

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL – November 17th, 2010

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on November 17th, 2010 at Offley Hay Village Hall at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

118/10). Present were:-	Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chair)
	Councillor P. Delanchy	Councillor J. Allen
	Councillor E. Amos	Councillor J. Pert
	Councillor B. Apps	Councillor P. Jones
	Councillor A. Holl.	Councillor P. Allsop
	Councillor G. Garner	Councillor M. Starkey
	Mrs. C. Heelis (Clerk)	1 member of the press
	1 member of the public	Borough Councillor F. Chapman
	PCSO D. Lutwyche	

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Baskerville, von Elbing and J. Jones together with County/Borough Councillor H. Butter.

The meeting opened with prayers

119/10). Public Participation:- Councillor Pert reported that the residents of Wetwood had compiled a petition containing 172 signatures requesting a reduction in the speed limit on the B5026 at Broughton, which had been presented to Councillor H. Butter. The residents were seeking the support of the Parish Council. Mrs. Heelis was asked to acknowledge receipt of the email and letter from Mr. Hill and the matter was referred to the Traffic Management Committee for consideration.

120/10). To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on October 20th, 2010:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

121/10). Police:- PCSO Lutwyche reported on crime in the area since the October meeting, there had been 8 incidents of note. Police Officers had attended the Community Centre on several occasions when reports of rowdy behaviour had been received and there was evidence and youths using the shelter in the Pre-School play area, possibly involving smoking and the use of drugs. Members were asked to contact the Police if they recognised any of the young people involved. The Police were patrolling the area and parking in the car park during the evenings with a view to apprehending the youths. Thanks were extended to the Police for their vigilance.

122/10). Mr. M. Watson – Eccleshall First Responders:- Mr. Watson explained that the volunteers were trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service and responded to 999 calls within a 10 mile radius and had been called out 400 times during the previous twelve month period. No funding was received other than from public subscriptions / donations and fund raising events organised by the group. The Ambulance Service provided training and replenished stocks of equipment such as oxygen. Some of the volunteers were retired and were available during the day others worked and were on call in the evenings and at weekends.

The group was saving to replace the current vehicle, which was seven years old. The funding request submitted to the Parish Council was for funding towards the purchase of a new defibrillator to meet new Health Authority standards. The machine to monitor heart traces had been purchased earlier in the year from the finance allocated for the purchase of the new vehicle as it was necessary to allow the responders to continue to administer certain drugs.

It was resolved to consider the grant application further at the January meeting when the precept for 2011/12 would be determined. Mr. Watson was thanked for attending the meeting and explaining the work of the First Responders.

123/10). Reports from Borough Councillors:- Councillor Chapman reported that the County and Borough Councils had announced that there would be no increase in the amount of Council Tax levied for 2011/12. It was anticipated that Councillor P. Jones and Pert would stand as Borough Councillors at the elections in May 2011 to replace Councillors Jennings and Butter.

124/10). Committee Reports:-
Traffic Management Committee:- The next meeting would be held on February 2nd, 2011.

Councillor Garner enquired about the Parking Strategy and Customer Focus consultation documents that had been referred to at the last meeting – Mrs. Heelis replied that on further examination it was considered impractical to submit corporate responses to the documents and members were advised to consider the papers and submit individual responses.

Enhancements Committee:- It was noted that a large branch from the tree at Croxton Playing Field overhanging the road was damaged in high winds and had been removed by the Highways Authority. The Clerk had met an Officer from Streetscene on site and £250 had been quoted to raise the crown of the tree and remove several branches overhanging the road and play area. The Council agreed that this work should be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Dale reported that he had received a request from Walton Hall Special School to undertake some community work in the parish and it was suggested that the pupils could clear rubbish and brash and plant bulbs at Elford Common. Councillor Holl stated that Bishop Lonsdale School had also asked for similar work and it was agreed that maybe the groups could work together. Councillor Dale offered to liaise with Walton Hall School and Councillor Holl.

Policy and Resources Committee:- Councillor Allen referred to the minutes from the meeting held on November 3rd, 2010, which had been circulated with the agendas.

Precept:- It was reported that the Committee was proposing to levy the same amount for the precept as 2010/11 and spreadsheets itemising the current spending and proposals for the precept had been circulated. However, a decision on the amount of precept required was deferred to the January meeting when the Borough Council would have announced if the Concurrent Allowance was to be reduced or withdrawn.

Milwood Homes Fund:- A spreadsheet had been circulated illustrating the diversity of projects which had been undertaken using finance from the fund. There was £925 remaining of the £20,000 received in 2004.

Grant request – Eccleshall First Responders:- It was noted that £255 remained in the amount allocated for grants in the current financial year. It was agreed that Councillors Dale and Allen together with Mrs. Heelis would consider whether finance could be vired from underspent budget headings and report to the January Council meeting to enable a decision to be made.

