

Clerks Report – Parish Council Meeting 15th Nov 2017, Eccleshall Community Centre.

Documents circulated with the agenda:

Croxton Play area inspection report.

County Council letter referring to the microsite, for discussion on the agenda.

Copy of letter to Mr Bill Cash, MP, regarding the removal of the 13A bus subsidy.

RSA Safety Audit.

- 1). **Newsletter update** . The Newsletter is being printed and will be ready for distribution to all members at the EPC meeting of 15th November.
- 2). **Croxton Play Area**. The Clerk noted on the last inspection of the play area on 20th Oct, that the fungi had been removed by TGM when they had cut the grass. The area will be checked for regrowth on 9th November. The findings of the inspection report are to be discussed by the council in the meeting.
- 3). **Collaboration Group update**. The next meeting is **THURSDAY 30 November, 7pm Bradley**. The County Council microsite information has been circulated to all members to look at, and is found at www.highwaysyourway.info.
- 4). **Facebook**. The page has now been set up, and can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/EccleshallPC/>. Any suggestions for news items/information to post, please contact the Clerk, so that we can keep the page as active, and as useful, as possible.
- 5). **War Memorial Update** – the DAC has recommended that the faculty be approved to allow the work to continue, pending a required period of public consultation. Notices are required to be posted for 28 days, both inside and outside of the Church, giving the public the opportunity to raise any objections in writing to the Diocesan Registrar. Keith Winstanley was aiming to post the notices at the end of October, so the consultation period will finish near the end of November. An invitation letter for attendance at the re-consecration service on the 24th June 2018 has been sent to the Lord Lieutenant.
- 6). **Elford Heath footbridge**. Correspondence was received advising of damage to the metal mesh that is on the small bridge, which had been pulled back, leaving sharp edges. Where it was pulled back from the surface, it was slippery to walk on. Cllr Baskerville has since removed all the wire that had worn through, and was looking to fix new chicken wire to the bridge to reduce the risk of slipping.
- 7). **Good Councillor Guide 2017**. The updated councillor guide has been received from the SPCA and will be circulated to members for review. A circulation slip is attached for members to cross off their names and pass on.
- 8). **Mobile Phone Signal Strength**. Following receipt of a draft letter from Cllr Alcock, the Clerk has written to E.E to flag up the issue with low/no signal within Eccleshall and has asked if there are any improvements that can be made.

Clerk Availability: On Annual Leave from Thu 14th Dec- Sun 17th Dec, and Christmas week.
Meeting notices will be posted w/e 22nd Dec.

Correspondence for discussion:

1. **Pond at Elford Common**. Correspondence was received on 24th Sept, alerting EPC to the low water levels at Elford pond. In response to this, Cllr Baskerville and Keith Legge unblocked the drainage pipe that allowed rain water to drain into the pool. Further correspondence received on 29 Oct has advised that the water levels have dropped further and is of concern to the resident, who wishes to know what action can be taken.

2. SPCA AGM, 4th December. EPC has received an invitation to attend the AGM of the SPCA on Monday 4th Dec, 6.30pm. A copy of the 2016-17 Annual Report has been received for the attention of the Chairman.
3. Copmere End - request for tidying around Cheshire Railings – referred from meeting on 18th Oct, a resident has asked if it is now possible, due to change in seasons, to access and clear the area by the railings. Some of the dead material may prove hazardous.
4. Wooden Fencing around toilet area – EPC have been copied into correspondence from Mr Chapman to Streetscene, asking for an update on removal of the broken wooden fencing by SBC. Work was undertaken on 7th Nov to take our the damaged fencing.
5. Complaint to Gist :- EPC have been copied into a letter to Gist, sent by a resident living near to Rowley Hall Industrial Estate. They have experienced damage to border stones, plants and solar lights from lorries that have mounted the kerb when passing each other. Litter is also a problem.

Correspondence to note:

1. Stafford Borough Council Members Digest received and circulated.
2. SPCA Weekly Bulletins – forwarded to all. Included an update on the precept referendum proposal and call for any feedback.
3. An Invitation from the Mayor and Mayoress to 'A Night of Horse Racing' fundraising event was circulated to all councillors. It is to be held on Friday 1st December at the White Eagle Club, Riverway. Racing starts at 7.30pm, and tickets are £8.50 per person, to include a fish and chip supper.
4. Email from Aviva Community Fund, providing the opportunity to vote for local schemes to receive funding from the Aviva scheme. On the shortlist is Eccleshall Volunteer Car Scheme, so it is an opportunity to support the scheme and pass the email onto anyone who may be interested.
5. Trees at Copmere picnic site. EPC has been contacted by Balfours regarding safety of trees at Copmere picnic site. They have met with a tree surgeon on 23rd Oct, and are concerned that previous issues raised about the condition of the trees surrounding the picnic site have not been addressed. There is particular concern about a dead specimen which is covered in ivy and has a rope swing hanging from it. They require a response to advise the timeframe in which the works will be completed. This was discussed at the planning committee meeting on the 1st Nov, and the Clerk is still awaiting a response from the tree officer at SBC in order to determine who is responsible for the work on the trees, as it is common land, and not owned by EPC.
6. The SPCA bulletin of 2nd November contained a facilities survey for completion and return. This is a much simpler version of the SBC survey we are required to complete, so the information gathered from the SBC survey can be used by the Clerk to complete this form.

Notes:

SCC- Staffordshire County Council

SARH – Stafford and Rural Homes

SBC- Stafford Borough Council

SPCA – Staffordshire Parish Councils Assc

EPC – Eccleshall Parish Council