

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

September 17th, 2014

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on September 17th, 2014 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

96/14). Present were:-

Councillor G. Dale	Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor M Starkey
Councillor G. Garner	Councillor M. Dodkins
Councillor P. Baskerville	Councillor R. Langford
1 member the Press	Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)
1 member of the public	2 representatives from the Scouts

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Pimble, Amos, Allen, Serjeant, Taylor-Potts and Jones together with Borough / County Councillor Chapman and Borough Councillor J. Pert.

It was noted that Councillor Pimble and the three Borough Councillors was attending a meeting of the Borough Council Planning Committee as the applications submitted by Richborough Estates and Mr Dickinson were being determined this evening.

The meeting opened with prayers

97/14). Vacancy – Croxton Ward:- It was noted that Dr B. James had withdrawn her application in favour of Mrs Langford. Mrs Langford gave a very comprehensive presentation and outlined the activities and groups which she was involved with and indicated that she was proud of the area and hoped to make a positive contribution to improve the quality of life for local residents. The Chairman welcomed Councillor Langford and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

98/14). Scout Presentation – Alex Penniston and Tom Mason:- Tom and Alex thanked the Council for a grant which had been made last year towards the costs of hosting Scouts and leaders from Siberia. The meeting heard of the activities that the visitors had been involved in and how the visit had strengthened links between the groups. The young people indicated that the opportunity to be involved in the visit had inspired them to stay on in the movement and inspire and teach others. The Councillors thanked Alex and Tom for an inspiring and interesting presentation and it was suggested that an article about the visit was included in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

99/14). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- No requests had been submitted

100/14). Public Participation:- The members of the public present did not wish to raise any issues.

101/14). To confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on July 16th, 2014:- The minutes, which had been circulated previously, were agreed and signed.

102/14). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:- In the absence of the Borough and County Councillors there were no reports to receive.

103/14). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- The next meeting with Chris Mitchell from Highways was scheduled for September 23rd, 2014 followed by a Traffic Management Committee meeting on October 1st, 2014. It was noted that the next visit of the Neighbourhood Highway Team was due on October 14th and members were asked to send details of any works required to the Clerk.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale presented the minutes from a meeting held on September 3rd, 2014, which had been circulated with the agendas.

- **Picnic Site:-** Councillor Mullee was asked to remove the picnic bench, which was rotten.
- **Eyeswells Footpath:-** The trees on the Open Space were crowding the area and preventing the grass from growing. Councillors Dale and Baskerville agreed to inspect the trees and identify which needed removing to ensure that the area remained open, attractive and managed to enable quotes to be obtained. Mr Alcock of 2, Usulwall Close had also identified a sycamore tree adjacent to his boundary that he would like to be removed. Councillor Delanchy suggested that

enquiries were made to ascertain whether the Neighbourhood Highway Team could remove trees and trim branches.

- **Elford Common and Pool:-** It was reported that the spring was in full flow, passing through the rill to the dew pond. It was suggested that a bridge of sleepers covered with chicken mesh would help people to cross the rill. The Committee was authorised obtain costs.

The condition of the water in the pool had again deteriorated. It was agreed to explore how the water quality may be improved and if necessary trim back the overhanging trees to let more light in.

- **Pillar Clock:-** It was noted that Mr Smith had started work on the replacement of damaged bricks on the clock plinth.
- **Christmas Trees:-** It was agreed that both Woods Farm and Mr Stanhope from Bishops Offley, who had expressed an interest in submitted a tender for the supply and delivery of the Christmas Trees, be invited to tender, although the Council had been very pleased with the service and quality of trees received from Woods Farm in recent years. The most important aspect of the Christmas Trees supplied was to ensure that each of the 5' trees had a clear stem of 14" and a diameter of less than 2" and the provision of a crane to install the 25' tree in the churchyard.
- **Grass Cutting:-** Specifications for the grass cutting requirements in 2015/16 and 2016/17 were to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.
- **Fire Tender:-** Councillor Dale reported that a meeting had been held on Friday September 5th, 2014 with Mr Jesson (Co-op) Mr Barber (Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service) and Councillor F. Chapman. The Planning Application had been submitted by the Co-op and members were hopeful that the project would be able to proceed with funding from various sources.
- **Weeds and litter in the town:-** Mrs Heelis reported that she had attended a meeting with Mr T. Hulse (Business Group Chairman), and Councillors Chapman and Jones to discuss a campaign to encourage shopkeepers to keep their shop fronts free of weeds and litter. Mr Hulse and Councillor Jones had agreed to put together a leaflet for distribution. It was considered important that the campaign was a joint venture by the Business Group, Borough and Parish Councils. Mrs Heelis was authorised to apply for a grant of £250 from the Local Community Fund on behalf of the Parish Council, to fund the printing and distribution of the leaflet.

The next meeting of the Committee was to be held on December 3rd, 2014 following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

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

Policy and Resources:- Councillor Garner presented the minutes from a meeting of the Committee held on August 20th, 2014 and reported on the following requests for funding:-

- **Eccleshall Youth Club – YoYo:-** The application had been referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for determination as the funding requested was towards the costs of summer activities. Copies of the account details were circulated and it was agreed to provide the full amount requested of £250. Councillor Dodkins declared an interest in this matter and did not participate in the voting. The Council was in support of this decision and retrospective authorisation was granted.
- **Eccleshall RUFC:-** The Club was requesting up to £400 towards the cost of providing changing rooms and showers for the use of the players, as facilities provided previously by Baden Hall had been withdrawn unexpectedly. The Council unanimously resolved to support a recommendation to provide a grant for the full amount of £400 to the Rugby Union Football Club.

