

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

October 15th, 2014

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on October 15th, 2014 at Offley Hay Village Hall at 7.30pm. This meeting was preceded by a presentation from J-Ross at 7pm and followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 8.45pm.

J-Ross Proposals for development off Cross Butts, Eccleshall.

Mr N. Scott representing J-Ross and Ms S. Butterfield (Planning Consultant).

Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor G. Dale
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor M Starkey
Councillor G. Garner	Councillor M. Dodkins
Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor R. Langford
Councillor E. Amos	Councillor J. Allen
Councillor Serjeant	Councillor L. Taylor-Potts
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor D. Jacques
1 member the Press	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)
12 members of the public	County Councillor F. Chapman

Mr Scott and Ms Butterfield reported on the feedback from a public consultation held on July 15th and 16th at Eccleshall Community Centre and subsequent meetings with Stafford Borough Council. Various amendments had been made to the initial proposals for development off Cross Butts. The number of houses proposed had been reduced to 48, which would include up to 19 affordable homes and the site access would be off Cross Butts. Plans had been circulated to illustrate an indicative layout with a central open space area and SUDS storage. The main concerns raised by local residents had involved drainage issues, transport and the impact of additional development on the school, doctors and other services.

Councillor Dodkins queried whether there was capacity at the school for additional pupils and commented that there was insufficient available land to enable the school to expand. Mr Scott undertook to investigate this matter and forward any feedback to the Clerk.

Councillor Mullee referred to the increase in traffic that would result from the proposed development and asked if Section 106 agreements could be specifically made for the benefit of Eccleshall rather than being utilised for facilities in other areas. It was suggested that traffic assessments should be undertaken at school drop off / collection times.

Councillor Baskerville referred to the discharge of storm water and increased run off from the development and how this would be displaced. Mr Scott replied that the scheme was not yet fully developed. Councillor Langford commented on the levels of the site, which could cause flooding issues in other areas. It was noted that any scheme should be sustainable and appropriate to address these concerns.

Councillor Delanchy indicated that the proposals conflicted with the draft Settlement Boundary prepared for the Neighbourhood Plan, which would be going out to consultation shortly. The southern limit of the proposed boundary followed the line of the houses on Romford Meadow and did not extend as far as the drive to Johnson Hall Nursery. Mr Scott indicated that he had been unaware of the constraints of the indicative Settlement Boundary and stated that the feasibility of reducing the area proposed for development would need to be considered.

Mr Scott and Ms Butterfield were thanked for attending the meeting and presenting the proposals.

The Parish Council meeting opened with prayers

111/14). Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Pimble and Borough Councillor J. Pert.

112/14). To consider Councillors requests for dispensations:- There were no requests to receive.

113/14). Public Participation:- Mrs Davey, Crossville, Cross Butts – expressed concerns with regard to the proposed development and the proximity to, and effect on existing dwellings and services in the town, together with additional traffic, noise and pollution. It was stressed that any application could be ‘Called In’ by Borough Councillors for determination by the Planning Committee and all residents should submit written comments to the Borough Council with copies to the Parish Council.

114/14). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on September 17th, 2014:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

115/14). Reports from Borough / County Councillors:-

Councillor F. Chapman:- referred to a planning application that was to be considered at the Planning Committee meeting for the enclosure of the alcove area of the Co-op to house the Fire Tender. Councillor Chapman had also met with the Chairman of the Business Group and Councillor Jones regarding the preparation of a leaflet for distribution promoting cleanliness and the tidy appearance of the town. This was a joint venture by the County, Borough and Parish Council and would be funded from the Local Community Fund.

Councillor P. Jones – reported that the application for a micro pub at 39A, High Street had been ‘Called In’ and mixed comments had been received from local residents and Publicans. The Parish Council had submitted no objections in principle, but concerns were expressed regarding the inadequacy of existing toilet facilities and lack of provision for the disabled.

116/14). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- Councillor Taylor-Potts indicated that following the cancellation of a meeting with Mr C. Mitchell scheduled for September 23rd, 2014, the Traffic Management Committee meeting arranged for October 1st, 2014 had been deferred, both meetings were to be re-arranged.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported the following:-

- An email had been received from RJS Solicitors seeking information regarding the management of the Eyeswells Footpath in the Parish Councils’ ownership. Mrs Heelis had acknowledged the communication and confirmed that the area was owned, maintained and managed by the Parish Council. Mrs Heelis had requested details of any specific queries regarding the land in the Parish Councils’ ownership.

Trees on the Eyeswells would be inspected with a view to the professional removal of self-seeded and crowded trees.

- **Washpits –** Vegetation and overhanging branches had been removed by the Neighbourhood Highway Team.
- **Eyeswells Footpath:-** Councillor Baskerville had cleared silt from the drains towards Blackbird Cottage but it was considered they would benefit from being jetted. Mrs Heelis was asked to seek advice and assistance from the Rights of Way Officer.
- **Croxton Playing Field:-** It was agreed to request Trent Grounds Maintenance to thin trees, remove overhanging branches, dead and self-seeded trees and ground cover from the field area together with brambles, nettles and vegetation along the inside of the hedge and lower branches from trees between the roadside access and the play area. Members would then visit the site to assess whether any trees needed to be removed by a tree surgeon. However, particular care was required to ensure that specimen trees planted by local residents in memory of loved ones were not removed.

