

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Oct 18th, 2017

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on Oct 18th, 2017, at Offley Hay Village Hall, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.30pm.

- 118/17). Present were:-**
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| Councillor G. Garner (Chairman) | Councillor P. Baskerville |
| Councillor P. Mullee | Councillor D Jacques |
| Councillor E. Amos | Councillor P. Alcock |
| Councillor R. Langford | Councillor A. Le Monnier |
| Councillor M. Starkey | Councillor J. Jones |
| Councillor T. Price | Councillor C. Marshall |
| Councillor P. Jones | |
| Borough and County Councillor J. Pert | |
| 4 members of the public | Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk) |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Leather and Jacques.

The meeting opened with prayers

- 119/17). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.
- 120/17). Public Participation:-** A resident spoke to advise the Council of a broken gate at the school end of footpath 13, which was allowing bicycles to access the footpath. A resident spoke in response to the County Council plans to introduce double yellow lines around Bishop Lonsdale School in response to a recent safety audit. He felt that rather than being concerned about the resulting lack of parking for parents of school children, that there is a problem with children not walking enough and that the Parish Council should encourage the health benefits of walking to school.
- 121/17). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Sept 20th, 2017:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.
- 122/17). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**
Councillor Pert provided a report on the following:
- To provide an insight on the current challenges faced by the County Council, he advised that 80% of its funding is needed to support Adult Social Care. This represents just 2% of the population receiving 80% of the funding, and with an ageing population, this is a fundamental problem.
 - Councillor Pert attended four Queen's Awards ceremonies over the last few weeks – The Right Stuff Boxing Club, Eccleshall Community First Responders, The Staffordshire County Federation of Young Farmers Clubs and Staffordshire Women's Aid. The Queen's award is the equivalent of an MBE for volunteer groups.
 - Discussions are currently being undertaken to place a defibrillator in Pershall, with a specific location yet to be identified. This is being considered with the help of Eccleshall Community First Responders.
 - Eagle Sculpture - the Road Safety Audit expenditure has been signed off and is provisionally planned for completion by the end of October.
 - With regards to the County Council consultation on school parking restrictions around Bishop's Lonsdale School, Cllr Pert has fed back the need to retain the parking bays located at the side of the road.
 - The first Carer's Café had 17 attendees, and was a successful morning.
 - In response to a recent news story regarding local Councils buying train tickets for homeless people in order to remove them from their streets, Councillor Pert clarified that although this does happen, it is aimed at people who are not local to the Stafford Borough area, with the intention that relocation to their local area would provide them with the opportunity to access services and accommodation that are available in that area, and be within their local support network.
 - There were approximately 2000 responses received from the recent Bus Consultation survey, which are being reviewed. Next steps include the formulation of a set of proposals that will be put forward for consideration at a future scrutiny committee. Councillor Pert will

be attending this meeting, and will be able to comment on the proposals, and raise concerns about the specific services that the Parish Council feel are invaluable for its community, which includes the 13A bus service for commuters, school children and those needing to attend early morning appointments.

- Councillors were reminded of the fundraising Curry Weekend, to be held on Sunday 29th October at London House. Sittings were at 12pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm, at a cost of £15/head. Tickets were available from Councillor Pert.

Councillor P. Jones reported the following:

- He attended two of the local Queen's award ceremonies.
- At the recent Borough Council Planning Committee meeting, he confirmed that two applications that the Parish Council objected to – the Taylor Wimpey tree application, and the outline application for houses on the Claremont Garage site, were both approved.
- If a planning application was submitted in the future for a housing site at the Burgage, it was noted that it was important to ensure funding was in place for appropriate traffic safety measures. A query was raised regarding whether the Borough Council could place restrictions on houses supplied by housing associations so that affordable housing was only offered to local residents. It was noted that this does not often happen and is not favoured by housing associations as this can cause problems in allocating properties and result in empty houses. Exceptions can be seen in the case of Swynnerton, which is a rural exception site, and the build is in response to a need for local affordable housing, so it can be tied to local need. In response to a query regarding the method of allocating housing, Councillor Pert advised that it was based on a register and allocations were based on levels of priority. There have been some issues on the new Bovis development, and in a recent meeting with Stafford and Rural Homes, Cllr Pert was advised that interventions had taken place to address these issues.

123/17). **Committee Reports:-**

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor P. Jones advised that the Traffic Management Committee is due to meet on 1st November. Representatives met with Shane Latham and Tim Buxton from Highways on the 17th October, and the report would be circulated to all members. The plan to look at additional road markings in Eccleshall may be reconsidered in certain areas, in the light of alternative options.