Local Government Pension Scheme, Discretionary Powers:- In 1998 the Parish Council had considered its Policies as an employing authority in respect of Regulations 31, 52, 53 and 67 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997. Following the updated Regulations of 2008 the Parish Council was again required to consider whether it would wish to exercise Discretionary Powers with regard to certain Regulations.

Most of the discretionary powers would involve additional cost to the Council, in order to reimburse the Pension Fund for premature payment of benefits. The Clerk had prepared a paper proposing that Eccleshall Parish Council declined to adopt a general policy to exercise discretionary powers in relation to the awarding of additional pension, flexible retirement, increase of total membership of active members or consenting to a person's choice of early payment of pension. The Parish Council adopted the paper and the Clerk was requested to forward a copy of the Policy Statement to the County Council.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Allen reported that the three kissing gates had been installed on Footpath 3 and Mr and Mrs. Carter and Mr and Mrs. Fenton who farmed the land crossed by the route, were very pleased.

125/10). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, First Responders, Tourism Bureau, Slindon Residents or Communities Mean Business.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Jones reported on the lunch club and walking group. The Christmas trees were due for delivery on November 24th and the lights would be switched on, on December 29th at 5pm. December 20th was date for the popular Carols around the Parish Council Christmas Tree and the Ecclian Society would serve hot punch at the lych gate. The trees would be removed and recycled on January 9th, 2011. Mrs. Fox had been appointed as the Ecclian Society Secretary.

Farmers' Market:- Councillor Allsop reported that the next market would be held on November 27th when there would be display of Birds of Prey. The December market would be held on the 18th.

Business Focus Group:- Councillor Jones reported that 30 businesses and shops in the town would be open for late night shopping on November 25th until 8pm. The Stone Band would be outside the Library with pupils from Bishop Lonsdale School singing in the Katherine House Hospice Shop. Members were asked to vote for Eccleshall to have superfast Broadband.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that another window had been broken at the Centre and sought authorisation from the Council for the installation of double glazing on the front of the building. The double glazing would reduce energy costs and instances of broken windows as well as minimising noise disturbance for local residents. Grants were being applied for towards the cost of the project and Councillor Dale, who had declared an interest in this item, was asked to write to confirm the details of the project in writing to the Parish Council. Mrs. Heelis was authorised to write a letter of support if required.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Pert indicated that a full report from Ofsted was expected shortly. An open morning held recently had been attended by 60 visitors and so far 24 pupils were registered for next years' reception class.

Councillors were invited to an open morning to meet the new Head Teacher and it was agreed to visit on Monday December 6th at 9.45am for approximately one hour. Eight Councillors expressed an interest in attending the session and the Clerk was asked to write and confirm the visit.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Following the resignation of Councillor Allsop, Councillors von Elbing and Holl were appointed to represent the Parish Council on the Committee.

Young People:- Councillor Holl reported that Jessica Wilkes-Mellor had asked for suggestions of jobs in the community, which could be undertaken by a small group of youngsters.

126/10). Clerks Report and Correspondence:- The following invitations had been received:-

- o Gala Performance of Mother Goose December 20th, 2010 7.30pm at Stafford Gatehouse.
- o Borough Council Carol Service at St. Mary's Church on December 19th at 6.30pm.

Councillor Dale was authorised to act as a referee for Eccleshall Cricket Club in an application for funding to Sport England towards a new set of covers for the wicket.

127/10). Parish Council Newsletter December 2010:- The Clerk circulated copies of the draft Newsletter for comments. Councillor Delanchy suggested that in future it may be useful to identify where the photographs were taken.

128/10). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that he had attended the Stone and Eccleshall guides AGM. Thanks were extended to members who had attended the Civic Service and the Remembrance Day Parade.

The Chairman had been invited to attend the Carol Service at Drake Hall on December 8th, 2010 and to the opening of the Pre-School play area.

Councillor Delanchy reported that he had attended the Remembrance Service at Croxton Church where the Scouts had laid wreaths.

129/10). Accounts:- The Clerk reported that since the last meeting a grant of £475.00 had been received from Stafford Borough Council towards the Christmas decorations. Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries and associated costs – November <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2180.24
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	52.53
Salaries and associated costs - December <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2180.24
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	219.73
Malcolm Gray photocopying - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	12.33
James W. Shenton Ltd. Milestones – (<i>Milwood Homes Fund</i>)	1470.40

Greenaway Timber - Kissing Gates F/p 3 (<i>Milwood Homes Fund</i>)	1222.00
Greenaway Timber - repairs to Kissing gate F/p 8 - <i>Hways Act 1980 s.143</i>	282.00
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	109.62

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk was authorised to pay invoices received between the November and January meetings, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Heelis reported that Councillor J. Jones had undertaken an internal audit of the Books and found everything to be in order.

130/10). Items / Date and venue for the next meeting:- January 19th, 2011 Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.