

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

October 19th, 2016

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on October 19th, 2016, at Offley Hay Village Hall at 7.30pm, this meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

- 122/16). Present were:-**
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| Councillor P. Jones (Chairman) | Councillor P. Baskerville |
| Councillor B. Delanchy | Councillor M. Starkey |
| Councillor R. Langford | Councillor C. Marshall |
| Councillor E. Amos | Councillor T. Price |
| Councillor A. Le Monnier | Borough Councillor J. Pert. |
| County Councillor F. Chapman | 1 member of the press |
| Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk) | |
- 123/16). Election of Chairman for the meeting:-** In the absence of Councillors Pimble and Garner the Councillor Jones was elected to Chair the meeting.
- The meeting opened with prayers.*
- Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mullee, Pimble, Garner, and Leather.
- 124/16). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** No requests had been received.
- 125/16). Public Participation:-** There were no members of the public present
- 126/16). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 21st, 2016:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
- 127/16). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**
- County Councillor Chapman referred to the roundabout at the Bovis development on the A5013 and indicated that he had made the strongest representations regarding a further closure of the road, which was required to ensure that the construction was up to an acceptable standard. The road was due to be closed on October 22nd for no more than five days. Councillor Chapman had been liaising with the Highways and the developer to alleviate the effects of the closures of the B5026 and the A5013 on businesses in the area
 - Councillor Chapman indicated that the County Council was proposing to charge for the disposal of soil, hardcore, plasterboard and tyres at the Recycling Centres and expressed concern that this could lead to increased fly tipping, especially in rural areas. The Parish Council agreed unanimously to support Councillor Chapman in opposing the introduction of these charges.
 - Borough Councillor Pert referred to the HS2 consultation and encouraged the Parish Council to submit positive comments for the proposals to construct a railhead near Yarnfield. Although the work would require further road closures in the area it would bring significant employment and benefits if entry and exit roads onto the M6 could be included.
 - Recommendations from the Boundary Commission three years ago recommending a 10% reduction in MP's were to be enacted.
 - Bovis had attended a site visit to inspect the raised land levels and had agreed to mitigate the effects on neighbouring properties.
 - Communities were being encouraged to work with other parishes to take on basic maintenance tasks.
- 128/16). Committee Reports:-**
- Traffic Management Committee:-** Councillor Jones reported on the minutes from the meeting of the Committee held on October 5th, 2016., which had been circulated to Councillors.
- At a meeting with Mr Rayson, Community Highway Liaison Manager held on September 29th, various matters had been discussed including results from the feasibility study into a speed limit reduction through Slindon and investigations into a recent accident on the bridge over the railway at Mill Meece. Mr Rayson had indicated that he would work with the community to achieve a 40mph limit through Slindon with the addition of gateway features

and central reservations. The residents were keen to install gateways and were seeking quotations for the work.

- Examples of gateway features had been circulated to members and Mr Rayson had agreed to meet Councillors for site visits to consider designs and appropriate locations for gateway features at the entrances to Eccleshall and Croxton. Members agreed to survey roads and mark possible locations on a map prior to meeting Mr Rayson. It was noted that any features would have to be funded locally.
- Members had considered the Five Year Plan and Mr Rayson had indicated that a central refuge on Stone Road could be considered in conjunction with gateway features.
- Councillor Jacques requested that rural roads suitable for advisory signage indicating unsuitability for HGV's were identified and discussed with Mr Rayson.
- The lack of parking in the Town was discussed and Mrs Heelis was asked to contact Enterprise Inns to ascertain whether the Kings Arms Car Park could be utilised for general parking.
- Councillor Langford queried whether double yellow lines could be added to the carriageway on the B5026 to prevent inconsiderate parking from Holy Trinity Church past the Cricket Club. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting with Mr Rayson on January 26th, 2017.

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on February 1st, 2017, following the Planning Committee Meeting.

The minutes of the Traffic Management Meeting were adopted by the Council.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Baskerville reported on a meeting of the Committee held on September 28th, 2016. Councillor Baskerville had been re-elected as Chair of the committee and following the co-option of Councillors Price and Le Monnier, Councillor Le Monnier was elected as Vice-Chair.

