

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL – October 20th, 2010

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on October 20th, 2010 at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee.

108/10). Present were:-

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Councillor G. Dale (Chair) | Councillor D. Pimble (Vice-Chair) |
| Councillor P. Baskerville | 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 | Councillor M. Starkey |
| Councillor J. Pert | Mrs. C. Heelis (Clerk) |
| 7 members of the public | Borough Councillor F. Chapman |
| County / Borough Councillor H. Butter | |
| PCSO D. Lutwyche | |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Delanchy, and J. Jones.

109/10). Public Participation:- Mrs. C. Law And Mrs. N. Goosey, both residents of Wootton Lane raised concerns about problems with HGV's accessing the single track lane, which was a no-through road with no facility for turning around. Photographs were circulated to illustrate problems with the inappropriate access from the Newport Road, evidence of damage caused to the grass verge by vehicles cutting the sharp, narrow corner and flooding. Councillor Pert suggested that Clarence should be contacted with regard to the damaged verges and narrowing of the carriageway. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting of the Traffic Management Committee and Councillor Butter offered to pursue the matter with the Highways Department.

Mrs. J. Edwards spoke on behalf of residents of Shaws Lane in objection to a planning application for a third generation synthetic multi sports pitch at Bishops Lonsdale CE Primary School. The residents were seeking support for their objections to the proposals from the Parish Council. Main issues of concern included noise, light pollution, loss of privacy, parking, wildlife, and flooding. The matter would be discussed in more detail at the Planning Committee meeting following the Council Meeting.

110/10). Police:- PSCO Lutwyche reported on crimes in the area since the last Council Meeting. The incidents included criminal damage to street furniture and the telephone box on Stone Road/Stafford Street, together with rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour of youths around the Community Centre. PCSO Lutwyche indicated that the Police would continue to patrol the area around the Community Centre and that 2 PCSO's and a Special Officer had been assigned to attend the Bonfire Night Event.

111/10). To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on September 15th, 2010:- The minutes, which had been previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

112/10). Reports from Borough Councillors:- Councillor Chapman reported that he had been advised that representatives from the Police and Highways Department had met with the organiser of the Bank Holiday Markets, although neither Councillor Chapman or the Parish Council had been invited. Sergeant Kevin Parton had undertaken to keep the Parish Council and Mrs. Leather informed of developments, in advance of the next event.

Councillor Chapman had 'called in' and application for a detached dwelling in the grounds of The Mount, Stafford Road, following objections received from local residents.

Councillor Butter reported that the work undertaken by the Highways Department on Footpath 13 appeared to have resolved the flooding issues. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Butter and Councillor Allen for pursuing this issue to a successful conclusion.

The Headmaster had requested the support of Councillor Butter for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit on Shaws Lane past the school and Councillor Butter was also pursuing the implementation of kerbing work at Mere Rise, Copmere through the Divisional Highways Programme. The Parish Council had received a grant from the Local Community Fund for half the cost of the milestone at Slindon.

113/10). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management:- At a meeting of the committee held on October 6th, 2010 Councillor von Elbing had been elected as Chairman. Councillor von Elbing referred to the Minutes from the meeting which had been previously circulated.

It was noted that the Highways Capital Budget was to be reduced by £2m and a new Transport Plan would be introduced shortly. Priorities would be identified and assessed with safety issues taking precedence.

Green Lane / Newport Road:- The mobile Camera Vehicle had been operating on Newport Road. Further speed and volume data was to be collected in November to compare against data recorded prior to the improvements to the Cross Butts / Green Lane junction.

Walton Bends:- There had been no accidents on the bends since the carriageway was resurfaced and the ditch and gully by the field entrance had been cleared out and jetted to alleviate the flooding problems. Both matters would continue to be monitored.

Slindon:- Mr. Mitchell had referred to data collected for the speed limit review which showed speeds through Slindon to be within the speed limit. Only two slight injury accidents had been recorded through the developed section of Slindon during a five year period up to December 2009. The review was expected to recommend that the current limit was appropriate, based on national guidelines for a rural village of intermittent density with properties set well back from the road. It had been agreed to write and advise Mr. Bramall of the current situation, however, Mr. Bramall had subsequently sent an email to MP W. Cash seeking his continued support for a reduction in the speed limit. Mrs. Heelis reported that in consultation with Mr. Mitchell a joint response had been sent to Mr. Bramall and copied to Mr. Cash.

Neighbourhood Highway Teams:- The group was visiting Eccleshall from October 19th for 5 days. A list of works required had been compiled grouping jobs in geographical areas with a day allocated for both Croxton and Slindon areas and the remaining time spent in Eccleshall.

Grit bins :- The County Council had considered the list of sites put forward and new bins had been supplied in several locations throughout the Parish.

Five Year Plan:- Several items had been removed from the Plan - A 519 Route Strategy / LTP, safety, Wootton Bank, together with a VAS sign on Newport Road, however, this would be reviewed once speed data was available to assess whether further measures were required to reduce the speed of traffic.

Bus services:- The committee had discussed changes to bus timetables and services, a letter had been sent to Arriva highlighting difficulties for residents of Eccleshall wishing to travel to Stafford Hospital, but no response had been received. The Clerk had been asked to pursue the matter, however, Councillor Amos had subsequently reported further changes which may alleviate the situation and agreed to monitor and report back.

Stafford Borough Parking Strategy and Customer Focus for Highways:- Members were advised of these two documents available for public consultation, Councillors von Elbing, Garner and the Clerk were authorised to consider the documentation and submit comments from the Parish Council if it was deemed appropriate.

