the highways flooding which had occurred this was considered low risk and there was insufficient evidence of affected properties to require the creation of a flood mitigation scheme.

Mr Jones indicated that his role was to assess and resolve problems and structural defects in the system and hydraulic issues affecting capacity. Reported issues were risk assessed on various criteria – including how many properties were affected, together with the extent and frequency of flooding. Highway flooding was not a high priority for Severn Trent and properties would always be protected in the first instance.

The Parish Council had encouraged residents to report flooding incidents and two public meetings had been held at Eccleshall Library. Residents and property owners were given the opportunity to submit evidence of flooding retrospectively and Mr Jones gave assurances that any information would not be forwarded to insurance companies.

Mr Jones had agreed to visit with a camera crew and carry out investigations, but this would highlight defects (collapses / blockages) in the system and not hydraulic issues. There was no evidence of CCTV work being undertaken prior to the resurfacing of Stafford Street / Castle Street. Modelling was based on the existing situation and was not a projection of how additional developments would affect the capacity of the system. Mr Jones agreed to investigate the new

developments and the drainage plans on the Taylor Wimpey site and come back to the Parish Council with any information early in the new year. The purpose of modelling was to assess the effects of the flow to inform the development of new schemes.

Severn Trent is not a statutory consultee for planning applications and the lead flood authority being Staffordshire County Council. The Risk Matrix was based on properties at risk of flooding and as far as Severn Trent was aware there were no properties at risk in Eccleshall, other areas with greater evidence of flooding to properties would take priority.

Mr Jones indicated that The National Flood Forum was available to support communities and consider solutions to issues. It was proposed to ask a contact from the Forum to get in touch with Mr Archer with a view to setting up a community action group and involving the Highways and representatives of other agencies with a view to assessing and evidencing risk to property.

Councillor Garner thanked Mr Jones for attending the meeting.

141/16). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on October 19th, 2016:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

142/16). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

- Councillor Pert reported that he had no update to report on discussions with Bovis about concerns raised by residents regarding levels of the land to the rear of their properties. Councillor Pert offered to try to arrange a meeting with Bovis to consider this and also the roundabout feature.
- Small grants were available from the Borough Council for voluntary groups and applications were encouraged.
- Details emerging of the proposals for HS2 would bring economic development and prosperity to Stafford. Councillor Pert remained hopeful that an access to the M6 would be developed as part of the scheme.
- Concerns raised by local residents regarding the numbers of HGV's using unsuitable country lanes, had been passed to the Clerk and it was hoped that the Traffic Management Committee would pursue the problems with the Highways Authority.
- Members were encouraged to engage in ongoing consultations about sustainable Transformation Plans to reshape public health services.
- Councillor Jones reported that Dr Carr had enquired how many new homes were expected to be built in Eccleshall. Councillor Delanchy commented that this illustrated how statutory consultees were failing to consider the impact of new developments on services and service providers were not being consulted.

143/16). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor Jones reported that he and Mrs Heelis had photographed the entrances to Eccleshall and noted that some carriageways already benefitted from 30mph roundels, red tarmac and sharks teeth. The Stone, Newcastle and Chester Roads had pavements and very narrow verges, which may make gateway features problematic. Committee members were asked to send suggestions together with photographs of entrances to Croxton and Slindon to the Clerk to inform further discussion. A site visit would be arranged with Mr Rayson, to seek his advice. It was noted that the welcome sign on Newport Road was obliterated by vegetation, as were many other signs around the Parish.

The next meeting of the committee was arranged for February 1st, 2017 following a meeting with Mr Rayson on January 26th, 2017.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Baskerville commented that the Borough Council had removed the paving slabs and bushes from the open space on Hartlands Road. The next meeting of the Committee had been changed from January 4th to January 11th, 2017.

