

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL - September 15<sup>th</sup> 2010

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

**96/10). Present were:-**

Councillor G. Dale (Chair)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vce-Chair)
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor J. Allen
Councillor L. von Elbing	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor B. Apps	Councillor P. Jones
Councillor A. Holl.	Councillor P. Allsop
Councillor G. Garner	12 members of the public
Ms. J. Wilkes-Mellor Youth Support Worker	
Mrs. C. Heelis (Clerk)	Borough Councillor F. Chapman
County / Borough Councillor H. Butter	
PC B. Tomkins	PCSO L. Bromley

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Baskerville, Starkey, Pert and J. Jones.

**97/10). Police:-** PC B. Tomkins and PCSO L. Bromley introduced themselves as the two new Police Officers for Eccleshall. PCSO Bromley gave a report of crime in the Parish since the last meeting, which included broken windows at the community centre. A patrol had answered a complaint of noise from the community centre at 1.30am on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Dale agreed to investigate this as the licence expired at midnight.

The officers asked members for suggested locations to undertake speed checks over the next few months. A Trick or Treat was being organised on Halloween with the Scouts and school and volunteers were requested who would be happy for the children to knock on their doors. Louisa indicated that they were planning activities for the young people and welcomed suggestions. Residents were asked to report vehicles that were going round the area collecting scrap metal. Enquiries were ongoing into a fatality on the B5026 at Wetwood on August 19<sup>th</sup>, involving a tractor and a motor cyclist.

The Officers were thanked for attending the meeting and their enthusiasm was welcomed.

**98/10). Jessica Wilkes-Mellor – Leader Youth Support Worker:-** Jessica referred to an article which had been included in the Parish Council Newsletter for September and reported on the event held at Woodseaves in August. Although the event had not been as well attended as the organisers had hoped it had produced some useful outcomes. A Youth Council was being set up with Sir Graham Balfour School and it was expected to be up and running by October half term. Jessica offered to report back to the Council later in the year and if possible bring a representative from the Youth Council.

A student firefighter club was to start at Eccleshall Fire Station in October for 12 – 18 year olds where the young people would experience what being a firefighter entails. The youth support workers were liaising with the local Police and a venue was being sought to hold a youth café to provide somewhere for the young people to congregate in the evenings. An event was planned at Eccleshall Farmers' Market later in the year, where it was hoped to demonstrate how young people could become positively involved in the community

Jessica was thanked for her enthusiasm and asked to keep the Parish Council informed of developments.

**99/10). Public Participation:-** None of the public present wished to address the Council.

**100/10). To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

**101/10). Reports from Borough Councillors:-**

**Councillor Chapman** reported that he was aware that the Council had received representations from local residents concerning problems with parking and traffic at the Bank Holiday Market on August 30<sup>th</sup> and was liaising with the Clerk to arrange a joint meeting of the various authorities involved and the event organiser.

Councillor Chapman indicated that he had 'called in' an application to build 85 houses at the rear of Eccleshall Community Centre and as a member of the Health Scrutiny Committee had volunteered to scrutinise the Complaints procedure of Stafford Hospital. Councillor Chapman was also happy to address concerns in respect of local policing.

**Councillor Butter** reported that he had received a complaint from a parishioner concerning the lay-by on the A519 at Wootton and asking for it to be removed. Councillor Butter considered that it was used and would ask the Highways to tidy it up. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Traffic Management Committee for further consideration.

Councillor Butter indicated that work to repair the dropped pipe and reinstate the footpath from The Washpits to Shaws Lane was due to commence on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The accident at Wetwood was referred to, which Councillor Butter understood was speed related, however local residents were seeking the implementation of various safety measures.

#### **102/10). Committee Reports:-**

**Traffic Management Committee:-** A report from Councillor Pert included the following items:-

- A meeting was to be held with Highway representatives on September 24<sup>th</sup> with the next committee meeting scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>, following the meeting of the planning committee.
- Residents of Wetwood were intending to submit a petition seeking urgent improvements, following the recent accident.
- Following problems caused by the Bank Holiday Market it was reiterated that a meeting would be arranged with all parties to discuss the problems.

**Enhancements Committee:-** Councillor Dale referred to copies of the minutes of the meeting held on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, which had been circulated with the agenda.

- **Play Area:-** In July Councillor Holl had reported that the platform on the climbing frame had bowed and was a potential pinch hazard. However, after a more recent inspection by Councillors Holl and Pert, this problem had been attributed to the heat and there was no risk at present. The equipment would continue to be monitored. Mr. Parton had undertaken repairs to the main field gate, which had been damaged during hedge cutting.
- **Picnic Site:-** Councillor Dale indicated that the gravel paths needed to be treated with weedkiller. A quotation of £30 had been obtained from Trent Grounds Maintenance to undertake this work, which the Council resolved to accept.
- **Annual condition surveys of assets and schedule of works:-** A schedule of works detailing minor repairs and treatment needed to various seats would be drawn up in conjunction with a list of seats that Mr. Wallace did not wish to maintain. Councillor Allen reported that the kissing gate on Footpath 8 near The Old School was in need of repair and a quotation had been received from Mr. Greenaway of £240.00. It was agreed to accept this quotation as the work needed doing as a matter of urgency.
- **Parish Plan Review:-** Copies of a revised letter to circulate to groups in the Town were distributed. The letter was accepted by the Council and the Clerk was asked to send copies to groups in the Parish to advise them of the comments received from local residents and seek assistance with publicising / undertaking various initiatives.
- **Christmas Trees:-** It was resolved to waive Standing Orders with regard to seeking quotations for the Christmas Trees, as only Fosters had been able to supply the required quantity of trees, correctly trimmed in the past. However, it was considered that the quotation should only be accepted if the percentage increase in costs appeared reasonable and that tenders for the contract should be sought every three years.
- **Civic Service:-** It was noted that the Civic Service on October 24<sup>th</sup> would start at 11am and not 10am as previously advertised.
- **Royal Oak:-** Councillor Dale reported that a meeting had been held with Mr. S. Nuttall from Joules Brewery who had bought the premises. Mr. Nuttall had explained that the brewery wished to restore the hostelry to a traditional pub and remove the Victorian additions. The function room would be treated separately to the original pub and may be let out for other purposes. It was anticipated that work would commence during summer 2011.

