

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Nov 15th, 2017

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on Nov 15th, 2017, at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.20pm.

**131/17). Present were:-**

Councillor G. Garner (Chairman)	Councillor P. Baskerville
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor J. Leather
Councillor E. Amos	Councillor P. Alcock
Councillor R. Langford	Councillor M. Starkey
Councillor J. Jones	Councillor T. Price
Councillor C. Marshall	Councillor B. Delanchy
Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk)	

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors P. Jones, Le Monnier, Jacques and Borough and County Councillor Pert.

*The meeting opened with prayers*

**132/17). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.

**133/17). Public Participation:-** There were no members of the public present.

**134/17). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.

**135/17). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**

There were no Borough or County Councillors present, but Councillor Pert had provided a written report on the Eagle Street Art project for discussion and agreement:

- The Road Safety Audit had been completed by Amey. It was concluded that there was no requirement from a safety perspective to install either a gravel trap on the island or fix boulders at the base of the structure to provide a barrier for cars before hitting the sculpture. Instead, the fixing of the eagle to the pole needs to be sufficient that it does not detach if hit by errant vehicles. The Parish Council **resolved to accept** the recommendation that the existing Bovis shrubs remain on the island to remove any requirement for maintenance, and that no further work needs to be done on landscaping or additional structures. The street art would be bolted to the structure, but left flush with the ground, with a bark chip or soil surround.
- The Road Safety Audit requires the overall height of the sculpture to be contained within the roundabout, if it were hit by an errant vehicle. The roundabout is approximately 9 metres in diameter, therefore the total height of the sculpture needs to be no more than 4.5m. This requires a reduction in the initial proposed height of the pole, as a 3 metre pole would take the overall sculpture height to 4.9metres. The Parish Council **resolved to accept** the recommendation to reduce the height of the pole to 2.5metres, reducing the overall sculpture height to 4.4 metres.
- The Parish Council **resolved to proceed** with the necessary amendments to the architectural drawings to indicate the changes to the height and any amendments to the fixing, in line with the Road Safety Audit recommendations.
- Councillor Pert advised he was still in discussions with Bovis to see if there is any additional funding available, over and above the £5000 already committed.
- The Parish Council **resolved** to submit an application to the County Council Community Fund, to cover a projected shortfall of £750 for the project.
- In order to allow for the project to proceed without delay, the Parish Council **resolved** to authorise the Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman, to issue previously agreed payments to support the submission of a planning application, the Highways licence application and the Borough Council Street Art licence application, ahead of the next Parish Meeting.

It was noted that Councillor Mullee abstained from voting on the Eagle project decisions. The Parish Council wished to record their thanks to Councillor Pert for all his efforts with the Eagle project.

**136/17). Committee Reports:-**

**Traffic Management Committee:-** A meeting of the committee was held on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, and the minutes had been circulated to the Parish Council ahead of this meeting. Councillor Leather noted the minutes were very thorough, and requested if there were no queries, they were to be adopted by the Council. The Council **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Traffic Management committee.

Councillor Garner advised he had received a letter from a resident who has a number of concerns regarding the traffic through the town. Issues raised included concerns about the safety at the Junction of High Street and Stone Road and the pedestrian crossing; a suggestion to have 'no parking' on the South Side of the High Street and use of the Police car park for parking. There were concerns about drivers who do not respect the give way from the right rules. Suggestions were also made with regards to widening High Street by removing the cobbles, and consideration of by-passes around the town centre. The Parish Council noted that issues with regards to parking and traffic have been raised with the County Highways Department Council on numerous occasions, and they were aware of the problems. The Clerk will write to respond to the resident.

It was noted that the County Council had decided to adopt Option One of the Bus Consultation proposals, which meant that whilst the County Council would be maintaining subsidies on 800,000 bus journeys, there would be a loss of 500,000 subsidised journeys. All dial a ride services, including the Border Car service, would be lost. This means that as it stands, the 13A bus service is likely to be withdrawn in Eccleshall, from April 2018, as well as other routes to and from outlying areas.

Councillor P. Jones has spoken to Graham Balfour School, and Stafford College, to advise them of the implications for their students. It was **resolved** that Councillor P. Jones would write to the Education department to express the concerns of the Parish Council about the loss of the 13A bus service.

The Council **resolved** to invite Mr. Chris Almond from D&G buses to the Parish Meeting on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 2018, to discuss what the implications will be for our bus services and what can be done to protect the key services.