Enhancements Committee:- Councillor Dale reported that Mr. Haslam had introduced a bucket of silt to aid re-colonisation by freshwater invertebrates and plants into the pool at Copmere to oxygenate the water and would repeat the exercise shortly.

Councillor Pimble referred to the rapid re-growth of willow trees around the pond and proposed that the Council should adopt an annual maintenance regime. This matter was referred to the Enhancements Committee for consideration.

The Clerk was asked to send letters to the contractors who had tendered for the work to clear the pool to advise that the Council was no longer proposing to undertake this work, following advice from the Staffordshire Ecological Services and The Environment Agency.

Croxtan Playing Field:- It was resolved to request Trent Grounds Maintenance to undertake a days work clearing the undergrowth and trimmed trees and vegetation at a cost of £360.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting was scheduled for November 3rd, 2010 when the committee would consider the Budget for 2011/12.

Footpaths Committee:- Councillor Allen reported that the kissing gates on Footpath 8 would be installed shortly and he was already considering a further project to enable easier access to additional local footpaths.

114/10). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Tourism Bureau or Communities Mean Business.

Ecclian Society:- Councillor P. Jones reported on arrangements for the removal of baskets and erection of Christmas Trees. The Christmas lights would be switched on, on November 29th. Calendars for 2011 were available for purchase.

First Responders:- Councillor Garner reported that the Promise Auction had been successful in raising funds despite being poorly attended.

Farmers' Market:- Councillor Allsop reported that the re-launch of the market under the arches of The Royal Oak had been very successful.

Business Focus Group:- Councillor P. Jones indicated that the group had a membership of 30 businesses and shops in the town. A late night opening event was planned for November 25th.

Offley Hay Village Hall:- Councillor Allsop reported difficulties with the committee at a recent meeting.

Community Centre:- Councillor Dale referred to nuisance problems caused by youths around the Centre. Decisions would be made regarding decoration of the Jubilee Room including a new carpet once the Day Centre had assessed how they would be affected by the spending review. The new conservatory was a great success, especially with the elderly users of the Day Centre.

Bishop Lonsdale School:- Councillor Pert reported that the school had been visited by Offsted.

115/10). Clerk's report and correspondence:- The Clerk reported receipt of the following:-

- An invitation to members to attend the Mayor's Ball on December 3rd 2010.
- A consultation document from South Staffordshire NHS on Pharmaceutical Needs.

Mrs. Heelis had attended a Parish Forum on September 30th which had covered many interesting topics including capping and concurrent functions allowances, elections 2011, affordable rural housing and the Local Development Framework. A presentation from Streetscene identified the broad range of works undertaken including grounds maintenance, arboricultural works, hedge cutting, floral displays, watering and mechanical sweeping.

115/10). Open Space, Bishops Court – Progress report and costs:- Following the agreement of the Council on October 6th to proceed with the land purchase at a cost of £1500 plus vat and disbursements, the Heads of Terms had been signed by the Chairman and Clerk and a cheque for £1595.50 had been despatched to the Treasury Solicitor. The contract was expected shortly for signing. Mr. Gamson, the Parish Council's solicitor had presented an intermediate invoice for costs over 6 years of £2549.53, the Council resolved to pay this invoice and noted that further costs would be incurred for registration of the land and completion of the purchase.

116/10). Chairman's Report:- Councillor Dale reported on a Local Council Event held at Stafford Showground, attended by himself, Councillor Pimble and the Clerk. The workshops had covered IT, Planning and The Big Society.

Councillor Pimble indicated that the County Council was planning a corporate style of web sites which Parish Council's could use and may be beneficial to the Council and easier to update. There was also to be an opportunity for each Council/Councillors to have individual email addresses via Staffordshire.gov.uk. Councillor Pert expressed reservations regarding copyrights and independence

/ individuality. It was resolved to investigate the matter further to ascertain whether involvement would be worthwhile

Councillor Dale had also attended a Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church led by Bishop Lonsdale School and had the opportunity to meet the new Headteacher, Mr. Middleton. The Chairman had also represented the Parish Council at a memorial service for Dr. Harrison and a cricket match in memory of Dr. Harrison and Mr. Thomson.

117/10). 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> | 70.51 |
| Stafford Borough - Civic Amenity visits - <i>concurrent allowance</i> | 97.45 |
| C. Heelis - Portable hard drive - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i> | 49.99 |
| Parton Agriplant Ltd. Hedgecutting - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10</i> | 129.25 |
| Trent Grounds Maintenance - <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s. 10</i> | 315.49 |
| Treasury Solicitors - open space Bishops Court - Milwood Homes | 1595.50 |
| R. Gamson - Costs purchase of open space - Bishops Court - Milwood Homes | 2549.53 |

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

Christmas Trees:- A quotation had been received for the supply and delivery of 1 x 25' tree and 62 x 5' trees from fosters Breathing Space of £1774.00 plus VAT. The Council resolved to accept this quotation.

Traction Equipment had agreed to supply the cherry picker to enable the electrician to install the lights on the 25' tree and Mr. A. Scattergood had agreed to install and remove lights for £315.00, which was unchanged from last year. The Council accepted this quotation.

Computer maintenance:- An invoice had been received from Japhlin indicating that the cost of maintenance remained the same for the next twelve months. The Council agreed to a change to the amount of the Standing Order from £33.77 to £34.50 per month to reflect the increase in VAT from 15 to 17.5%.

117/10). Items/Date and venue for next meeting:- November 17th, 2010, Offley Hay Village Hall 7.30pm.

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