- **Roundabout Feature:-** Mrs Heelis reported that nothing further had been received from Bovis regarding funding of a feature on the new roundabout. Other avenues of funding were being considered.
- **Croxton Playing Field:-** It was agreed to defer consideration of seating together with paving slabs and fixing options until the next meeting. The match funded grant of £240 from The Broughton and Croxton Jubilee Committee was available until July 2017. The Council agreed to request Trent Grounds Maintenance to undertake one day of arboricultural and general maintenance works at the Playing Field, at a cost of £360 including removal of tree branches overhanging the play area.
- **Christmas Trees:-** Woods Farm had indicated that the price of the trees would remain unchanged and the order had been placed as usual in accordance with the resolution of the Council at the meeting held on September 21st, 2016. Delivery was to be requested on November 22nd, 2016.
- **Grass Cutting Tenders:-** The Committee had considered the specifications for the grass cutting tenders in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and it was agreed to invite Trent Grounds Maintenance, Jacksons of Eccleshall and Stafford Borough Council to submit quotes.
- Mrs Heelis reported that the power supply had been installed near to the newly planted Beech Tree by the Public Conveniences. Tree felling and removal of concrete slabs on the open space at the junction of Hartlands Road and Stone Road would be undertaken in November.

Councillor Pert indicated that Drake Hall Prison was again offering assistance with community tasks and volunteers were available to undertake routing maintenance around the Parish. Councillor Langford reported that a WI was being opened at the Prison next week and it was hoped to involve women from the Prison in the Well Dressing preparations in 2017.

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on January 4th, 2017 following the meeting of the Planning Committee,

The minutes of the Enhancements Committee were adopted by the Council.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Marshall reported on a meeting of the Footpaths Committee held on October 5th, 2016. Councillor Mullee had been re-elected as Chair of the committee and Councillor Marshall Vice-Chair.

- **Grid References:-** The committee had agreed to undertake a long term project to add grid references to all the rights of way listed in the Parish and check that grid references were supplied at salient points, along with the description of each of the 12 Walk Leaflet routes.
- **Footpath Marshalls and allocation of footpaths:-** Marshalls were walking paths regularly and submitting reports and three schedules of work had been forwarded to Mr Smith who was addressing the issues as swiftly as possible.
- **Walk Leaflet No. 2:-** An email had been received indicating that a group of walkers walking the route had experienced issues with the route described on the walk leaflet. Councillor Baskerville has since checked the footpath and noted some missing signs but considered that the route was identifiable from the description and the grid references supplied were accurate.
- **Bridleway 131:-** A request had been received from Mr and Mrs Powell from Lipleigh Heath Farm, for the Council to support a diversion of a Bridleway outside the Parish. The Parish Council had previously supported the diversion but the Lichfield Dioceses who owned the land had refused to allow access. The committee had resolved that no further assistance could be offered.

Councillor Le Monnier indicated that he had walked Footpath Leaflet 11 and encountered problems with the route. This would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The minutes of the Footpaths Committee were adopted by the Council

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on March 1st, 2017 preceding the Planning Committee meeting.

129/16). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association or Slindon Residents.

Community Centre:- Councillor Amos reported that the Nursery was going well, the chimney had been reduced in height at a cost of £4,500.00 and the red chairs were to be replaced. The Green Room had been redecorated and a new carpet laid. There had been six windows broken recently, the Police had been advised. Continuing problems with damp from the leaking roof in the Jubilee Room were under investigation.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Le Monnier reported that he had attended the AGM of the Village Hall. Officers had been appointed, finance levels had improved and bookings were good. The Boiler and radiators had been overhauled, which would reduce the oil consumption. The Committee was well supported by the local community and three Caravan Club bookings had been taken. A provision of a litter bin was requested at the Picnic Site.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor Baskerville reported that the Autumn Newsletter had been distributed. Baskets and Mangers would be removed on October 30th, 2106 any volunteers were welcome. The date for delivery of the Christmas Trees had been changed to November 22nd and switch on would take place on November 28th, 2016. New Troughs had been ordered for the area around the Public Conveniences.

Tourism Bureau:- Councillor Jones reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting of the group at Trentham Monkey Forest.

Croxton News:- Councillor Langford indicated that the Speedwatch volunteers would be undergoing a training session at the weekend.

Young People:- Councillor Marshall reported that a group of youngsters, who were not members of the youth Club were causing a general nuisance around the town. The Police were aware of the problems.