Policy and Resources:- Councillor Garner reported that at the meeting held on November 2nd, 2016 he had been re-elected as Chairman with Councillor Marshall as Vice-Chair. The committee had discussed the Clerk's resignation and a timetable to follow for an appointment of a successor. It had been agreed to form a sub-committee (Staffing Committee) of Councillors Garner, Jones and Baskerville to consider the job description, hours of work and the applicable salary scale. The matters to be considered would impact on the Councils precept for 2017/18 and additional funds may be required for a laptop/computer/printer and training.

Mrs Heelis had prepared details of the current spending of the 2016/17 precept. It was noted that most headings would be spent, although funds earmarked for Traffic Management and Projects and Enhancements remained in their entirety. The Clerk suggested that unspent funds at the year-end could be used to help fund a sculpture for the new roundabout on the A5013 or earmarked for gateway features. The committee also considered that it may be prudent to include finances for devolved functions and additional obligations, which may come to the Parish Council in the near future.

The sub-committee had already met and planned to meet again on December 6th with a view to agreeing documentation for ratification by the Policy and Resources Committee on January 4th, 2017. These documents, together with the precept recommendations would be considered by the Parish Council on January 18th, 2017.

Request for funding – Broughton WI:- The WI had applied for funding towards the purchase of an interpretation board to provide information for visitors to the area and local residents about the history, and flora to be found along the Croxton Wells Trail and the Woodland Quarter Heritage Trail. Funding of £250.00 had been awarded from the Croxton and Broughton Jubilee Fund. Details were supplied of two boards the committee recommended that a grant of £404.00 was made to the WI towards the purchase of a Prestige GRP sign and posts. The Council approved the grant unanimously.

A report had been received from the Eccleshall District Rangers on the experiences of the Rangers who had visited a Jamboree in New Jersey and participated in a community project in Italy, towards which the Parish Council had provided funding.

The report of the Policy and Resources Committee was accepted by the Council.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Baskerville stated that Mrs Carter had reported that a large branch had fallen off a tree on Footpath 11 and the area had been fenced off until the obstruction was removed. The next meeting of the Committee would be held on March 1st, 2017 at 6.30pm.

144/16). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Community Centre Association, Offley Hay Village Hall, Slindon Village Hall, Young People or Tourism Bureau,

Allotments Association:- Councillor Garner reported that although six plot holders had vacated their plots there was a waiting list and most of the plots would be reallocated. Members felt that there was a need for some smaller plots and this would be considered further. A working party was to be formed to fix a leak in the roof and then repaint the cabin in the Spring. Members were satisfied with the new gate and hazel whips and rabbit fencing were to be purchased. Many Officers had indicated that they were willing to stand again at the AGM in December. Councillor Starkey asked if any other Councillor was willing to represent the Council on the Association in place of Councillor Garner, who was now Chair of the Council and the Policy and Resources Committee. This proposal would be considered at the next meeting and any interested member was asked to contact Mrs Heelis or the Chairman.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Baskerville thanked those who had helped to remove the baskets and mangers. 42 volunteers had turned up to help making the task much easier and more enjoyable. At the AGM held on November 15th, 2016 the Officers had been re-elected. The Society had enjoyed an active and successful year with membership having risen to 202 families from the area. Projects included the purchase of planters to be located by the public conveniences. The Christmas Trees would be erected on November 27th, 2016 followed on Monday November 28th, by the switch on of the lights and a visit from Santa. Carols around the Parish Council Tree would be held on December 19th, 2016 when the Society would serve hot punch by the lych gate.

Croxton News:- The Well Dressing would take place on July 1st 2017 the theme being community emergency services. The speedwatch volunteers had undergone training and Mrs Heelis had been asked to express an interest in the adoption of telephone kiosks at Croxton and Fair oak, which were earmarked for removal by BT, as these could be utilised by the communities.

145/16). New Developments:-

- It was noted that the traffic lights on the A5013 by the new development had been removed. The Lights at the Chebsey Junction would not be removed until February 2017 at the earliest.
- The names of Bishops Overton and Bentham for the two streets on the Taylor Wimpey site had been accepted by the Borough Council and the developer.
- Councillor Pert offered to contact Bovis to arrange a meeting about the proposed sculpture on the roundabout.

