

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

**131/12). Present Were:-**

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble
Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor M. Starkey
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor G. Garner
Councillor M. Dodkins	Councillor D. Jacques
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor B. Apps
County Councillor H. Butter	2 members of the public
Borough Councillor J. Pert	Mrs C. Heelis – Clerk

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Amos, Mullee, Serjeant, Jones and von Elbing together with Borough Councillor Chapman.

*The meeting opened with prayers.*

**132/12). Public Participation:-** Ms E. Austin advised the meeting that the crossing patrol on Stafford Street was to be discontinued from the end of November with the lollipop man being moved to a crossing in Stone. Ms Austin, who worked in Stafford Street had noted that only a few children used the crossing in a morning but that more young people were crossed in the afternoon. Ms Austin asked if the Parish Council could make any representations to retain the patrol or for additional signage to warn motorists of the crossing.

It was agreed to raise the matter with Mr Mitchell at the next meeting and include an item in the December newsletter to advise parents that the patrol was to be withdrawn.

Ms Austin was thanked for bringing this matter to the attention of the Parish Council.

**133/12). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

**134/12). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**

Borough Councillor Pert indicated that he had nothing to report.

County Councillor Butter stated that he had enquired about the crossing patrol and been advised that the usage was low, but he would investigate the matter further. It was suggested that the Governors of Bishop Lonsdale School could be advised of the situation and asked to make representations to the County Council. Grants from the Community Fund had been made to Offley Hay Village Hall and the Parish Rooms, the remaining £260 was to be given to the Community Centre towards the purchase of new mirrors for the Ladies Toilets.

**135/12). Committee Reports:-**

**Traffic Management Committee:-** In the absence of Councillors von Elbing and Serjeant, Councillor Dale referred to minutes from the meeting held on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

- **HGV's and Gist:-** Mrs Heelis had been asked to arrange a further meeting with Mr Clarke from Gist but had so far been unable to make contact.
- **Parking – High Street:-** It seemed that unless the Parking Enforcement Officers spent considerably more time in Eccleshall they would be unable to prove beyond doubt that a vehicle had not been moved away and returned at a later time in the day. Some residents who had been issued with fines had appealed and been successful in having the penalty charge notice rescinded. The Committee had resolved to remove this item from future agendas. The Parish Council proposed that Mrs Heelis contacted Mr Allen to request details of the procedure.
- An update on various Traffic Management issues had been included in the December newsletter.

The minutes of the Committee were approved by the Council.

**Enhancements:-** Councillor Dale reminded members to undertake risk assessments on the Council properties allocated to them prior to the meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. 2012.

- **Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust:-** Information had been circulated to Councillors and the Chairman proposed that the open space on Bishops Court was nominated for this challenge to protect valuable outdoor spaces for local communities as a legacy from this Diamond Jubilee and Olympic year. The benefits included a free commemorative plaque, a Royal Oak sapling, a toolkit and resource pack for the 'Have a Field Day' event in 2013 and an opportunity to access funding. It was agreed to nominate the Bishops Court Open Space and incur up to £500 costs for legal advice regarding the deed, installing the plaque and updating the Land Registry.

**Policy and Resources:-** Councillor Allen referred to the following grant applications:-

- **Neighbourhood Watch:-** was requesting a grant of £60 towards the purchase of 'No Uninvited Trader' Signs to protect residents from rogue traders and burglars. All were in agreement.
- **Offley Hay Village Hall Committee:-** was requesting £300 towards the cost of a new double cooker, gas cylinders and protective covering. Councillor Dodkins declared an interest and did not vote on this matter. All were in agreement.
- **Holy Trinity Parish Rooms:-** Based on the amount of funding received from other sources the Committee had revised the amount request from £1000 to £285. It was resolved to pay this amount together with the amounts previously agreed from the budget earmarked for grants.

**136/12). Liaison Representatives:-**

There was no report to receive from the Tourism Bureau, Bishop Lonsdale School, Business Focus Group or Eccleshall Community Centre.

**Allotments Association:-** Councillor Starkey reported that the storage cabin and toilets had been installed and the facilities would be subject to keyholder access. Maintenance and cleaning of the facility had been referred to a sub-committee for discussion. There was a new raised plot suitable for the disabled and several large plots were being divided up. A skip was to be hired in the New Year and the car park cleared. The committee had noted that the rent per garden rood was to be increased from April 2013. Councillors commented on the excellent progress made by the Association under the current Officers and Councillor Starkey reported that the Chair and Secretary had indicated that they would stand for a further 12 months. It was agreed to write to the committee to thank them for their endeavours and request a visit to the Allotments in the summer.

**Offley Hay Village Hall:-** Councillor Dodkins reported that the new curtains and blinds had been installed and a new cooker purchased.

**Young People:-** Councillor Dodkins reported that the AGM had been held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Ecclian Society:-** Councillor Jones had submitted the following details:- The 2013 calendars were available from the Pharmacy and High Street News, The AGM would be held on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at The Kings Arms, The Christmas Trees would be erected on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and all volunteers were welcome with the lights being switched on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm. The popular Carols around the tree would take place on December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at the crossroads at 7pm.

**Communities Mean Business:-** Councillor Dodkins reported that a meeting would be held in the coming week to discuss grant applications received from Eccleshall Parish.

**137/12). Neighbourhood Plan:-** It was agreed to include an article in the December Newsletter to inform the public what a Neighbourhood Plan involved and seek any residents interested in joining a working party. Two other parishes had already started on a Neighbourhood Plan by defining the area as the whole of the Parish. However, this would not be practical for Eccleshall as a plan would be better suited to the town and its immediate surroundings. It was agreed to hold a Public Meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 preceding the meeting of the Planning Committee at 7pm to try and involve the community.

**138/12). Castle Street Enhancement Scheme:-** Councillor Pimble indicated that a scheme had been prepared and the County Council hoped to start work in the New Year. The budget for the scheme remained uncertain as Stafford and Rural Homes had not yet committed to a contribution. As there had been no response to the competition to design railings, Councillor Pimble proposed a design incorporating a coach and horses and the Parish Crest and copies had been circulated to members. It was resolved to seek budget costs to incorporate the design into the enhancement scheme. Councillor Dodkins suggested that an application for funding was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**139/12). Energy Conservation Initiative:-** Under the remit of the Localism Agenda Parish Councils were able to request the introduction of part night switched street lights provided the local community supported the initiative. There were no restrictions as to how a scheme could be implemented it could be applied to a whole street, every other light or individual street lights. It was noted that the saving for a typical street light was less than £7 per annum. The County Council had written to establish which Parish Councils

would be interested in the introduction of part night street lights. It was resolved to respond that Eccleshall Parish Council would not consider part night street lights as members considered the savings to be small compared to the safety and fear of crime in the area. It was noted that the offer for the introduction of part night street lights would continue to be available for the foreseeable future.

**140/12). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:**

**Newsletter:-** Draft copies of the December newsletter had been distributed and Mrs Heelis requested comments.

**William Cash M.P:-** Mrs Heelis reported receipt of a letter from Bill Cash asking if the Parish Council would like him to make representations on any specific matters. Members were unaware of any issues at present.

**Insurance claim:-** Zurich had indicated that the Council could purchase a replacement seat from Broxap to match others in the Parish and reimbursement would be made upon receipt of the invoice. The excess on the policy was £100, which would be deducted from the final settlement. The matter was referred to the Enhancements Committee to decide whether it was necessary to replace the stolen seat with a new seat at this time.

**Training course – The implementation of Real Time information:-** It was agreed that the Clerk could attend a training course on changes to PAYE which would be implemented from April 2013. The course organised by the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association would be held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and the cost was £20.

**141/12). Accounts:-** The Clerk reported receipt of a grant from SBC towards the Christmas lights of £475 and a VAT refund of £1393.15. A credit note for £10 had been issued by the SPCA in lieu of a lunch at the AGM as Councillor Allen had been unable to attend.

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following:-

Salaries and associated costs - November - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2214.26
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	36.79
Salaries and associated costs - December - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2214.26
Jacksons of Eccleshall - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	892.80
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	118.95

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk was authorised to pay invoices received before the next meeting in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

**142/12). Chairman's Report:-** Councillor Dale thanked those members who had attended the Civic Service on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 and referred to the music provided by the St. Chad's Music Ensemble and excellent refreshments. The Chairman reported that he had been invited to annual carol services in Stone and at Drake Hall.

Councillor Dale also thanked Councillor Pimble for representing the Council at the Remembrance Day Service.

**143/12). Items/ Date and venue for next meeting:-** January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.