

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

November 18th, 2015

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

140/15). Present were:-

Councillor D. Pimble (Chairman)	Councillor G. Garner
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor C. Marshall	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor P. Jones
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor D. Dyer
Borough Councillor J. Pert	1 member of the press
3 representatives from Taylor-Wimpey	1 resident
Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)	

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Langford, Taylor-Potts, Jacques and Davies together with County Councillor Chapman.

The meeting opened with prayers

141/15). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- There were no requests to receive.

142/15). Public Participation:- Mr Mike Tweed, Chairman of Slindon Village Hall Charity Committee (Traffic Sub-Committee), presented a detailed ring bound proposal for a reduction to the speed limit through Slindon. The document has been sent to the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council as well as County Councillors and Officers. The document put forward evidence to support a request for a reduction in the road speed limit to 30mph and other traffic calming measures. HGV speed limits on single carriageway roads had recently been increased from 40mph to 50mph. Local Authorities were being urged to use their powers to reduce the speed limit to 30 or 40mph in areas where the new 50mph HGV limit was considered unacceptable due to vulnerable road users and settlements.

Mr Tweed sought the support of the Parish Council for these proposals and asked that the matter was considered at the next Traffic Management Meeting on February 3rd, 2016.

142/15). Taylor-Wimpey – Development off Shaw’s Lane:- Mr R. Perrins and colleagues had attended the meeting to bring the members of the Council up to date with progress on the site. Matters, raised at the Parish Council meeting on September 23rd, 2015 had been addressed. Discussions regarding the play equipment and open space had been held with Councillor Pert and the Borough Council, consultation with local schools had been suggested to identify what equipment the young people would prefer. Following consultation undertaken by the Parish Council with residents of St. Chad’s Road it was considered that an access to St. Chad’s Road may be beneficial and Mr Perrins confirmed that the access would be pedestrian only.

Copies of the latest plans were available and Mr Perrins indicated that contracts had now been exchanged and the planning application would be submitted shortly.

Other issues discussed included the following:-

- The proposed play equipment would cater for the 8 – 12 year olds with some items of equipment suitable for younger / older children.
- A footpath was proposed through to Public Footpath 13 (Shaw’s Lane to The Washpits).
- A pedestrian link could be included to the car park at the rear of the Community Centre subject to agreement with the Parish Council / Community Centre Association.
- The percentage of affordable homes on the site was still being discussed with the Borough Council. 30% had been approved on the outline permission but policy had now changed to include 40% affordable homes.
- It was possible that the overflow parking area to the rear of the community centre could be surfaced with tarmac as part of an agreement to allow traders working on the development

to utilise this space to park their vehicles. This would be subject to the agreement of the Parish Council and Taylor Wimpey.

- The access roundabout and improvements to the Gaol Butts / Cross Butts junction remained unchanged from the Outline Planning Permission which had been obtained. The access to the development off Shaw's Lane would be a mini roundabout, which large farm vehicles could pass over.
- Protection for the frontages of the new homes at school drop off / pick up times would be discussed with the County Highways. Possible improvements may evolve through the consultation process.

Mr Perrins stated that the company would continue to liaise with key parties and the local community throughout the construction of the development to ensure that minimum disruption was caused.

143/15). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on October 21st, 2015:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

144/15). Vacancy on the Council:- Mrs Heelis reported that an election had not been called within the specified time. The Vacancy had been advertised on notice boards throughout the Parish and an article had been included in the December Parish Council Newsletter. Anyone interested was asked to contact the Clerk and submit an application form by January 8th, 2016. Each candidate would be invited to give a short presentation to the Council at the next meeting on January 20th, 2016 and a vote would then be taken to determine the successful candidate.

145/15). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

Borough Councillor J. Pert indicated that he continued to work with the Borough Council and prospective developers to ensure that appropriate facilities were to be provided for teenagers and young people. It was critical to take the opportunity to secure facilities, which were lacking in Eccleshall and the school and youth club should be involved in the discussions.

A new Housing and Planning Bill would promote the provision of starter homes for first time buyers and developers were asked to consider the new legislation. Councillor Pert was also working to ensure that the new developments offered employment opportunities for local people and businesses as well as possible apprenticeships.

Councillor Chapman had requested that the following items were reported:-

- The 'Pride in Eccleshall' initiative was to be re-launched. Letters would be delivered to businesses and householders.
- Flooding in Castle Street / Stafford Street recently was under investigation as was the design of the new roundabout on Stafford Road.
- A site visit was to be held on Friday November 20th, 2015 to consider the request for bus stops on Newport Road near to the junction with Green Lane / Cross Butts. Councillor Amos had agreed to attend this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

Borough Councillor Jones reported that many local groups had been invited to visit the Mayor's Parlour and so far in his mayoral year he and Joy had attended 200 events.

