

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Eccleshall Community Centre, Shaws Lane, at 7.30pm, this meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

**97/13). Present were:-**

Councillor G. Dale (Chairman)	Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor B. Apps	Councillor P. Mullee
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor J. Allen	Councillor G. Garner
Councillor L. Serjeant	Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor M. Dodkins	
Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)	Borough / County Councillor F. Chapman.
Borough Councillor J. Pert	Mr P. Thompson

**Apologies** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Amos, von Elbing and Jones. (Councillor Jones arrived before the Liaison Representative reports).

*The meeting opened with prayers*

**98/13). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** No requests had been submitted.

**99/13). Public Participation:-** Mr Thompson did not wish to raise any issues with the Council.

**100/13). To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013:-** The numbered road referred to under item 87/13 was erroneously reported as B50126 instead of B5026. The necessary amendments were made and the minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

**101/13). Reports from County and Borough Councillors:-**

**Councillor Chapman** reported that most of the complaints he received involved Highway issues. Hopefully, the pavement outside The George on Stone Road would be resurfaced in due course. Shaws Lane was also scheduled for resurfacing together with both entrances to Holy Trinity Church, which were not in the ownership of the County Council but were to be repaired as a gesture of goodwill.

Councillor Chapman indicated that complaints had been received from Creswell Parish Council about the number of Gist lorries using the A5013. Eccleshall Parish Council considered that the lorries were generally well driven and drivers conformed to the speed limit, although Councillor Pimble had encountered a Gist lorry passing through Swynnerton on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 19.45, despite the restrictions on that route. The lease on the Gist site was due for renewal and Council Chapman reiterated that the local councillors would resist any future development at Raleigh Hall for distribution purposes. It was noted that defective road surfaces increased the noise and disturbance generated by HGV's and Councillor Chapman agreed that these were issues that needed to be addressed, although the resurfacing of Stafford Street was not planned in the immediate future.

Councillor Chapman further reported that as a member of the Health Scrutiny Committee, he was involved in the submission of a response concerning the consultation for the future of Stafford Hospital. The Police and Crime Panel had recently considered the Annual Report from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Chapman commented on a recent meeting of the Enhancements committee when it had been agreed that proposals to plant trees on The Burgage should be deferred until detailed plans for the development of affordable homes on The Burgage were available. However, having made enquiries, Councillor Chapman believed that the proposed planting would not be affected by the proposals and he was working with the Community Partnership Officer to undertake a utilities check and liaise with the Forestry Officer regarding a suitable species of tree. Trees similar to those planted on Castle Street were suggested – Acer Campestre 'Elsrijk' or a flagpole type tree – Prunus Amanagowa. Councillor Chapman offered to consult the local residents and indicated that he would be able to provide a grant from the Local Community Fund. Councillor Chapman agreed to continue to gather information for the project for presentation to the Parish Council in due course.

**Councillor Pert** thanked the Highways for resurfacing the B5026 through Croxton recently and encouraged members to participate in the consultation about the future of Stafford Hospital. He also referred to the current Boundary Review for the Borough, which was being undertaken by the Boundary Commission.

**102/13). Committee Reports:-**

**Traffic Management Committee:-** A meeting would be held with Mr C. Mitchell on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and the next committee meeting was scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

**Enhancements Committee:-** Councillor Dale referred to the minutes of a committee meeting held on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, which had been circulated along with the Parish Council agenda and reported on the following items:-

- **Croxton Play Area:-** Councillor Delanchy had visited the site but found no evidence of a wasps nest reported by Councillor Jacques.
- **Washpits:-** Thanks were extended to Councillor Apps for cleaning the litter bin. BT had indicated that the telephone kiosk would be cleaned as soon as possible and repainting would take place in due course.
- **Eyeswells Footpath:-** A site meeting was to be arranged and quotes obtained to remove some of the oak trees as the site was becoming overcrowded.
- **Risk Assessments and Assets surveys:-** Discussions were on going with the Prison regarding the cleaning of seats and other furniture and refurbishing of the seats with the Lion Head Arms. Concern had been expressed by the Prison Officers about the practicalities of working in rural areas and it was considered that the Women may be better cleaning the teak seats in the town and weeding. It was agreed to seek quotations for the refurbishment of the seats with the Lion Head Arms for consideration by the Enhancements Committee, although it was now too late in the year for this work to be undertaken.
- **Pillar Clock:-** Councillor Pimble reported that he had not received any quotations for the repairs to the brickwork and upon further examination the damage now appeared more extensive than originally thought. It was agreed that Councillors Dale, Baskerville and Pimble would hold a site meeting to determine the best course of action and report back to the next meeting of the Enhancements Committee.
- **Bishops Court:-** The Clerk had obtained a quote from Photocast of £216.00 for a reconstituted stone mount to hold the commemorative plaque and it had been agreed to investigate the cost of an oak post from Weston Sawmill.
- **Christmas Trees:-** The committee recommended that quotes were obtained from Woods Farm at Solihull and Treeway Fencing (who used to supply the trees to Fosters). It was a resolved to proceed with this course of action as it was thought that a local supplier would not have the number of trees required.
- **Civic Service:-** Councillor Dale reported that the Civic Service was to be held at Holy Trinity Church on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 10am.
- **Russian Scouts:-** Russian Scouts who had recently visited the area had presented a plaque to the Parish Council from Ust-Abakan in Russia. It was agreed to write and thank the town hall for the gift and consider an item or items to send with Eccleshall Scouts on a return visit planned in 2014.

The minutes of the Enhancement Committee were adopted by the Parish Council.

**Policy and Resources:-** The next meeting of the Committee would be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 following a meeting of the Planning Committee.

**Footpaths Committee:-** A broken wicket gate on The Dells Footpath had been reported to the County Council who had agreed to undertake repairs and advise the Parish Council when rotten posts had been replaced.

**103/13). Liaison Representatives:-**

**Allotments Association:-** Councillor Starkey reported that all the plots were let and there was a waiting list of two people. The recent repair to the damaged access gate had been unsatisfactory and a future project was to replace the gate. With the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary indicating that they would not continue in office after the next AGM prospective replacements had come forward from the committee. The Association was to have a Barbecue on September 29<sup>th</sup> and a quarterly newsletter was planned.

Following concerns about public access to the site a notice had been placed on the gate. The next meeting would be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

**Ecclian Society:-** Councillor Baskerville thanked those who had helped to remove the baskets and mangers on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Offley Hay Village Hall:-** Councillor Dodkins reported that bookings remained bouyant. A large hole had appeared in the car park and the cause was under investigation. A new W.I. was to be formed in the new year by Jennifer Perks.

**Tourism Bureau:-** Councillor Jones reported that he had attended a meeting of the group at Ingestre Hall.

**Bishop Lonsdale School:-** Councillor Dodkins indicated that instead of taking gifts of fruit and vegetables for Harvest Festival this year, the children were being asked to donate £1 which would go to Christian Aid. No completion date had been given for building improvement works to the south site.

**Community Centre:-** Councillor Dale reported that the boiler in the kitchen had been replaced and steam caused by a faulty thermostat on the boiler used for drinks had brought down ceiling tiles. Bookings were on the increase following the summer break.

**Business Focus Group:-** Councillor Jones reported that the group continued to meet on a monthly basis, although membership numbers had fallen.

**Young People:-** Councillor Dodkins reported that membership continued to increase and there were now over 60 regular attendees. Thanks were extended to Emma Austin who had opened the Club every Tuesday during the summer holidays and taken a group of young people to Splash Landings.

**Communities Mean Business:-** Councillor Dodkins reported that a meeting was to be held to discuss the future of the group and concern was expressed over a possible partnership with DEFRA.

**104/13). Neighbourhood Plan:-** Councillor Pimble reported that following a successful display at the Eccleshall Show, the group planned to man displays outside Eccleshall Library on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> to encourage residents to complete questionnaires. Several prizes had been donated by local businesses and a Business Survey had been prepared and emailed to businesses in the Parish. Councillor Pimble and the Clerk were to attend a meeting of the Stafford Neighbourhood Plan Support Group on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

**105/13). Clerk's report and Correspondence:-**

**Croxton Playing Field:-** Mrs Heelis reported that some repairs were required to the wetpour surfacing, which appeared to have shrunk in several areas. A quotation had been obtained from PPL to repair 8 linear metres of surfacing, however, Mrs Heelis considered that such extensive repairs may be unnecessary and Councillor Dale agreed to accompany the Clerk on a site visit to assess the damage and amount of repairs required.

The Clerk advised members of the following meetings:-

**Parish Forum –**Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Civic Suite SBC. 7pm

**Staffordshire Community Council –** AGM – October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Oak Room, County Buildings. 7pm

**Staffordshire Playing Fields Association. –** AGM – St George's Park Football Academy, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Burton-on-Trent 2pm.

**Royal Mail:-** A response from Royal Mail regarding complaints about the Parcel Service at Eccleshall Post Office indicated that the rising number of packet deliveries had led to an issue with space at Eccleshall Post Office which had led to concerns with the safety of packets. In addition as drivers were returning to Stafford Delivery Office it was more secure to ensure that all packets were returned to a central point, as opposed to outlying offices.

**106/13). Chairman's Report:-** The Chairman had nothing to report.

**107/13). Accounts:-** The Clerk referred to the lists itemising income and expenditure, which had been distributed and referred to the following payments made since the last meeting (most of which had been authorised at Planning Committee Meetings).

Photocast Products - Plaques - <i>Local Government Act 1972 s.137</i>	1014.36
Partumis Metal - Railings – <i>Local Government Act 1972 s.137</i>	1873.00
Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	266.40
BT Phone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	119.30
Malcolm Gray photocopying - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	19.60
Parton Agriplant Ltd – hedgecutting - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	222.00

Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	231.00
Zurich Municipal - additional premium - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	53.00
D. Smith - Footpaths - <i>HA 1980 s.143</i>	12.38
E-on street lighting & maintenance - <i>Parish Council's Act 1957 s.3</i>	132.19
Creative Copy n Colour – Newsletters & questionnaires - <i>LGA 1972 s.142</i>	402.00

**Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-**

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2309.11
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	56.68
Eccleshall Guide <i>LGA 1072 s.142</i>	120.00

**All were in favour and the cheques were signed.**

**108/13). Date and venue for next meeting:-** October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Offley Hay Village Hall 7.30pm.

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