

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

November 19th, 2014

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on November 19th, 2014 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 8.50pm.

123/14). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor D. Pimble
Councillor G. Garner	Councillor M. Dodkins
Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor R. Langford	Councillor J. Allen
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor Serjeant
Councillor D. Jacques	Councillor M Starkey
County Councillor F. Chapman	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)
13 members of the public	

Apologies were received from Councillors Mullee, Taylor-Potts and Jones.

124/14). To receive Councillor Requests for dispensations:- No requests had been received.

125/14). Public Participation:- Mrs Potts from Cats Hill Cross referred to the presentation given by Raleigh Hall Properties to the Meeting of the Planning Committee on November 5th, 2014. Mrs Potts raised the following objections to the proposals:-

- The application to be submitted was only for the new access off the A519 at the Brocton Junction, however, the current junction at Byanna had a good accident history considering the volume of traffic using the A519 and the Swynnerton Road.
- The new access would be damaging to wildlife and the rural setting as well as having a detrimental impact on the local residents and peoples' enjoyment of the rural area.
- Distribution companies should be located at Prime Point where there was excellent access to Junction 14 of the M6.
- If the new access was allowed surely this would be giving implicit approval to further expansion of the Estate.

Mr J. Leather from Ankerton House, on the A519 considered that the Company had not researched alternatives to the proposed new access fully and that initially there had been a second access to the estate from the Swynnerton Road, which had been subsequently closed. Mr Leather indicated that he could not see why this access could not be reinstated as this would enable re-routing of HGV's thereby reducing the volume of traffic through Eccleshall.

The new junction would pose serious hazards for vehicles joining the traffic on the A519 due to the speed of the road and the proposals made no allowance for farm traffic and equipment. Mr Leather felt that a roundabout would be safer than the proposed 'ghost' island and also referred to flooding issues at the location of the proposed access.

Councillor Chapman commented that no formal application had yet been submitted but that any such application would be 'called in' to ensure that the Borough Council took note of all the comments submitted, It was stressed that residents should submit individual letters of objection as opposed to petitions and noted that it would be helpful if copies could be sent to the Parish Council.

Mr M. Watson (First Responder) referred to a campaign to install Community Defibrillators at appropriate locations throughout the Parish. A defibrillator had recently been installed at the Church Rooms and permission was sought to install the equipment at the Community Centre. The particular item was being donated in memory of a former First Responder. The matter was to be discussed later on the agenda. A vote of thanks was recorded to the First Responders for the excellent work they did in the area.

126/14). Presentation from Ms E. Crout, Streetscene SBC:- Ms Crout had sent apologies due to illness and indicated that she hoped to be able to attend a Council meeting in the New Year.

127/14). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-

Councillor F. Chapman:- Councillor Chapman commented that he was interested to hear residents comments regarding the volume of HGV's through Eccleshall and remained conscious of the deterioration caused to the surface of Castle Street and Stafford Street. Councillor Chapman would ensure that residents' views were taken into account with regard to the Planning Application but sadly the comments made were not substantive ground for objections. The inadequacy of the sewers would be compounded by additional development, however, Severn Trent refused to acknowledge that flooding had been an issue in the past.

Councillor Chapman commented on the hazards of walking up Stafford Road caused by the HGV's and stated that he was continuously pressing for improvements. Representations had been made to The Police and Crime Commissioner following the withdrawal of car parking facilities at the Police Post in Eccleshall.

Councillor Pimble referred to the approval of Planning Permission for the Co-op application to glaze in two of the arches at the front of the Co-op building to house the historic fire tender. Councillor Chapman considered that it may be possible to negotiate the colour of the timber as black was not felt to be appropriate.

Councillor Baskerville asked what recourse the local residents would have against the proposed new access to Raleigh Hall as this had been included in the recently Stafford Borough Local Plan. Councillors were concerned that the access amounted to urbanisation of the rural area and considered that the junction would create a dangerous situation on the A519.

Councillor Pimble stated that the Parish Council had submitted objections to the inclusion of the new access in the Stafford Borough Local Plan during the initial stages of the Plan preparation. Members considered that Raleigh Hall Properties were submitting the application for the new access in advance of applying for the site expansion to negate the need for traffic surveys to be undertaken. The recent survey data supplied by Richborough Estate had indicated that the roundabout at the junction of Stone Road and Eccleshall High Street was almost up to capacity.

