

Clerks Report – Parish Council Meeting 17th Jan 2018, Eccleshall Community Centre.

Documents circulated with the agenda:

Warmer Homes email/summary document (also circulated 23rd Nov).
BKV invitation letter, for information.
Revised Grant Application form, as recommended by the P&R Committee.
New Social Media Policy, as recommended by the P&R Committee.

Updates:

- 1). **Croxton Play Area.** The Clerk, in conjunction with the Council Chair and the Enhancements Chair, authorised the annual tidy up of the area by TGM in November.
- 2). **Facebook.** Please forward any news items/information to the Clerk, so that we can keep the page as active, and as useful, as possible.

Clerk Availability: No annual leave is booked ahead of the next Parish Meeting on Feb 21st. w/c 19th Feb is half term week and hours may be worked flexibly around this. Main working days anticipated as Wednesday and Thursday, with 2 days annual leave booked Tuesday 20th and Friday 23rd.

Further Information for Agenda Items:

Item 10) **Neighbourhood Highways Team:** From information supplied by Shane Latham, the allocated 5 days per year is at a cost of £1500, for two operatives and a Transit Van. However, due to our comparatively large size and need for additional works, we have usually managed to acquire the team for 10 days, which equates to a cost of £3000. In addition to this, we have been supported by the team in the replacement of planter basket posts, which is estimated at a cost of £350 per day.

Item 11) **Administration of the grant for the Flood Action Group.** The Parish Council have been approached by the Flood Action Group, via County Councillor Pert, to help with the administration of a grant for £4595, should they be successful in their application. The grant will be used to put flood gates on 10 businesses at the bottom end of the High Street. The grant amount will cover the supply and fitting of the gates, but will not cover the VAT on the work, or any additional requirements that may be requested by the Conservation Officer when the proposal is put forward.

Item 12) **Civic Amenity Visits.** The Borough Council have advised the charge for 2018/19, as follows:

1 hour - £95.00, 2 hours - £130.00, 3 hours - £210.00.

Parishes requesting more than one location on the same Saturday morning will be limited to a maximum of 2 locations (ie one vehicle move within the Parish area). The charge for such an arrangement (ie two one hour visits) would therefore be £ 190.00.

As with 2017, we are no longer able to offer any free of charge visits so all required visits will be charged in full.

If the Parish Council wish to continue with the usual bi-monthly visits for two hours, as per 2017/18, this would be a total cost of £780.00. SBC will contact us with available Saturdays shortly.

Correspondence for discussion:

1. Warmer Homes information – information circulated. Is the Council happy with the service being reputable and are there any areas where we can raise awareness?
2. Correspondence from Mr Frank Chapman - EPC were copied into an email to County Councillor Pert re Social/Affordable Housing. Mr Chapman noted 'I fear that the policy of placing new social housing where it is not needed is acting both to the detriment of Eccleshall and to the occupants of the houses. The building of social housing where a need has not

been established smacks of a feeble attempt at social engineering. Surely homes of this nature should be built where there is a proven **local** need and where the occupants have access to transport and employment. Moving families into the area because there is not a local need can place local services under pressure and disrupt the local community. Such a policy can also facilitate of moving problem families from one area to another rather than tackling the problems at source.'

3. Invitation to take part in BKV - EPC have received a letter noting we have not participated in recent years and asking whether we wish to consider entering in 2018. Criteria and marking sheets have been supplied for information. The formal invitation has not yet been circulated but from past documents, it looks like we may need to register interest around Feb time.
4. Launch of Staffordshire Libraries Consultation – The consultation was launched on the 8th January, and will close on 1st April 2018, with a consultation event to be held at Eccleshall Library on Tuesday 6th March from 3-6pm, as Eccleshall has been identified as one of the libraries that has been identified for conversion to a Community Managed Library. There is also a workshop to discuss the logistics of running a Community Managed Library on Tuesday 13th March, 6.30-8.30pm at Staffordshire Place 1. This item will be put on the agenda for discussion at the Parish Council Meeting of February 21st, to allow members to consider the proposal in detail prior to responding.
5. Community Connectors Volunteering Role – Richard Upton has requested for us to publicise (Facebook/Website), the opportunity to volunteer as a Community Connector, engaging with isolated older adults to signpost and connect people to local services, and keep them up to date with what is available in the local community.
6. Resident email re Police Funding-
7. Resident Response re the Eagle Sculpture – following on from initial correspondence requesting the reasoning behind the selection of an Eagle for the Street Art, a response has been received for the attention of the Council.

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. Response from John Henderson, Staffordshire County Council in response to the Parish Council letter to MP Bill Cash regarding the Bus Consultation, received and circulated.
4. Map of two play areas to be developed on the Bovis/TW Sites
5. Invitation to Curry Buffet Evening at Ashiana by the Mayor/Mayoress of Stafford. 2nd February, £12.50 a ticket.
6. Correspondence from Mr Frank Chapman - - re antisocial behaviour – it was noted that around Weds 23rd Nov, a fire had been set in a shopping trolley located in the gents toilets. Mr. Chapman kindly cleared up and returned the trolley, and notified County Councillor Pert, noting 'This would appear to be part of a growing pattern of anti-social behaviour in Eccleshall that needs to be dealt with firmly and effectively'.
7. Email circulated to flag up Village Halls Week, starting Monday 22 January.

Notes:

SCC- Staffordshire County Council

SARH – Stafford and Rural Homes

SBC- Stafford Borough Council

SPCA – Staffordshire Parish Councils Assc

EPC – Eccleshall Parish Council