Cllr Amos requested that the Parish Council write to local MP Bill Cash, to protest against the removal of the 13A bus service subsidy, and highlight the problems that this would cause. The Council **resolved** for the Clerk to write a letter to Mr Cash, and ensure a copy was circulated to Mark Deaville and Cllr Pert.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Baskerville advised the next meeting will be held on January 6th 2018. It was noted that the Clerk had received the completed survey of Croxton Play area.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting of the P&R committee will be held on Dec 6th 2017, following the meeting of the planning committee.

Footpaths Committee:- The next meeting of the Footpaths Committee will be held on Nov 1st, 2017. Agenda items will include the broken kissing gate on footpath 13.

124/17). **Liaison Representatives:-** There were no reports to receive from Eccleshall Community Centre, Slindon Residents, or Offley Hay Village Hall.

The Allotments Association:-

- A meeting was held on 16th October 2017. The treasurer reported money in bank was £780.13, although a water bill was due soon. There are currently 7 people on the waiting list, but 8 members will be giving up their plots at the end of the season. The association is still awaiting the outcome of the Community grant funding application, which will be put towards new perimeter fencing. The Christmas meal is planned for January 2018, and the AGM will be held on Monday 4th December. Thefts of produce are still an issue, and a lock has been put on the gate.

Young People:-

- Cllr Price attended a meeting on 10th October, along with Cheryl Ball, the recently appointed outreach worker. Feedback from discussions with young people is that they are not listened to, and not involved in decisions made in Eccleshall. They have requested specific areas for skateboarding and BMX bikes, and were not aware of any new facilities being built on the Bovis development. Councillor Pert agreed to find out more specific details of the facilities to be provided. Cheryl was in the process of visiting local schools to encourage attendance at the weekly Youth Club. The Council discussed the issue at length, and considered the problems experienced in the past when they have looked to introduce suitable facilities in the town for young people. It has been difficult to find suitable locations that residents would agree to being used. The Council are keen to encourage involvement and discussions with young people in order to determine their requirements, and at the same time manage expectations and provide an understanding of the issues involved. It was suggested that the formation of a Youth Club Council would be beneficial, and could prioritise their issues and liaise with the Parish Council. The Parish Council could add an agenda item to allow for discussion, and consider the formation of a sub-committee to discuss any suggestions in more detail.

Ecclian Society:-

- Volunteers are needed for the 29th October at 10am, to help take down the hanging baskets.
- The AGM is due to take place on the 21st November, at the Community Centre.
- The Christmas lights will be erected and switched on at 5pm on Sunday 3rd December. Santa will arrive at 4.30pm.

Tourism:-

- Councillors P. and J. Jones attended the meeting at Amerton Farm last week. It was noted that membership had dropped.

Croxton News:- Councillor Langford reported the following:-

- Suggestions were coming in for the repurposing of the BT phoneboxes. It was noted that the box in Croxton needed mud digging out from the front to allow for the door to close properly.
- Community groups have been asked to help fundraise for the £500 needed to maintain the defibrillators.

Offley Hay Village Hall:-

- A meeting was held on 21st September, with no issues to report.
- The Parish Council was asked whether it would be possible to have a sign for the village hall at the top of Elford Heath. It was advised that if a sign was required, an application would need to be made to Highways. For a brown sign, there would be an application fee of £100, whether the application was successful or not. For a white sign, all costs would need to be met by the applicant.

125/17). Community Transport update:- Councillor P. Jones reported that the inaugural meeting was held on the 5th October. A committee was elected that included Councillors P. Jones, J. Jones and Amos, along with Martin and Jan Watson of the First Responders, and Ros Smith. They are now in a position to set up a bank account, and are currently looking into insurance that covers the drivers for any liability outside of the car, when they may be helping passengers to their door. They have been quoted £172 a year, to cover up to 20 drivers. Drivers are starting to volunteer, and at present there are 6 people requesting to use the service. It is a complex project, and demand is expected to increase as more people hear of the service.

126/17). War Memorial Project update:-

The diocesan advisory committee is meeting on 23/10/17 to hopefully approve the faculty, which will enable the repairs and inscriptions to be completed. Once this is agreed, the Council will be able to put forward an invitation to the Lord Lieutenant. The Council **resolved** for the Clerk should proceed with the invitation once the faculty was approved, and ask for guidance on other relevant dignitaries who may be invited.

The community grant of £550 has been received in the Parish account so the match funding is in place pending approval for work to commence.

127/17). Parish Newsletter update:-

A draft copy of the newsletters were circulated, and the Clerk asked for any feedback by the end of October, after which the newsletter would be sent to print, to be available for distribution at the next Parish meeting. The Council **resolved** to approve the costs to print 2000 copies, at £278.

128/17). Stafford Borough Council Parish Council Survey – assessment of Services and Facilities:-

The Parish Council received a survey for completion, which requires submission of two surveys, one for Eccleshall and one for Croxton. The surveys collate information on all services and facilities in each area, including shops, bank and health facilities, amongst others. The Council **resolved** for Councillors Delanchy and Langford to complete the survey for Croxton, and for Councillors Amos, Marshall and Garner, with the Clerk, to meet and complete the survey for Eccleshall. The deadline for submission is Wednesday 13th December.

129/17). New Developments:-

Taylor Wimpey site:- there were no items to report.

Bovis:- It was noted that Bovis have fenced off the area located off Badgers Croft, and are starting work on the footpath.

Roundabout feature:- Cllr Pert reported on the progress in his earlier report.

Cross Butts:- It was noted that the preparation work is being undertaken by contractors, who may be subject to County Council enforcement after working illegally on the highways with regards to access and parking issues. It has also been advised that they have pumped water off site into Severn Trent drains, which is now under investigation.

130/17). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

The report had been previously circulated and included:

Green Lane – A resident reported that the grass on the south side of Green Lane, furthest from town, had not been mown. They wished to know who was responsible, and what could be done. The Parish Council **resolved** for the Clerk to contact Streetscene at the Borough Council to request for the cutting of the grass.

Eccleshall Flood Action Group – The group has written to request if any other councillors wished to be involved in the group, and to advise them accordingly. Councillors Price and Marshall are happy to continue to support the group. The Parish Council has also been asked to include a leaflet for distribution with their forthcoming newsletter. The Parish Council **resolved** that instead of distributing the leaflet, they would offer to publicise any information on its website and Facebook page, and would be happy to put flyers up in all of the Parish noticeboards. They could also submit an article for inclusion in next year's June newsletter. Councillor Price would feed this back to the group.

Pillar clock chimes:- It has been reported that the clock is no longer chiming. As this is now an ongoing issue, the Parish Council **resolved** to issue a formal letter, drafted by Councillor Le Monnier, to Hawkins Clock Company, to bring the issue to their attention and to seek a prompt resolution.

Croxton Play area:- the report has now been received, and is detailing a number of areas for consideration, that will incur repair costs. This includes further repairs to the play surface, which is an ongoing problem. Councillor Langford agreed to look into alternative surfacing solutions to see if this could reduce the need future repair costs. As the recommendations are all low risk, the Council **resolved** to refer the report for detailed consideration at the next Parish Meeting. It was noted that the only higher risk item referred to was fungal growth within the boundary of the play area. The Clerk had already been in contact with Trent Grounds Maintenance to request removal and digging out of the fungi at the earliest opportunity.

Copmere End - request for tidying around Cheshire Railings. As Councillor Jacques was not in attendance to comment on this item, the Council **resolved** to defer the item until the next Parish Meeting.

131/17). Chairman's Report:-

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all councillors who attended the Civic Service at Slindon. John Treanor sends his apologies for not reading out Councillor Starkey's name as an attendee. It was noted that both the Mayor of Stafford and the Deputy Mayor of Stone commented on how lovely the church was and many people were complimentary of the service.

132/17). Accounts:-

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

S. Worden - Salary - LGA 1972 s. 112	969.15
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	100.42
PAYE - LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963	15.00
NHI - LGA (Financial Provisions)1963	106.81
Pension LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	303.04
Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - concurrent allowance	375.00
E.On Street lighting & maintenance - Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3	162.16

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk asked for approval to accept the following quotes:

- AS Electrical services, to put on and remove the lights from the large christmas tree. The quote remains at same price as last year, £260 plus VAT to put up, and £105 plus VAT to remove, **total costs £365 plus VAT.**
- Rod Sheard has quoted an approximate cost of **£55** to refurbish the benches on Green Lane, Hartlands Road and the Burgage. This includes the purchase of a new pot of Walnut stain.

The Council **resolved** to accept both quotations and for work to proceed.

130/17). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:- November 15th, 2017, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.