Councillor Chapman indicated that he would liaise with Mr Alcock at Highways and suggest a meeting to discuss the situation with himself and Parish Councillors.

Councillor Pert indicated that he had attended the Remembrance Day Parade in Stafford and was working with SDVS and Vast to support local community groups. Councillor Pert stated that the 1200 houses required in the Key Service Villages by the Stafford Borough Local Plan was a minimum number not a maximum and stressed the importance of finalising the Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible to resist development.

128/14). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- The next meeting with Mr Mitchell had been re-arranged for January 20th, 2015 with the next meeting of the Traffic Management Committee on February 4th, 2015, following the meeting of the Planning Committee. It was agreed that issues raised recently by Councillor Langford would be added to the agenda in addition to Raleigh Hall.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported that the Planning Application submitted by the Co-op to glaze in the arches at the front of the store had been approved and work was expected to commence in the New Year. The Fire Service had indicated that they would assist with moving the tender to the new premises and a meeting was to be arranged shortly to discuss the details.

A meeting was to be held at the Eyeswells Footpath on November 26th, 2014 with a Tree Surgeon to discuss the coppicing / removal of trees.

Quotes had been sought to re-paint the Village sign and would be discussed at the meeting of the Enhancements Committee on December 3rd, 2014.

Policy and Resources:- The next meeting would be held on January 7th, 2015 when the committee would consider the Precept requirements for 2015/16.

Footpaths:- There was no report to receive, routine maintenance was being undertaken. Councillor Baskerville reported that Mr Smith may require assistance with some tasks and it was agreed to discuss this matter at a later meeting.

129/14). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Tourism Bureau or Communities Mean Business.

Allotments Association:- Councillor Garner reported on a meeting of the Association held on October 29th, 2014. The following matters were noted:-

- The comments of the Parish Council concerning the use of items of equipment had been welcomed and advice was to be sought from the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardens or the Insurance Company.
- The notification of the rent increase to be applied from April 2016 had been received and the Association had also agreed to increase membership fees by £3 per annum. There had been some discussion regarding possible Joint or Family membership.
- There were currently nine people on the waiting list for an allotment - 2 of which were out of the Parish and two were young people with families.
- Six plots were poorly maintained and it was proposed to write to the holders concerned to remind them of their obligations.
- Planned site maintenance included removal of roots to improve the drainage and painting the cabin. The Committee and an adjoining landowner were dissatisfied with hedge cutting recently undertaken (there was no issue with the hedge on Shaws Lane maintained by the Parish Council).
- The AGM of the Association was to be held on December 3rd, 2014. It was proposed to change committee meetings from Wednesdays to Mondays to avoid clashing with Parish Council meetings.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Baskerville reported the following:-

- AGM had been held on November 18th, 2014 and there had been one change to the committee members.
- The Christmas trees were to be erected on Sunday November 30th, 2014 and the lights switch on, at 5pm on Monday December 1st would be preceded by the choir from Bishop Lonsdale School performing a carol.
- The Carols around the Christmas Tree would be held on December 22nd, meeting at the cross roads at 7pm. Punch was to be served in Holy Trinity Church by the members of the Ecclian Society.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Dodkins reported that bookings remained good.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins reported that a lunch had been held on November 14th, 2014 to raise funds for Children in Need.

A Winter Wonderland disco was planned and a service would take place in Holy Trinity Church on December 17th, 2014. Councillor Dodkins indicated that her position of Governor had been withdrawn due to rules relating to Academy Status, which reduced the number of Governors required from 17 to 7. The Parish Council expressed concern that no notification of these changes had been received.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale referred to a very successful Dance held on Saturday November 15th, 2014. Seventy tickets had already been sold for the New Year's Eve Dance and a range of community dances had been arranged for 2015.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins reported that the AGM would be held on November 27th, 2014 all the young people and their parents were invited to attend. The committee remained conscious that closure of youth facilities in other areas may impact on the membership at Eccleshall and precautions were in place to restrict numbers.

130/14). Raleigh Hall Proposals:- Following the presentation by Raleigh Hall Properties Ltd and their consultant Axis, at the Planning Committee meeting held on November 5th, 2014, a statement from Councillor Pimble had been circulated. The document identified concerns about the proposed junction and suggested alternative solutions to improve access to the estate, which would negate the need for a new junction:-

- The reason given for the provision of the new junction was that it would give better access from the site onto the A519, the object being that HGV's would not have to travel south to the Byanna junction before going north. There had been two slight personal injury accidents at the junction in the last five years, which the consultant claimed, made the junction dangerous.
- The revised road layout would not be practical for the large farm machinery, which currently used Sturbridge Lane and Ankerton Lane.
- There was inadequate visibility on the A519 approaching the proposed junction and with traffic travelling at speeds in excess of 60mph members were concerned about the hazards of the proposed new junction.
- The Parish Council welcomed the fact that it was not proposed to install traffic lights or street lights at the ghost island as this would have an adverse effect on the environment.
- The proposals were to be considered separately from the proposed expansion of Raleigh Hall and the impact of any additional lorries or vehicles on Eccleshall was not a consideration.
- The meeting was told that HGV's from Stone and the east would be encouraged to use the B5026 making a right turn at the roundabout in Eccleshall. The Parish Council considered that it was unacceptable for HGV's to turn right at the mini roundabout in the centre of Eccleshall. Any new tenant could increase the number of lorries. An email subsequently received stated that HGV's would be encouraged to use the northerly route, entering the site from the Swynnerton Road.
- The meeting considered that the existing junction at Byanna was adequate and caused no problems. The road was well maintained and served other industrial properties along the road. The existing entrance could easily be improved using the wide grass verge outside to create a ghost junction, if this was deemed necessary.
- The junction at Byanna could be modified to form a roundabout, which would benefit other vehicles using the junction.

Members had received correspondence from Mr and Mrs Maddox of Ankerton Ash, expressing serious concerns about the proposed junction.

The Parish Council resolved to write to Raleigh Hall Properties detailing the major concerns and strong objections of members and local residents to the proposals

131/14). Clerks Report and Correspondence:-

Community Defibrillator:- Mr Watson had requested that a defibrillator was installed at the Community Centre. Councillor Dale reported that the Community Centre Association was in favour of the proposal and the Parish Council voted unanimously to support the request.

Best Kept Village Competition:- Mrs Heelis reported receipt of correspondence inviting entries for the 2015 competition.

Polling Stations:- The Borough Council had indicated that a site visit was to be arranged to St Chad's Church, Slindon, to ascertain if the venue would be suitable for use as a polling station,

Newsletter:- Copies of the draft Newsletter for December had been circulated. Mrs Heelis requested any comments as soon as possible.

132/14). Chairman's Report:- There was no report to receive.

133/14). Accounts:- Copies of the accounts were distributed. Retrospective authorisation was granted for the following accounts, which had been paid since the last meeting:-

E-On Street lighting & maintenance - <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3</i>	147.72
Peter Jones - webspace - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	85.68
Stafford Borough Council – Watering – <i>Concurrent Allowance</i>	5364.00
SPCA Training - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	40.00

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2619.43
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	105.02
Salaries and associated costs - <i>December - LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2268.50
Poppy Appeal Wreath - <i>Section 137</i>	25.00
Creative Copy 'n' Colour - <i>Order of Service</i>	27.00

D. Smith - Footpaths - HA 1980 s.143	31.55
Trent Grounds Maintenance - Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10	253.20
Jacksons of Eccleshall - grasscutting - Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	1032.00
Chairman's Allowance 2013/14 - LGA 1972 ss. 15 (5)	400.00
Wicksteed Playground Inspection - Public Health Act 1875 s.164	54.00
N&J Tree Services Inspect tree Bishops Ct - Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10	234.00
B.T. Telephone Bill - LGA 1972 s.111	127.03
Annual subscription - CPRE - s.137	50.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

134/14). Neighbourhood Plan:- Copies of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan had been circulated. It was proposed to send a copy to every household in the ST21 6 postcode area using Royal Mail the first week in January 2015. There would be a six week consultation period and a public meeting was planned on January 28th. The entire document, including aspirations and site surveys would be available in Eccleshall Library and on the Parish Council website. Councillor Pimble reported that he and Mrs Heelis were to attend a Planning Forum at Stafford Borough Council on Thursday night and it was understood that the Eccleshall Plan was closer to completion than those of other Key Service Villages.

It was noted that the areas of open space had been removed from within the settlement boundary resulting in a more confined development area, following advice from the Borough Council. The aspirations for a country park were to be included in the supplementary documentation.

The Parish Council approved and accepted the Draft Plan.

135/14). Items/ Date and Venue for next meeting:- January 21st, 2015, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.