130/16). Vacancy – Eccleshall Ward:- Mrs Heelis indicated that no election had been called and the Council could now co-opt someone to represent the Eccleshall Ward. Posters had been erected with anyone interested asked to contact Mrs Heelis before November 7th, 2016. Co-option would take place at the Council Meeting on November 16th, 2016, although no had expressions of interest in the vacancy had been received to date.

131/16). New Developments:- The Borough Council had requested names for two streets on the Taylor Wimpey Development. It was agreed to suggest the names of Bishops buried at Holy Trinity

Church due to the fact that the land was formerly owned by Lichfield Diocese. Members favoured Lonsdale and Overton with the addition of one other name in case either of the other two were deemed unsuitable.

132/16). Clerk's report and correspondence:- Mrs Heelis reported the following:-

Chairman:- Receipt of an email from Councillor Pimble tendering his resignation as Chairman of the Council owing to deteriorating health. Vice-Chairman Garner had indicated that he was willing to act as Chair until the AGM in May 2017 and this was agreed by the Council. Councillor Jones was duly elected as Vice-Chair.

Broughton WI:- An application for funding from Broughton WI towards the cost of an interpretation board to locate alongside Boughey's Well at Croxton. This matter was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

War Memorial:- A request from Mr Wilshaw for a representative from the Parish council to attend and possibly Chair, a meeting of a Panel to determine which if any, names of those who died during, or as a result of, the Great War, should be added to the War Memorial. Councillor Garner was nominated to represent the Council.

Parish Council Newsletter:- Mrs Heelis requested items for inclusion in the December Newsletter, including a short introductory statement from the new Councillors.

Severn Trent:- Mr A. Jones from Severn Trent had arranged a further visit to Eccleshall to allow people an opportunity to discuss flooding issues in the town. Mr Jones would be in Eccleshall Library from 10am until 12 noon on Saturday October 29th, 2016 and had agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting on November 16th, 2016.

HS2:- Councillor Pimble proposed the following response to the consultation:-

The Parish Council can see the logic of identifying the location near Stone as the most appropriate site for a railhead to provide a permanent maintenance facility instead of the IMD facility currently proposed south of Crewe, but would wish to make the following comments about the proposal:-

The plan of the proposed scheme shows a road bridge over the site on the B5026 to maintain the connection between Eccleshall and Stone. This is a very important east-west link between the towns and indeed for routes over a longer distance. The B5026 has recently been closed for several months due to the construction of the Norton Bridge grade separated junction on the west coast main line. The road is currently closed until Christmas due to extensive works on the M6 road bridge. Both works have required a considerable diversion which causes great inconvenience to the travelling public as well as serious disruption to local businesses.

The Parish Council believes that the only satisfactory way of constructing a large new bridge on this road would be to build the bridge, and the necessary groundworks below it, off the alignment of the existing road before bringing it into use and the other works taking place afterwards without further traffic disruption.

It is also noted that the future use of the site will involve road traffic, both for staff working on site and for delivering materials. If entry and exit roads from the B5026 onto the M6 could be included in the scheme, it would serve not only the new facility but the expanding town of Stone, but also help to alleviate the number of heavy lorries that use the main streets of Eccleshall as they could be diverted to the new junction. It is appreciated that such work would involve the Highways Agency and the support of the County Council to allow its implementation.

The Council agreed to submit the above comments in response to the consultation.

133/16). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Jones read out a letter from Mrs Heelis indicating her intention to retire from her role as Clerk to Eccleshall Parish Council on April 30th, 2017.

134/16). Accounts:- It was agreed to continue the Computer Maintenance contract with Japhlin at a cost of £36.66 per month until Mrs Heelis retired. The Council would reconsider the contract when a new Clerk was appointed.

Mrs Heelis reported receipt of the second payment of the Precept and Concurrent Allowance and also a grant of £475.00 from Stafford Borough Council towards the Christmas decorations.

Retrospective approval was granted for payment of the following accounts:-

TGM - grasscutting – <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	258.00
Grant Thornton – ‘ <i>Governance & Accountability</i> ’ March 2016	360.00
Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – <i>Training - LGA 1972 s.111</i>	35.00

Authorisation was sought for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries & associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2426.80
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	80.91
Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - <i>concurrent allowance</i>	115.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

135/16). **Items/date and venue for the next meeting:-** November 16th, 2016 Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.