

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

October 17th, 2012

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on October 17th, 2012 at Offley Hay Village Hall at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of Planning Committee.

120/12). Present Were:-

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor M. Starkey
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor P. Mullee
Councillor M. Dodkins	Councillor L. von Elbing,
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor B. Apps
Councillor E. Amos	
7 members of the public	Mrs C. Heelis – Clerk

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Pimble, Garner, Serjeant and Jacques together with County Councillor Butter and Borough Councillors Pert and Chapman.

The meeting opened with prayers.

121/12). Public Participation:- Mrs J. Watson from Bishops Court asked about the proposal for a BMX Practice Track on the open space at Bishops Court which appeared on the agenda, enquired whether a date had been arranged for the public meeting and if information regarding the costs and available grants would be available? Councillor Dale indicated that the proposal would be discussed later in the meeting, a public meeting was to be arranged at the Enhancements Committee on December 5th, 2012 and quotations had been obtained but funding was yet to be explored as providers required details of the agreed scheme. The Chairman clarified that when the land was purchased from the Treasury Solicitors it had been with the intention of protecting the land from being developed in the future.

It was reported that that Footpath 15 from Usulwall Close to Blackbird Cottage was flooded, the Clerk was asked to report the problem to the Rights of Way Team.

122/12). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on September 19th, 2012:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.

123/12). Reports from County and Borough Councillors:-

Councillor F. Chapman had reported the following:-

- Negotiations were continuing with SARH about possible funding towards the proposed improvements on Castle Street.
- Councillor Chapman indicated that he was fervently opposed to large scale onshore wind farms and had spoken in a debate about wind farms at the County Council.
- A controversial planning application had been submitted for Izaak Walton Golf Club which if approved would result in a large number of lorry movements. The application had been called in by Councillor Jones and Councillor Chapman declared an interest in this matter.
- Councillor Chapman continued to do everything within his power to alleviate the increase of HGV traffic through Eccleshall.
- Members were reminded of the election for a Police and Crime Commissioner to be held on November 15th, 2012.

Councillor J. Pert emphasised that Warm Front grants were available from the Government for insulation of cavity walls and lofts until the end of 2012 and stressed the importance of getting the message out to the public. There was also an oil bulk buying scheme being run by the Community Council. The Clerk had erected notices about these initiatives and included links on the Parish Council website.

Councillor Jones also referred to the planning application for Izaak Walton Golf Club and indicated that the proposal was to move 1000.000 tonnes of soil. One of the proposed conditions if the application was approved was for all lorries to access and egress the site on the B5026 to and from Stone and every vehicle leaving the site would go through a wheel wash. A surgery held by Councillor Jones last week had been attended by three residents, one of whom expressed concern about the parking situation on Stone Road.

124/12). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management:- Councillor von Elbing reported that a meeting had been held with Chris Mitchell, Community Highways Liaison Officer on October 16th, 2012. Notes from the meeting would be circulated in due course and discussed at the meeting of the Traffic Management Committee on November 7th, 2012.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale introduced Mr Richard Vaughan who lived on Hartlands Road. It was resolved to co-opt Richard, who was helping with the youth club and had expressed an interest in the work of the Parish Council, onto the Enhancements Committee.

- **Christmas Trees:-** A quotation received from Fosters Breathing Space (now known as Funky Yukka), was considerably more expensive than the one received from Woods Christmas Tree Farm. It was resolved to order the 62 x 4.5' – 5' trees and one 25' tree from Woods Farm at a cost of £1394.00.
- **Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge:-** Councillor Dale explained about a scheme to protect valuable outdoor spaces for local communities as a legacy of the Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Year. 16 sites had been nominated throughout Staffordshire. If a site was protected a commemorative plaque would be provided and a Royal Oak sapling, together with a toolkit and resource pack for a 'Have a Field Day' event in 2013 and small improvement grants would be available. The Parish Council would have the opportunity to name the field in question and a sign with the chosen name and Eccleshall Parish Council on it would be supplied. Councillor Dale suggested that the Parish Council nominate the open space on Bishops Court to ensure that the community would benefit from the open space in perpetuity. The costs involved included legal advice regarding the Deed, installation of a plaque and updating the Land Registry (approximately £500 in total). The Clerk was asked to circulate the details to members so that the matter could be considered at the next Council Meeting on November 21st, 2012.
- **Bishops Court – proposals for BMX Practice Track:-** Matthew Goodrich from Edge and Goodrich Estate Agents had forwarded proposals for a BMX practice track at Bishops Court. The proposed track would require a minimum area of 25m x 15m although a site of 30m x 20m would provide more opportunity. A medium sized track would cost approximately £20,000. Mrs Heelis was asked to thank Mr Goodrich for his suggestion, which would be discussed in detail at future meetings.

Policy and Resources:- Councillor Allen reported on a meeting of the committee held on October 3rd, 2012.