146/15). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- The next meeting of the Committee would be held on February 3rd, 2016 following the meeting of the Planning Committee. It was noted that road works were being undertaken between Sytch Lane and Rock Lane in Slindon and a temporary 30mph limit was in operation. The works at the Norton Bridge railway junction had been delayed due to bad weather the B5026 was now expected to re-open in early December.

Enhancements Committee:- A report from the last meeting of the committee had been presented at the Parish Council Meeting on October 21st, 2015 and details were included in the minutes. The next meeting of the Committee would be held on January 6th, 2016, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting would be held on December 2nd, 2015 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Mullee reported that the committee meeting on November 4th, 2015 had been attended by representatives of the Stone Ramblers. As part of the Rambler's Association 'Big Pathwatch' members had been walking footpaths in Eccleshall Parish and some minor issues had been reported to the County Council. The Committee requested the Ramblers to report problems encountered to the Parish Clerk who would issue orders to the handyman for assessment of any necessary work to be undertaken.

A new list of Footpaths Marshalls was being compiled and several residents had expressed an interest in being involved.

The next meeting of the committee would be held on January 13th, 2016 at 6.30pm.
The minutes of the Footpaths Committee were adopted by the Council.

- 147/15). Liaison Representatives:-** There was no report to receive from Offley Hay Village Hall.
- Ecclian Society:-** Councillor Jones reported that at the AGM held on November 17th, 2015 Peter Bertram had stood down as Chairman after serving for eighteen years. The new Chairman was Mrs M. Freeman. Dates for the Christmas activities were noted including the trimming and erection of Christmas trees, arrival of Santa and the lights switch on.
- Allotments Association:-** Councillor Starkey reported on a meeting of the Association held on October 26th, 2015. There were six people on the waiting list but these could be accommodated by others giving up their plots. A skip was to be arranged in the near future and it was planned to repaint the cabin in 2016. A quote had been obtained for a new gate and fencing, although the members intended to undertake the installation work the funds were insufficient to purchase the materials and the Parish Council was to be approached for funding. A notice had been erected to deter dog walkers following a spate of dog fouling problems. New members were being sought to join the committee at the AGM on December 7th, 2015.
- Community Centre:-** Councillor Amos reported that the police had been advised that four windows had been broken recently amounting to a cost of £450 to replace. The flat roof over the store room had been repaired at a cost of £780.
- Pre-School:-** Councillor Marshall reported that although a new committee had been formed it had been determined that the Pre-School was not salvageable in its current format. It was understood that the Community Centre Association was hopeful that the Pre-School could be taken over by new management.
- Tourism Bureau:-** Councillor Jones reported that the next meeting would be held in the Mayor's Parlour.
- Business Group:-** Councillor Jones reported that the Group had been taken over by Totally Locally, as interest amongst the businesses in the town was declining. The Christmas Meeting would be held at The Old Smithy.
- Young People:-** Councillor Dyer indicated that there were in excess of 35 children regularly attending the youth club. The Clerk was asked to include an item seeking volunteers to help run the Club in the next Council Newsletter. Councillor Dyer indicated that he would be happy to assist with any consultation process arranged by developers to involve the young people.

- 148/15). New Developments:-**
- Bovis Development:-** A revised planning application had been submitted regarding the location of the two storey houses and bungalows as discussed at the Planning Committee Meeting on October 21st, 2015. The revised application would be considered at the Planning Committee meeting later in the evening.
Discussions were still ongoing regarding the design of the roundabout. Different coloured tarmac and porous anti-skid materials were considered more desirable than the modular materials initially proposed.
- J-Ross Development:-** A meeting held on November 10th, 2015 with Nick Scott from J-Ross Developments was also attended by Councillor Pimble, Bough Councillor Pert and Mrs Heelis. The following matters were discussed:-
- Relocating the affordable homes two metres further back on the site and low screen planting to benefit the existing houses on Cross Butts.
 - The proposed mix of affordable homes – rent, shared equity or starter homes.
 - Provision of off-site play facilities.

- Ownership of the original field access was to be investigated and used if appropriate.
- Improvements to the A519 / Green Lane junction, which would have to be pursued with Highways.

An amended application was to be submitted to address the issues discussed.