The date of the next meeting of the Committee was to be notified.

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee were adopted by the Council.

Footpaths Committee:- There had been no meeting of the Committee.

104/14). Liaison Representatives:-

There were no reports to receive from Offley Hay Village Hall or the Tourism Bureau

Allotments Association:- Councillor Starkey reported on a meeting of the Association. The Association had discussed the provision of safety equipment and requirements for allotment holders to wear appropriate protective clothing when using power tools that were owned by the Association. The Parish

Council requested Councillor Starkey to recommend that the Committee they may wish to seek further advice on this matter as the preparation of risk assessments and method statements could be required.

There was a waiting list of six people for allotments and the disabled plot was currently let to an able bodied gardener as there no disabled person in the community had expressed an interest. Fire extinguishers and fire blankets were to be provided in the welfare cabin, the drive was to be patched and the entrance gates needed lifting. Current projects include the expansion and enclosure of the compost area and provision of a water butt for each tap.

Ecclian Society:-

- It was noted that the 2015 Calendars would shortly be available from the Newsagents on Stafford Street and the Pharmacy.
- Welcome packs were being distributed to new residents in the town
- The 2014 AGM was to be held at The Kings Arms on November 18th, 2014
- The Ecclian Society had recruited five new members at The Eccleshall Show and congratulations were extended to the organisers of an excellent Show.
- The baskets and flags were to be removed on October 5th, 2014 at 10am.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Dodkins reported that the PTFA would be held on September 26th, 2014 and a fund raising bingo session was arranged for September 20th, 2014. Government funded lunches were now available for Pupils from Reception to Year 2.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale reported that the Centre continued to be popular and a new dance class was to start on Saturdays and Tuesdays.

Young People:- Councillor Dodkins thanked the Council for the grant of £250 which had enabled the young people to enjoy days out during the summer holidays. All parents would be invited to attend the AGM in November to encourage more adults to volunteer to help at the Youth Club and enable it to open two nights a week.

Communities Mean Business:- Councillor Dodkins reported that she had attended a recent meeting with Councillor von Elbing. The DEFRA led funding appeared to be increasingly more businesses orientated and concern was expressed that this could be detrimental to local communities.

105/14). Clerk's Report and Correspondence:-

The Clerk reported the following meeting dates:-

- Parish Forum – September 25th, 2014, Civic Centre - 7pm
- Community Council of Staffordshire AGM – October 9th, 2014 Stowe-by-Chartley Village Hall - 7pm.
- Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – October 8th, 2014, St. George's Park, Burton on Trent.

Seats and Noticeboards:- Mrs Heelis reported that the Prison had indicated that they would struggle to get all the seats and the noticeboards refurbished before the autumn. The Clerk had purchased further materials to enable Mr Sheard to treat the ones outside the Town. Drake Hall had since requested further paint and varnish and Mrs Heelis was authorised to purchase the necessary materials.

106/14). Chairman's report:- Councillor Dale reported that he had visited Drake Hall with Councillor Amos following an invitation issued by the governor to all the Parish Councillors. The Estate Manager had taken them on a tour to explain the details of the Planning Application, which had recently been submitted. The Planning Permission requested would provide a building for the trustees and accommodation for two families with the objective of helping to integrate people back into society.

107/14). Accounts:- Mrs Heelis referred to copies of the accounts, which had been circulated.

Retrospective authorisation was agreed for payment of the following invoices:-

Broxap - seat Slats - <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 ss 2 & 3</i>	222.00
Parton Agriplant Ltd – hedgecutting - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	228.00
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	130.49
Grant Thornton - <i>Accounts and Audit Regs. 1996</i>	360.00
Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - <i>concurrent allowance</i>	103.00

Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10</i>	301.80
C. Heelis - Paint for seats - <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 ss 1,2 & 3</i>	25.44
P. Baskerville - Travel outside Parish - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	15.00
Eccleshall Guide <i>LGA 1072 s.142</i>	125.00
Eccleshall Youth Club <i>LGA -1972 s.137</i>	250.00

Authorisation was sought for the payment of the following invoices:-

Salaries and associated costs – <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2436.65
Expenses – <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	46.92
C. Heelis – <i>Paint & Varnish</i>	95.53
Trent Grounds Maintenance – <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10</i>	266.40
Eccleshall RUFC <i>LGA 1972 s. 137</i>	400.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

- 108/14). Formal Compliant – Mr F. Dickinson:-** A formal letter of complaint dated July 29th, 2014 had been received from Mr Dickinson. Copies of the letter had been circulated to all Councillors. Mr Dickinson had addressed a meeting of the Planning Committee held on August 20th, 2014 and outlined his grievances with regard to comments submitted to Stafford Borough Council in response to Planning Application 14/20604. Councillor Pimble had prepared a statement in response to the points raised by Mr Dickinson and all members had also received a copy of this document.

Councillor Dale proposed that the complaint and the responding statement were noted and receipt of the documentation was minuted. All were in favour of this course of action.

- 109/14). Neighbourhood Plan:-** Discussion of this item was deferred until the Planning Committee to allow time for Councillor Pimble to return from the meeting at Stafford Borough Council.

- 110/14). Items / Date and venue for next meeting:-** October 15th, 2014 - Offley Hay Village Hall 7.30pm
This meeting would be preceded at 7pm by a presentation from J. Ross developments Ltd regarding proposals for development on land off Cross Butts.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.