- **Code of Conduct:-** The Council resolved to accept the new Code of Conduct, which had been adopted by Stafford Borough Council.
- **Personal Interest forms:-** Copies of the new Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Personal Interest Forms had been circulated and were also adopted by the Parish Council. Mrs Heelis requested members to return the completed documents as soon as possible so that they could be sent to the Monitoring Officer. The completed forms would then be made available on the Borough Council website.
- **Quality Status re-accreditation due November 2012:-** Notification had been received from NALC that the scheme was to be reviewed with a view to re-launching an updated standards scheme in 2013. The steering group had agreed to freeze the Quality Parish Status of those Councils whose current accreditation was due to end from September 1st, 2012. Once the scheme was re-launched those Councils who would have lapsed during the period of the freeze would be given at least 3 months on which to re-accredit.
- **Grant requests:-** Parish Rooms refurbishments:- Mrs Heelis reported that copies of the accounts for 2011/12 had been received as requested. Mr Hall had advised that a grant had been allocated by the SEF but the amount could not be disclosed at present. However, it seemed likely that the amount of grant requested from the Parish would be reduced to £250. Mr Hall indicated that the cost of the project had increased slightly owing to the need to include some structural alterations to the walls of the Parish Room. It was agreed to defer consideration of the grant application until the November Council Meeting when the confirmation of the amount requested had been confirmed.

Footpaths Committee:- There was no report to receive, however, Councillor Delanchy reported the following issues, which had been posted on a social networking site:-

- An overgrown bridge on Footpath 122, which Councillor Allen indicated had been cleared by Mr Smith.
- Problems on Footpath 17 where the footpath had been ploughed over. Councillor Allen advised that the landowner has 14 days to reinstate the footpath.

Walkers were asked to report any problems encountered to the Clerk, together with details of the start/finish of the path and grid reference or Footpath Number if possible.

125/12). Liaison Representatives:-

Allotments Association:- Councillor Starkey reported that the next meeting would be held on October 23rd, 2012.

Ecclian Society:- On behalf of the society, Councillor Jones thanked the volunteers who had helped to change over the baskets and remove the bunting. The next walk would be held on October 28th, 2012 and the 2013 Calendar would be available shortly. The AGM of the Ecclian Society would be held in The Kings Arms at 8pm on November 28th, 2012.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor von Elbing reported that a programme of improvement works had been undertaken at the Hall and a Jubilee grant had enabled the committee to purchase new curtains and blinds. The patio and ramp access had been completed and bookings were buoyant with 8 caravan bookings for 2013. There would be a toy and bric-a-brac sale on November 3rd and a craft event was booked for November 15th, 2012.

Tourism Bureau:- Councillor Jones reported that the last meeting had been held at Stafford Boat Club.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins indicated that the Headmaster had issued a report stating that the school continued to strive to be at the centre of the community and a new prospectus had been published. The school had been represented at the street market and the summer fair had been well attended. Some pupils had taken part in the Croxton Well Dressing project and the Year 6 Leavers Assembly had been an inspiring community event. Mr Middleton thanked the Parish Council for their support and for inspiring the poetry competition. An oak tree had been planted in the school grounds by the Historical Society to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and the recent Harvest Festival had been very enjoyable. April Lewis had distributed a questionnaire to the pupils of years 4, 5 and 6. The all-weather pitch was completed, but an agreement was awaited from the County Council regarding community usage.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that double glazing had been fitted to the toilets and bathroom/shower room.

Business Group:- Councillor Jones indicated that the group had met to discuss a Totally Locally Scheme, which it was hoped would start at Easter 2013.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins reported that Richard Vaughan had offered to help out at the YoYo Youth Club and had made a valuable contribution. The AGM of the Management Committee would be held at The Kings Arms on December 14th, 2012.

Communities Mean Business:- There was nothing to report.

126/12). Affordable Housing Scheme:- Following the presentation given by Mr J. Lancaster at the Planning Committee Meeting held on October 3rd, 2012 the Council resolved to request Mr Lancaster to conduct a survey and produce an independent impartial report identifying potential locations for affordable homes and make recommendations to the Parish Council.

127/12). Clerk's report and correspondence:- Mrs Heelis reported receipt of the following:-

- A grant application from Offley Hay Village Hall for £300 towards a new double cooker. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and Mrs Heelis asked Councillor Dodkins to provide a copy of the latest audited accounts.
- Notification of a consultation on Council Tax Benefit Changes - due to the abolition of Council Tax Benefit, from April 2013 individual Local Authorities must replace the benefit with a local council tax support scheme in their area. Detailed information and consultation questionnaires were available on the Borough Council website:- <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/lcts> and the closing date for comments was 16th, November 2012. The information was to be circulated to Parish Councillors.

128/12). Chairman's Report:-The Chairman reminded everyone of the Civic Service on Sunday October 21st, 2012 at St. Chad's Church, Slindon, commencing at 11.30am.

129/12). Accounts:- The Clerk reported receipt of the second half of the precept and concurrent allowance together with £7.47 interest. Copies of the accounts had been circulated and authorisation was sought for payment of the following:-

Salaries & associated costs <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2214.26
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	63.27
PAYE - <i>LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963</i>	337.20
NHI - <i>LGA (Financial Provisions)1963</i>	236.66
Pension - <i>LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995</i>	421.41
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	133.20
Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - <i>concurrent allowance</i>	100.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

Mrs Heelis reported that an invoice for the maintenance contract in respect of the computer had been received from Japhlin. The cost for the twelve months commencing on November 9th, 2012 was £439.90 paid in twelve instalments of £36.66 a monthly increase of 0.72p. It was resolved to renew the contract.

130/12). Items / date and venue for next meeting:- November 21st, 2012, Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.