Taylor–Wimpey:- Councillor Pimble referred to the presentation given at the start of the meeting. The following issues were to be discussed further:-

- Permission would be required from the Community Centre Association / Parish Council for a pedestrian access to the site through the proposed play area, and;
- The use of the overflow car park area at the rear of the Community Centre for tradesman's vehicles, subject to an agreement with the developer to tarmac the area.
- The application of yellow lines to the frontages of the new homes to provide protection during school drop off pick-up times.

149/15). Neighbourhood Plan:- Further to the last meeting of the Planning Committee on November 4th, 2015 discussions had been continuing regarding the Green Space Policy in the Plan. A proposed revision to the Policy had been submitted to Stafford Borough Council and the examiner had been consulted. The examiner subsequently determined that the proposal was still unacceptable.

The land it was proposed to identify in the Plan as publicly accessible open space together with the Settlement Boundary across Site 2 was in the ownership of the Carter Family and it was proposed to arrange a meeting to discuss these issues.

Councillor Pert had arranged a meeting for Friday November 20th, 2015 with Mr J. Holmes (Head of Planning, Stafford Borough) Mr P. Holme (agent for the Carter Family) and Mr and Mrs Carter-Motley. Councillor Pimble and the Clerk were authorised to attend the meeting and report back to the Planning Committee on December 2nd, 2015.

150/15). Clerk's report and correspondence:- The clerk reported the following:-

The December newsletters were available and members were asked to collect their usual packs for distribution

C-Zero - A letter had been received from Mr S. Linford, Director of C-Zero requesting a meeting with the Neighbourhood Plan Group. Mr Linford referred to the withdrawal of the planning application for a development of custom build homes off Green Lane, outside the settlement boundary and to a Housing and Planning Bill currently progressing through Parliament, which may impose a duty on local authorities to grant planning permission for custom build housing. Mr Linford also considered that the number of one-off infill plots within the boundary would not meet the demand for custom build homes locally. Mrs Heelis was requested to reply to Mr Linford indicating the following:-

- The Neighbourhood Plan Group was no longer in existence.
- The matter had been discussed with the Local Planning Authority.
- The number of houses identified in the Plan already exceeded the number required by The Plan For Stafford Borough,
- It was not possible to predict what the Housing and Planning Bill progressing through Parliament would dictate.
- The site was outside the settlement boundary identified in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan
- The Parish Council believed that a meeting would be non-productive at this time.

Training Courses:- A training event had been organised by The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association on December 10th, 2015. It was agreed that Councillor Dyer would attend. A course on Budgets, Precepts and Annual Returns, which should have taken place on October 15th, 2015 had been cancelled. Councillors Garner, Starkey and the Clerk were authorised to attend if the event was re-arranged.

SPCA AGM:- The AGM of the Parish Councils' Association was to be held on December 7th, 2105 at Staffordshire Place commencing at 6.30pm. An address would be given by Matthew Ellis, Police and Crime Commissioner. Any councillor interested in attending should contact the Clerk.

Communications regarding the following items had been circulated:-

- The endorsement of changes to the Mobile and Travelling Library service

- **Highway Winter Operations:-** Councillor Delanchy referred to revised criteria for gritting, which could lead to only 'A' roads being treated. Parish Councils' were requested to reconsider the Ice Buster Scheme.
- **A consultation on The Future Management of Staffordshire's Countryside Parks and Green Spaces:-** Members were asked to consider this document and forward comments to the Clerk prior to the Planning Committee Meeting on January 6th, 2016. The deadline for the submission of comments was January 24th, 2016.

A email had been received from Mr D. Wright, who had previously refurbished the Milestones in the Parish. Mr Wright asked if the Parish Council would like the refurbishment to be repeated at a cost of £75 each (there were 15 milestones in the Parish). This matter was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration, meanwhile members were asked to assess the condition of milestones locally.

Allotments Association:- The Association requested financial support for fencing, posts and a replacement gate which amounted to £1,509.24. The members of the Association were willing to carry out the work to save costs. It was suggested that the VAT could be reclaimed if the Parish Council was to place the order for the required materials. This matter was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

151/15). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Pimble had nothing to report.

152/15). Accounts:- Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs – November & December <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	4673.88
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	37.81
TGM Grasscutting - <i>Open Space Act 1906 s.10</i>	205.20
Jacksons of Eccleshall - grasscutting - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s10</i>	1170.00
Poppy Appeal Wreath - <i>Section 137</i>	25.00
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	153.18
Creative Copy 'n' Colour – Newsletters – <i>LGA 1972 s.142</i>	258.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk was authorised to pay invoices received prior to the next meeting in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.

153/15). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:- January 20th, 2016, Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.