

Clerks Report – Parish Council Meeting 18th Oct 2017, Offley Hay Village Hall.

1). **Christmas Trees.** EPC have now received the grant of £475 from SBC towards the Christmas Trees, and the Clerk has placed the order with Woods Farm for the following, at a cost of £1516 plus VAT:

- 1 x 25' Christmas tree – £350.00
- 68 x 4.5 - 5' Norway Spruce Christmas trees with a clear stem of 14" and a diameter of less than 2" - £12.00 per tree.
- Delivery and crane install - £350.00

Delivery has been requested for 28th/29th Nov, and the date for erection and the light switch on is Sunday 3rd December.

2). **Internal Audit.** The internal audit of EPC accounts has been conducted in accordance with proper practices by Councillor P. Jones. The appropriate paperwork was signed to indicate the accounts were found to be recorded and prepared in a satisfactory manner and appear to be correct, and balance.

3). **Croxton Play Area.** Wicksteed inspected the site on Monday 2nd Oct, and have advised that a report will shortly be available, including a quote for the play surface repairs as requested. When asked about any more permanent solutions regarding the need to regularly repair the surface, the Clerk was advised that it is a common occurrence and most play areas require these repairs. It is related to the condition of the ground and there isn't any other work that can be done other than the ongoing patching work. The inspector was concerned at the growth of fungi in a few parts of the play area and advised removal of them as soon as possible. The Clerk has contacted Trent Grounds Maintenance, who will have mowed the area since the inspection, and removed them temporarily. They have agreed on their next visit to dig them out for us.

4). **Graffiti.** The Clerk was advised of more graffiti to the bus shelter by the Bovis development on the 24th September, which Councillor Baskerville kindly removed on the 27th September. Both the local PCSO and Neighbourhood Watch have been advised of the incident.

5). **Elford Pool.** We have received correspondence from a resident concerned about the low water levels of the pool. Councillor Baskerville has looked into this and confirmed that it is at a much lower level than it is usually. In order to improve the flow of water into the pool, himself and Keith Legge met up to clear the drainage pipe that runs from the drainage ditch, under the road and discharges water into the pool when it rains. Hopefully this will help the pool to slowly refill. As Mr Legge has now left the area, the location of the pipe has been marked with a stake and tape on the railings, to help with any future clearance work.

6). **Collaboration Group update .**The next meeting has been moved to **THURSDAY 30 November, 7pm Bradley.** The County Council microsite is due to be launched any time now, but the October date would have been too soon for people to have the opportunity to look at it in detail. If anyone wishes to attend, please let the Clerk know.

7). **NOx sensor.** SBC confirmed the sensor was sited in August, contrary to recent communications. It is located near the zebra crossing, on the Co-op side of the road. It has been put on the back of the roundabout sign, and is a clear plastic tube, around 3 inches in length, with a grey cap. Readings are being taken around the 1st of the month, and results for each sample will come back to the SBC about a month later. They will collect a minimum of 3-4 months of samples in order to get a reasonable profile of the levels.

8). **Facebook.** The aim is to launch the page shortly before the delivery of the newsletter in November, in time for the advertisement directing people to the page. It will not be launched too far in advance of this as a comprehensive social media policy needs to be in place to support EPC. The Clerk is in the process of writing the policy, so that it can be in place by the launch, and reviewed by the Policy and Resources Committee soon after, at the meeting on Dec 6th.

9). **Community Defibrillator.** In response to Jeremy's request for a suitable location for the offered defibrillator, it has become clear that the centre of town has a good distribution of defibrillators. Jeremy, in conjunction with the First Responders, is now looking into whether it could be sited in Pershall.

10). **Data Protection Changes.** In May 2018 the new General Data Protection Regulations will be implemented. The SPCA is offering a free briefing session on the 21st November, which the Clerk, and possibly the Chairman, will be attending to understand the implications for the Council and to ensure we will be compliant.

11). **The Society of Local Council Clerks** have their regional meetings in various Council locations in the Staffordshire area, and the Clerk has suggested that the meeting on the 13th June could be held in Eccleshall. It will be held in the Community Centre, and will be at no cost to the Council as it is funded by the SLCC/attendee donations to cover lunch. As part of the meeting, the Clerk will be asked to give a brief summary of their Parish Council.

12). **Broadband Universal Service Obligation** – Consultation on design – Councillor Le Monnier submitted the response on behalf of EPC, as resolved in the last Parish meeting, and a copy was circulated for information.

13). **HS2 response.** The Clerk submitted the HS2 consultation response on 29th September, in response to Councillor feedback, and circulated a copy to all Councillors for information.

Clerk Availability:

On Annual Leave from Sat 21st Oct- Sat 28th October inclusive.

Correspondence for discussion on agenda:

1. Resident query regarding grass cutting at the end of Green Lane. Why is the grass at the end of Green Lane only mowed on the side nearest the town centre, who is responsible for this and is there anything we can do? The resident has noted on the side not mowed, Bovis signage is buried in the long grass.
2. Eccleshall Flood Action Group. The group has asked whether any more councillors wish to be on the Core Group (currently Cllrs Price and Marshall are on the list). They have also asked whether we could assist in the distribution of their leaflet, in line with the newsletter deliveries. They could provide one volunteer so far to help with deliveries.
3. Pillar Clock – there has been a query whether the chimes have stopped working again.

Correspondence to note:

4. Stafford Borough Council Members Digest received and circulated.
5. SPCA Weekly Bulletins – forwarded to all

Notes:

SCC- Staffordshire County Council

SARH – Stafford and Rural Homes

SBC- Stafford Borough Council

SPCA – Staffordshire Parish Councils Assc

EPC – Eccleshall Parish Council