Councillor Langford had inspected the play area and reported that the matting around the climbing frame had lifted, three tall vertical posts that were part of the fitness trail were loose and there was a piece of wood missing from the balance beam that required attention. Mrs Heelis was asked to contact Wicksteed to request a visit by the Safety Inspector.

- **Picnic Site:-** Councillor Mullee indicated that he had been unable to remove the picnic bench as it was concreted into the ground and agreed to remove the rotten seating leaving the table in situ.

The next meeting of the Enhancements Committee would be held on December 3rd, 2014 following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

Policy and Resources:- There was no report to receive.

Footpaths:- There had been no meeting of the Committee. Councillor Mullee reported two defective stiles on a footpath at Offley Hay. Details were to be given to Councillor Allen to enable an order for repair / replacement to be issued to the Handyman.

117/14). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Offley Hay Village Hall, Tourism Bureau or Young People.

- **Ecclian Society:-** Councillor Jones reported that the 2015 Calendar was now available from the Newsagents and Chemists. The AGM was to be held on November 18th, 2014 and a newsletter including details of this and other events had recently been distributed to members.
- **Bishop Lonsdale School:-** Councillor Dodkins reported that the new uniform was now on display at the school.
- **Community Centre:-** Councillor Dale advised that the baby unit was now up and running.
- **Communities Mean Business:-** Councillor Taylor-Potts reported that a meeting was to be held in December to discuss funding and applications were invited for farm and heritage projects and micro businesses.

118/14). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:- The Clerk reported the following:-

Complaint – Ms Mellor:- Copies of a letter from Ms Mellor had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The letter concerned the Neighbourhood Plan and objected to the support given by the group and Parish Council for the proposed development off Stafford Road. The Clerk indicated that the letter, had been acknowledged upon receipt. It was agreed that the communication be noted and no further action taken.

Polling District and Polling Place Review;- Mrs Heelis indicated that the review had identified that all the venues in Eccleshall Parish remained suitable apart from The Old School House at Slindon, which was no longer available. Representations were invited before October 31st, 2014 and it was agreed to suggest that St. Chad's Church in Slindon may be a possible venue.

Blocked Drains – Windmill Lane, Croxton:- Councillor Langford referred to blocked drains on Windmill Lane, which had not been cleared, despite repeated requests from local residents. It was feared that further flooding would occur if the matter was not resolved. It was agreed to include this item on the agenda of the next meeting with Mr Mitchell and subsequently of the Traffic Management Committee.

Croxton:- Other issues reported by Councillor Langford, including the clearing of vegetation from speed limit signs had been included on the list of works for the Neighbourhood Highway Team, which was in the Parish for 5 days from October 14th, 2014. The maintenance of the grass verge opposite Boughey's Well on the B5026 was to be discussed with Mr Mitchell at the next meeting.

Christmas Tree Tenders:- Mrs Heelis reported that tenders had been received from Woods Farm at Solihull and Bishops Offley Christmas Trees. Woods Farm had indicated that the price would remain unchanged from the previous 2 years. Although the price quoted by Mr Stanhope was marginally cheaper the Council unanimously agreed to place the order for the current year with Woods Farm as it was noted that excellent, prompt and reliable service had been received in the past and the quality of the trees had been excellent. It was proposed that several members would visit the site at Bishops Offley in the New Year to assess the suitability of the trees for future years and discuss the delivery and installation requirements.

119/14). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported that he would attend the Trafalgar Event hosted by Stone Town Council.

120/14). Accounts:-

Computer Maintenance:- It was agreed to renew the standing order for the annual maintenance contract with Japhlin Computers at a cost of £36.66 per month. The annual charge of £439.91 remained unchanged from 2012/13.

Relocation of Fire Tender:- The Clerk reported that the building contractor working for the Co-op had quoted £5,000 for the work required to enclose the alcove area at the front of the Co-op to house the Fire Tender. Councillor Chapman had indicated that the available finance remaining in the Local Community Fund was £2,380.32. The Council agreed to finance the remaining £2,619.68 from the Milwood Homes Fund (£615.68), and any unspent funds from the precept or reserves.

The Clerk reported that funds received since the last Council Meeting included £7.81 interest and the second instalment of the Precept and Concurrent allowance.

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972. s. 112</i>	2268.50
Expenses - Local Government - (<i>Financial Provisions</i>) Act 1963	89.06
C. Heelis - <i>Paint & Varnish</i>	60.25
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10</i>	253.20
Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - <i>concurrent allowance</i>	103.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

121/14). Neighbourhood Plan:- Mrs Heelis reported that the group anticipated that the draft plan would be ready for circulation / consultation by the end of November.

122/14). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:- November 19th, 2014, Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.