**Enhancements Committee:-** Councillor Baskerville advised the next meeting will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**Policy and Resources Committee:-** The next meeting of the P&R committee will be held on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 2017, following the meeting of the planning committee.

**Footpaths Committee:-** A meeting of the Footpaths Committee was held on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. It was noted that Taylor Wimpey had been instrumental in the removal of the fallen branch across the footpath by its site, which involved temporary closure of the path whilst work was undertaken.

Work to mend the Shaw's Lane fencing on footpath 13 was ongoing with Mr Dave Smith. Any outstanding issues from the meeting will be addressed at the next meeting on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Council **resolved** to adopt the minutes of the Footpaths Committee.

**137/17). Liaison Representatives:-** There were no reports to receive from Eccleshall Community Centre, Slindon Residents, Allotments, or Offley Hay Village Hall.

**Ecclian Society:-**

- There were over 40 volunteers who helped to take down the hanging baskets on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, including members of Young Farmers, who were most helpful.
- The AGM is due to take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> November, at the Community Centre, and all are welcome.
- The Christmas lights will be erected and switched on at 5pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Santa will arrive at 4.30pm.
- Carols around the Christmas Tree is to be held on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. All are to meet on the corner by the Stone Road/High Street crossroads.

#### **Young People:-**

- Cheryl Ball, the Youth Outreach Worker, is raising awareness of the Youth Club, which is encouraging younger teens to attend. Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis will meet with the youth club on Nov 28<sup>th</sup>. The youth club currently meets at the Cricket Club, and it is hoped it will be agreed to extend this arrangement when it is due for renewal in March.
- County Councillor Pert is looking to launch the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme in Eccleshall, which will be a separate scheme to the Youth Club. He is hoping to launch in January, and there will be open days and evenings planned to raise awareness of the scheme.

#### **Tourism:-**

- There had been no meeting since the last Parish Meeting.

#### **Croxton News:-**

- Cllr Langford advised that residents were keen to progress with the repurposing of the BT phone boxes. This will be progressed in the Enhancements Committee meeting on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2018.
- Cllr Garner had received a phone call from John Jackson of Western Power, requesting permission to cut back four trees, and remove one self-seeding elm that was impacting on the power lines by Croxton Play area. As the work is required as a health and safety measure, the Council **resolved** to grant permission and the Chairman would advise Western Power accordingly.

**138/17). Community Transport update:-** Councillor J. Jones reported that the insurance quote was being reviewed as the initial quote did not provide adequate cover in all key areas. Setting up of the bank account is ongoing. Councillor P. Jones will be in the library on Saturday morning, and will be able to provide forms for completion by all potential volunteer drivers.

**139/17). To discuss the Highways and Rights of Way microsite:-**  
The County Council has issued a microsite with the aim of providing Parish Councils with a resource to help to consider its options when the County Council reduce their Highways and Rights of Way maintenance, next year. The site provides ideas on how to make up the shortfall, a range of case studies and FAQ's. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Highways Team had provided between 5 and 10 days each year to the Parish, which will no longer be available in the future, and the Council needed to look at what works it wanted to pick up in the absence of this service. The NHT covered the 'non safety' aspect of Highways work. The Parish Council acknowledged there is work to be completed to assess the Parish's needs and compile a list of things to do, and determine cost implications. The Council **resolved** that the Clerk should contact Shane Latham, County Council Community Highways Liaison Officer, to obtain as much information as possible about the costs and works that have been completed over the past five years, for further discussion. The item will be added to the January Parish Meeting for discussion. The Collaboration meeting is on November 30<sup>th</sup>, at Bradley Village Hall. Anyone who wished to attend was asked to contact the Clerk.

**140/17). To consider the inspection report for Croxton Play Area:-**  
Cllr Langford's research into alternative options for the repair of the Wetpour surface was ongoing. As all the outstanding actions from the report were of a low risk, the Council **resolved** to defer the discussion until the Enhancements Committee meeting on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, when all information on alternative options would be available.

**141/17). To consider an application to Staffordshire Community Fund, to support the Eagle project:-**  
This item was discussed and agreed under the County Councillor reports, earlier in the meeting.

**142/17). New Developments:-**  
**Taylor Wimpey site:-** there were no items to report.  
**Bovis:-** It was noted that in the recent circulation of crime report figures, that 1 ASBO had been issued to a resident on the Bovis estate, with a section 21 order to leave.  
**Roundabout feature:-** All items were covered in the County Councillor report.