146/16). Eccleshall War Memorial:-

- Councillor Garner indicated that he had been invited to Chair a meeting of a Panel convened to discuss criteria for the addition of the names of those who died, during, or as a result of the Great War. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should represent the Council at a meeting of the Panel on November 30th, 2016.
- The War Graves Commission required confirmation that the Parish Council as custodians of the War Memorial agreed to the appropriate masonry work being carried out and authorised access to the Memorial. The Clerk was asked to write indicating that the Parish Council had no objections to the work being undertaken. However, as the Memorial was situated in the Church yard, permission would have to be sought from the Diocese to allow access.
- An application was to be made to the War Graves Commission for funding to enable the masonry work to be carried out. The Parish Council reaffirmed that it was agreeable to being named as the applicant on any application for Funding or Listed Building Consent as had been resolved at the Parish Council meeting on May 18th, 2016.
- The Parish Council resolved to arrange the necessary work in order that the VAT could be reclaimed, with the proviso that the necessary funds were available before the order was placed.

147/16). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

Mrs Heelis referred to the Parish Council Newsletters for December, which were available and members were asked to collect their usual allocation for delivery.

The following matters were reported:-

- **The AGM of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association** would be held on Monday December 5th, 2016 at Staffordshire Place One, Tipping Street commencing at 6.30pm. Anyone interested in attending should contact the clerk for details.
- **Eccleshall Community Cinema:-** An email had been received from Mr K. Winstanley Secretary to Eccleshall Community Cinema, seeking support for the production of a film about Eccleshall, possibly incorporating some historic footage for showing at Festival and other events. The Parish Council agreed that the idea was of interest and worthy of pursuing.
- **Stafford Area Collaboration Group:-** The minutes of the inaugural meeting of the group had been circulated to Members. Councillors Price and Langford expressed an interest in attending the next meeting on January 19th, 2017.
- **Articulated Lorries B5026:-** An email sent to Councillor Pert by Mr Deaville expressing concern at the number of articulated lorries using the B5026 between Croxton and Loggerheads had been forwarded to the Clerk. Mr Deaville considered that the road was too narrow for these vehicles especially on the corner by Croxton Church. This matter was referred to the Traffic Management Committee for consideration.
- **Lorries using Langot Lane:-** Councillor Pert had also forwarded an email from Mr R. Gough concerning the number of lorries using Langot Lane many during the night. Mr Gough indicated that he was unsure whether the lorries were all from Swinnerton's at Doley Manor and was requesting 'Unsuitable for HGV's' signage. It was stated that the vehicles were also causing damage to the B5026 due to the tight turn into Langot Lane.

This matter was referred to the Traffic Management Committee for discussion with Mr Rayson from Staffordshire Highways.

148/16). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Garner thanked those Councillors who had attended the Civic Service at St. Peter's Church Broughton, where everyone had been made very welcome. Thanks were also expressed to those who had attended the Remembrance Day Service.

149/16). Accounts:- Mrs Heelis reported receipt of a VAT refund amounting to £739.48 and interest on the Business Reserve of £3.18.

Retrospective authorisation was granted for payment of the following account:-

Stafford Borough Council - Watering - Concurrent Allowance	5520.00
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Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - LGA 1972 s. 112	2426.80
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	30.70
Salaries & associated costs - December - LGA 1972 s. 112	2426.80
TGM Grass cutting - Open Space Act 1906 s.10	216.00
SPCA – Good Councillors Guides- LGA 1972 s.111	18.00
Creative Copy 'n' Colour – Orders of Service & Newsletters – LGA 1972 s.142	300.00
Poppy Appeal Wreath - Section 137	25.00
B.T. Telephone Bill - LGA 1972 s.111	159.35
Broughton Women's Institute – Grant LGA 1972 s. 137	404.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk was authorised to settle any invoices, which were presented before the next Council Meeting, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

150/16). Items / Date and venue for next meeting:- January 18th, 2017, Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

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