

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

September 21st, 2016

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on September 21st, 2016, at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm, this meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

109/16). Present were:-

Councillor P. Jones (Chairman)	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor B. Delanchy	Councillor P. Mullee
Councillor M. Starkey	Councillor R. Langford
Councillor E. Amos	Councillor D. Jacques
Councillor J. Leather	Councillor T. Price
Councillor A. Le Monnier	Borough Councillor J. Pert.
Mrs C. Heelis (Clerk)	1 member of the public

The meeting opened with prayers

At the Council Meeting held on July 20th, 2016 it had been agreed that Councillor P. Jones would Chair this meeting in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Pimble, Garner, Taylor-Potts and Marshall together with County Councillor Chapman.

110/16). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:- No requests had been received.

111/16). Public Participation:- Mr Ranson referred to a previous request for the addition of a SLOW sign on the A5013 by Claremont Garage before the junction with Linacre Road. Mrs Heelis advised that the matter had been raised with Mr Rayson from County Highways and could be mentioned at a further meeting on September 29th, 2016. Mr Ranson also referred to faded SLOW on markings on Stone Road and delineation of the roundabouts. Councillor Delanchy indicated that the faded markings should be reported through the Contact Centre.

112/16). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 20th, 2016:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

113/16). Report from Borough Councillor Pert:-

- Councillor Pert had met with Mr A. Yendole and Mr J. Holmes (Planning) and Councillor Jones and Pimble, together with Mrs C. Heelis, to discuss applications for developments outside the Settlement Boundary.
- Representations had been made regarding the application submitted by Bovis Homes to extend the working hours / week, which was considered neither justifiable nor reasonable.
- The foul water issue on Back Lane, Croxton had been resolved by directing the water into a ditch and the lane was now dry.
- Councillor Pert expressed concern at the withdrawal of Children's emergency services at Stafford Hospital. It was anticipated that some level of emergency services would be resumed shortly, but this could lead to possible confusion for parents in determining which hospital to attend and it was questionable whether staff with the necessary skills would be available.
- At a recent meeting of Standon Parish Council held at Cotes Heath residents had expressed concern about the speed of traffic from Clifford's Wood to Mill Meece. There had been several near misses recently and four accidents had occurred on the railway bridge. It was possible that the speed of traffic on this stretch of the A519 through to Slindon would have to be reassessed.

114/16). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- A meeting was to be held with Mr Rayson (Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager) on September 29th, at 4.30pm. Members were requested to send details of any items for discussion to Mrs Heelis. The next meeting of the Committee would be held on October 5th, 2016, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Enhancements Committee:- The next meeting would be held on September 28th, 2016 at Eccleshall Community Centre at 7.30pm. It was resolved to place the order for the Christmas Trees

with Woods Christmas Tree Farm at Solihull subject to receipt of an acceptable quotation. Woods had supplied the trees for the last four years. In the past the trees had been of good quality and the service reliable.

Councillor Jacques enquired whether there was any progress with the Eagle Sculpture on the new roundabout at the Bovis development. Mrs Heelis indicated that she was waiting for Bovis to return her calls / emails.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting of the committee would be held on November 2nd, 2016, following the meeting of the Planning Committee.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Mullee reported that a group of walkers had encountered problems when walking the route described on Footpath Leaflet 2 – these complaints would be investigated.

Councillor Langford commented that at the AGM of the CPRE held recently it had been noted that the County Council would no longer be able to fund replacement stiles and kissing gates.

Councillor Jacques referred to issues with various lanes in the Parish over which there were public Rights of Way. Councillor Jacques was asked to forward details to Councillor Mullee to facilitate investigations.

The next meeting of the Footpaths Committee would be held on October 5th, 2016 at 6.30pm preceding the Planning Committee meeting.

115/16). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Offley Hay Village Hall, Community Centre Association or Young People.

Ecclesian Society:- Councillor Baskerville reported that the Society had been represented at the Eccleshall Show and attracted several new members. Membership of the Society was now in excess of 200 families from the area. Welcome Packs were prepared for new residents and people moving into homes on the Bovis site would receive a pack.

The watering contract would finish on Friday September 23rd, 2016 to allow the baskets to dry out prior to removal.

Tourism Bureau:- The last social meeting had been held at Izaak Walton Cottage.

Slindon Residents:- Councillor Leather reported that there had been no meeting. A cake stall would be held outside the Crown Surgery on October 8th, 2016.

Croxtan Residents:- Councillor Langford reported that a meeting had been held in the Church to discuss issues of speeding through the village. The Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator had been in attendance and it had been agreed to resurrect the Speedwatch Group. Training was to be organised and new members were welcome.

116/16). New Developments:- Councillor Jones reported on the meeting with Mr A. Yendole (Forward Planning) and Mr J. Holmes (Development Control Manager) held on September 8th, 2016.