**Cross Butts:-** Cllr Price had advised the Clerk earlier that day that the pavement and road was covered in thick mud. As County Councillor Pert had previously been in discussion with the developer around this issue, he was to be advised of the situation, to be followed up for resolution.

**143/17). Clerk's report and correspondence:-**

The Council **resolved** to accept the Clerk's report

**The report had been previously circulated and included:**

**War Memorial Update** – Further to the update, the Clerk confirmed that the Lord Lieutenant had accepted the invitation to attend the commemorative service on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**Pond at Elford Common.** Correspondence was received on 24th Sept, alerting the Council 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. The Council were concerned about the water levels and **resolved** for Cllr Baskerville to monitor the water levels and to add the results to the Enhancements Committee agenda for review in January.

**SPCA AGM, 4th December.** An invitation was received 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. The Council **resolved** to send their apologies for the meeting.

**Copmere End** – Deferred from the Parish meeting on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>. A resident requested if it would be possible to access and clear the area by the Cheshire railings. Cllr Jacques was not in attendance at the meeting but had been in contact with the Clerk to advise that the vegetation had now been cleared. It was noted that the railings still needed to be repaired by the County Council.

**Wooden Fencing around toilet area** –The Council was copied into correspondence from Mr Chapman for Streetscene, asking for an update on removal of the broken wooden fencing by SBC. Work was subsequently undertaken on 7th Nov to take out the damaged fencing.

The Council noted that the area around the toilets and by the Burgage was swept and tidied regularly by Mr. Bev Thompson. The Council **resolved** to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Thompson, to express their appreciation at the work he did to keep the area in such a tidy condition.

The Council noted that there were tree stumps that needed grinding down after the Borough Council had completed work to the trees on Hartlands Road. The Clerk would follow up the action with Streetscene.

**Complaint to Gist** :- The Council were copied into a letter to Gist, sent by a resident living near to Rowley Hall Industrial Estate. The resident has 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. The issues were discussed by the Council, who **resolved** to respond to the resident to note their concerns. It was noted that the new Raleigh Hall entrance may help to alleviate the problem, but construction of the entrance had been halted pending financial agreements.

**144/17). Chairman's Report:-**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all councillors who attended the service on Remembrance Sunday, and that it was a moving service.

The Chairman also noted he had attended the Trafalgar Dinner on October 21<sup>st</sup>, hosted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Stone.

**145/17). Accounts:-**

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

S. Worden - Salary - LGA 1972 s. 112	969.15
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	94.87

PAYE - LGA ( <i>Financial Provisions</i> ) 1963	15.00
NHI - LGA ( <i>Financial Provisions</i> ) 1963	106.81
Pension LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	303.04
Chairman's Allowance 2017/18 - LGA 1972 ss. 15 (5)	65.00
Woods Christmas Trees – <i>Concurrent Allowance</i>	1516.00
TGM Grass and hedge cutting - Open Space Act 1906 s10	258.60
UK2.net - payment for VPS for Parish Website via Eccleshall Guide - LGA 1972 s.111	20.00
S. Worden - December Salary - LGA 1972 s. 112	969.35
Expenses (fixed element) -December, <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	56.48
PAYE - LGA December ( <i>Financial Provisions</i> ) 1963	14.80
NHI - LGA December ( <i>Financial Provisions</i> ) 1963	106.81
Pension December LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	303.04
Creative Copy 'n' Colour – Newsletters – LGA 1972 s.142	270.00
Parton Agriplant Ltd – hedgecutting – <i>Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10</i>	72.00

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

The Clerk requested authorisation to settle any invoices, which were presented before the next Council Meeting, in consultation with the Chair or Vice-Chair. The Council **resolved** to authorise the request.

**Eccleshall Parish Website:-** Due to the urgency of the situation, the Clerk had advised the Council prior to the meeting of the need to commission a new Parish Council Website due to recent problems experienced by the current website, which was running on old software and required updating as soon as possible. Three tenders were circulated to all members before the meeting for consideration. Following detailed discussions of each tender, the Council **resolved** to allocate the commissioning of the new website to Quick and Simple Web Design, and authorised the cost of £500 for set up and the first year of hosting and support. Quick and Simple Web Design would also advise an additional cost for an SSL certificated site. There will be an annual cost of £100 for web hosting and support services, which was also approved by the Council.

**146/17). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:-** January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.