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

**Policy and Resources Committee:-** Councillor Allen reported that the Parish Council was required to formulate a policy statement in respect of the discretions contained in four places in the Local Government and Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2008 and this matter was deferred to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration. The next meeting of the Committee would be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

**Footpaths Committee:-** There was no report to receive.

**103/10). Liaison Representatives:-** There were no reports to receive from the Tourism Bureau, Slindon Village Hall or Communities Mean Business.

**Allotments Association:-** Councillor Garner reported that he had attended a meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. All the plots were taken and it had been suggested that some of the plots could be split to reduce the waiting list. The Secretary had proposed to circulate updated copies of the statutory rules and the insurance policy together with the tenancy agreement to all holders. The Association had been reminded of the necessity to produce details of maintenance work required on site for the consideration of the Parish Council. Members were still considering the need for toilets and shelters and were proposing to visit other sites in the Borough to compare facilities. It had been suggested that local children could be invited to participate in a gardening scheme.

**Ecclian Society:-** Councillor P. Jones reported that the annual barbecue had been a success.

**Offley Hay Village Hall:-** Councillor Allsop reported that a function held at the end of August had caused some local disturbance and the committee was to amend the letting agreement. An extraordinary general meeting had been arranged for 29<sup>th</sup> September to enable residents to voice their concerns. Councillor Butter had contributed £500 from the Local Members Initiative towards improvements.

**First Responders:-** The group was making good progress with raising the funding required to purchase a new vehicle a new defibrillator had been procured. A promise Auction was organised for September 18<sup>th</sup> at Eccleshall Community Centre.

**Farmers' Market:-** Councillor Allsop reported that following the resignation of Councillor von Elbing Mr. D. Lockett had been elected to the Chair, with Councillor P. Allsop as Vice-Chair. After having approached Mr. Nuttall of Joules Brewery who had indicated that there would be no objection to the Farmers' Market being held under the arches of The Royal Oak, the market would return to its original location in the High Street.

**Business Focus Group:-** A late night opening event was planned for November 25<sup>th</sup> and a database was being compiled of all the businesses in the area.

**Bishop Lonsdale School:-** The new headteacher, Chris Middleton had taken over from Sue Holland. The planning application for 85 houses to facilitate the move of the school to a single site had been submitted. If approved the proposals would allow children to move from the north site, where many classrooms were unfit for use, and enable improvements to be undertaken on the south site.

**Community Centre:-** Councillor Dale was appalled to hear of complaints from local residents regarding the Beggars Ball and there had been no problems in the past with the event. Police were patrolling the area as a result of a recent spate of broken windows.

**104/10). Clerks Report and Correspondence:-** The Clerk reported receipt of the following, details of which had been circulated to members:-

- Invitation from Rev. James Graham to a Parish Harvest Thanksgiving Service – Led by Bishop Lonsdale School – an opportunity to be introduced to the new Headteacher – Mr. Chris Middleton. Holy Trinity Church October 7<sup>th</sup> 2010 – 10.30am.
- SBC was looking to recruit Recycling Champions to help spread the recycling message. Anyone interested should contact 01785 619402.

- SPCA - Nominations requested for members of the Executive Committee and Elected Officers. Resolutions requested for consideration at the AGM on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 County Buildings 10am. Councillor Allen volunteered to represent the Council at the AGM and it was agreed to pay the £10 per head cost.
- Licensing Act 2003 The SBC as licensing authority is required to publish a statement of its Policy every 3 years. The document is available for public consultation [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/consultation)
- Requirements for the installation of decoration on or above the highway – This year the process requires the completion of an application form available online eventually. Applications to be submitted at least 3 months before any installation works commence. Councillor Pimble offered to assist the Clerk in completing the documentation.
- Parish Forum September 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 7pm Beaconside Technology Park. Stafford & Rural Homes will give a presentation together with LDF briefings, the review of Development Control, Streetscene and Elections.
- Staffordshire Playing Fields Association:- AGM October 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 Stafford Boat Club 2pm.
- Community Council of Staffordshire – AGM September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 – Haling Dene Centre, Penkridge 7.30pm.
- The Clerk reported that Mr. D. Wright of The Milestone Society had identified another missing milestone at Slindon. A quotation had been received for a replacement from JWS Shenton at a cost of £1,251.40. Councillor Butter offered to give the finance remaining in the Local Community Fund (approximately £500) towards the purchase and the Council resolved to fund the remaining cost from the Milwood Homes Fund. Councillor Butter assured the Clerk that the County Council Highways would receive delivery of the milestone and install it.

**105/10). Chairman's Report:-** Councillor Dale reported that he had been invited to attend the Trafalgar Dinner by Stone Town Council.

**106/10). Accounts:-** Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2180.24
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	72.20
D. Smith - Footpaths - <i>HA 1980 s.143</i>	11.60
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	280.24
Creative Copy 'n' Colour - <i>LGA 1972 s.142</i>	258.00
SPCA AGM	10.00

All were in agreement and the cheques were signed.

**Audit 2009/10:-** The report had been received from the External Auditor and there were no legislation or regulatory requirements that had not been met and no matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

**107/10). Item/date and venue for next meeting:-** October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Eccleshall Community Centre 7.30pm.