- Details were awaited of how the new Housing and Planning Act should be implemented, together with the policy requirement to provide Market and Affordable Housing.
- The Borough Council had an online Register of people interested in self-build homes and around two dozen names were already on the list, some expressions of interests identified a preference for Eccleshall.
- The Plan for Stafford Borough was considered robust and following adoption of Part 2 of the Plan a review would commence. Any changes required to the Plan for Stafford Borough would be translated into policy when the 5 year review was undertaken. The Borough would refer to Parish Councils with new housing projections and suggested numbers of new homes, at which time each Parish would be able to choose whether to amend the boundary or allow the Borough Council to make changes.
- Mr Yendole indicated that there were sufficient potential sites within the settlement boundary identified by the Eccleshall Neighbourhood Plan, which are not yet subject to planning applications. In the future, it may be that the developer would need to prove there was no available land within the settlement boundary and provide evidence of local need to be able to develop outside the boundary because providing suitable self-build sites is a requirement of the legislation.

- Mr Yendole referred to a New Neighbourhood Plan Bill which would strengthen the weight given to Neighbourhood Plans. It may be that the Parish Council may consider it appropriate to prepare a revised Neighbourhood Plan if and when the Borough Council have prepared their revisions to the Local Plan in around 5 years' time. At this time, it may also be necessary to identify self-build plots within Eccleshall.
- Both Officers indicated that the application for self-build homes would be refused as it was outside the settlement boundary and contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan and the Plan for Stafford Borough. Also there was sufficient land identified within the boundary for self-build homes
- Proposals for a care home and retirement village outside the settlement boundary would be rejected on the same grounds.

It was noted that the Taylor Wimpey Planning Application had received approval from the Borough Council Planning Committee on September 14th, 2016. The conditions attached to the approval were uncertain as the Decision Notice was not yet available on the Borough Council website.

117/16). Community Transport:- Councillor Jones indicated that he was looking into setting up a community transport network with volunteer car drivers prepared to transport people from the Parish to hospital or other destinations. The scheme would be funded by the County and Borough Councils and an application for a small grant may be made to Eccleshall Parish Council. The scheme would operate through a mobile phone control centre with Passengers paying a small fee and drivers being reimbursed for mileage. Most insurance companies indicate that insurances remain valid providing the service is voluntary. Councillor Jones intended to form a steering group to establish the details of the scheme and was seeking support from the Parish Council and the appointment of a representative to join the group.

118/16). Highway Infrastructure Consultation:- The document had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. The Council resolved to submit no comments.

Councillor Baskerville referred to recent flooding in Eccleshall as a result of a severe storm. Residents were advised to contact Severn Trent Operations Service Centre and report flooding issues, submitting photographic evidence where possible on the website. Mr A. Jones (Network Technician) had attended a Parish Council meeting in February followed by a public meeting in Eccleshall Library in April but had expressed disappointment that no evidence of flooding had been submitted. Councillor Delanchy stated that prior to the resurfacing of Stafford Street and Castle Street, County Highways had used camera apparatus to photograph the drainage system and passed details to Severn Trent, who had declined to take any action. It was resolved to invite Mr Jones to attend another Parish Council meeting to discuss the problems.

119/16). Clerk's report and correspondence:-

- Mrs Heelis read out an email from Councillor Taylor-Potts indicating regret that due to the pressure of work she felt unable to continue as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk was asked to advise the Borough Council and advertise the Vacancy. Thanks were expressed to Lindsay for her enthusiasm and commitment during her time as a Parish Councillor and Chair of Traffic Management.
- Mrs Heelis reported receipt of a letter of thanks from Eccleshall Football Club for the grant received.
- An email had been circulated advising of the formation of a new group – Stafford West Area – Collaboration Group, which was to meet on October 20th, 2016 at 7pm at Gnosall. It was resolved not to participate in the new group as it could damage relationships with County and Borough Officers.
- An email received from Mrs Thompson resident of Badgers Croft expressed dismay at the work undertaken by Bovis on the public open space, to connect the sewers for the new development. The email had been circulated together with a response from the Clerk indicating that the land would be reinstated and could not be developed.

120/16). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Jones had nothing to report.

121/16). Accounts:-
The following accounts, which had been paid since the meeting in July were approved:-

Paul Harrison Design - Heritage Trail Leaflets - <i>LGA 1972 s.14</i>	120.00
Trent Grounds Maintenance - grasscutting – <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	315.60
Parton Agriplant Ltd – hedgecutting - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	180.00
D. Smith – Footpaths maintenance - <i>HA 1980 s.143</i>	57.60
B.T. Telephone Bill - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	144.01
Eccleshall Football Club – Grant	500.00
Mrs. J. Hill Internal Audit - <i>Accounts & Audit Regs. 2003</i>	44.00
TGM - grass & hedgecutting – <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	477.60
Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - concurrent allowance	115.00
Eccleshall Guide <i>LGA 1972 s.142</i>	130.00
Peter Jones - Web Hosting - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	85.68

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following accounts:-

Salaries and associated costs - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	2426.80
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	63.03
Parton Agriplant Ltd – hedgecutting - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	66.00
E-On Street lighting & maintenance - <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3</i>	150.88

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

Mrs Heelis reported that Councillor Jones had carried out the six monthly internal audit of the accounts and the Audit Return had been received from Grant Thornton with no matters of concern identified.

121/16). Items/date and venue for next meeting:- October 19th, 2016, Offley Hay Village Hall 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm.