

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.20pm.

**20/18). Present were:-**

Councillor G. Garner (Chairman)	Councillor P. Mullee
Councillor P. Jones	Councillor J. Leather
Councillor E. Amos	Councillor P. Alcock
Councillor R. Langford	Councillor A. Le Monnier
Councillor J. Jones	Councillor B. Delanchy
Councillor D. Jacques	Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk)

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Baskerville, Marshall and Price, and Borough and County Councillor J. Pert.

*The meeting opened with prayers*

**21/18). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.

**22/18). Public Participation:-** There was one member of the public present and one member of the press.

**23/18). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.

**24/18). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**  
Borough Councillor P. Jones advised that the main issues being raised in his monthly surgery were potholes, the condition of pavements and the lack of parking. The planning application for homes by the Burgage has been called in for discussion at the Borough Planning Committee. Cllr P. and J. Jones recently gave a presentation on Stafford and Mayoral duties in the Mayor's Parlour.

**25/18). Committee Reports:-**

**Traffic Management Committee:-** Cllr P. Jones provided a report on the following:-

- The committee discussed the issue of parking at length, and what alternatives were available. There were suggestions of whether a permit scheme could be implemented, where local services and businesses with extra parking could offer one or two spaces to people who work in Eccleshall, thus freeing up some spaces for shoppers and visitors. Cllr P. Jones has started a survey to assess the extent of the problem. The recent introduction of parking charges at the Co-op has further compounded the problem. Parking charges have been introduced to deter all day parking on the site, which left no spaces for customers to the Co-Op. It has now been confirmed that the first 30 minutes parking is free. Council representatives will arrange to meet with the manager of the Co-Op to share the concerns of the residents, whether the high costs could be reviewed, and to understand the extent of the problem. It was noted that the town is lacking in the infrastructure needed to support the housing expansion, and this should be considered by the Borough Council. The Council **resolved** to continue the discussion around parking within the Traffic Management committee, to identify any further actions that can be taken to address the problem.
- As part of the meeting with Richard Rayson, the committee highlighted the problem of the speed of traffic on the Stone Road, and the need for suitable traffic measures to be imposed on Wrekin Housing Trust regarding the planning application that has been lodged for further housing next to the Burgage.
- The state of the Newport Road pavement was raised with Mr. Rayson, as the committee advised it was worn out and not fit for purpose. Highways had advised that the funding would not be available for a complete replacement surface for a number of years but an intermediate level repair could be considered to make it fit for use in the meantime. The committee recommended that the Parish Council write to Mr. Mark Deaville of the County Council, to highlight the concerns with the pavement and to request repair of the surface

as a matter of urgency. The Council **resolved** to accept the recommendation and write to Mr. Deaville.

- HGV traffic in Eccleshall – Mr Rayson suggested writing to Mr. Deaville to ask that the concerns regarding HGV traffic through Eccleshall could be considered by the Staffordshire Freight Forum. The committee recommended this course of action, and the majority of the Council **resolved** to accept this recommendation. It was noted that the forum is mainly involved in the impact of HS2 at present, which may take up most of their time.
- D&G bus replacement proposal – the committee discussed the proposal by D&G to provide a Saturday service to outlying villages. It was felt that the cost of £9,360 was too high in proportion to the precept, and it would not serve enough residents to be a viable option. The Council **resolved** to accept this recommendation. It was noted that Cllr Pert was looking into the possibility that the Border Car service could extend its service into Eccleshall, for a small cost.

The minutes of the Traffic Management Committee were adopted by the Council.

**Enhancements Committee:-** in the absence of Councillor Baskerville, Councillor Garner presented the following updates:

- **Repair of surface at Elford Common Car Park:-** the Council has received a quote for £810 plus VAT to repair and smooth the surface of the car park. The quote was higher than expected and The Council **resolved** for the Clerk to obtain further quotes for the repair.
- **Painting of the gilding on the Millennium Clock:-** The Council has received a quote for £410.00 for completion of the work, by Peter the Painter. The Clerk has obtained one quote, as the work is specialist in nature, and the supplier is local and has provided the service in the past. It was noted that different paint to the last application will be used, as this did not weather well. The Council **resolved** to accept the quotation and commission the work.

**Policy and Resources Committee:-** The next meeting of the P&R committee will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**Footpaths Committee:-** The next meeting of the Footpaths Committee will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. It was noted that there is an issue with a tree trunk blocking the path at the bottom of the Eyeswell path. Cllr. Alcock advised he would be able to remove the branches that are sticking out across the path.

26/18). **Liaison Representatives:-** There were no reports to receive from Eccleshall Community Centre or Offley Hay Village Hall.

**Allotments:-**

- A summary of the Allotments Association meeting was recorded in the Clerks Report and noted by the Council. The main issue at present is the leak in the cabin roof. After attempts to repair the roof by members of the society, it has been acknowledged that a replacement roof is required. The Allotments association have requested financial support from the Council for this work. Three quotes have been obtained and forwarded to the Clerk for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Ecclian Society:-**

- The Ecclian Society recently met for a meal.

**Slindon Residents:-**

- There has been no meeting, but it was noted that the yellow lines for the bus stop have now been painted, but the other line painting is still outstanding.

**Croxton News:-**

- Peter Davies, the Community Speedwatch Chairman, has requested the erection of new community speedwatch signs, since the previous signs have gone missing. Permission has been granted, and the signs will cost £20, plus £140 for installation, if this work cannot be

completed by the volunteers. Cllr. Langford advised they may wish to approach the Council for a grant towards the cost, and the Council will consider their proposal upon completion of a grant form.

- A litter pick has been arranged for April 1<sup>st</sup>, and Cllr. Langford is in possession of the litter pickers and vests if they are needed by anyone else. It was noted that there is a problem with litter in all areas of Eccleshall, some of which can be down to litter falling out of refuse lorries on their rounds. The Borough Council were recently seen litter picking near Walton Hall. Cllr. Garner has reported the litter on Newport Road to the Borough Council.

#### **Tourism:-**

- A meeting was held at Sandon Hall on Tues 13<sup>th</sup> February. Visit Stafford membership is now up for renewal, and it was noted that they provide a service on their website to advertise Eccleshall, and publicise related events such as the Eccleshall Festival. They also provide members with regular email updates on events in the region.

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

- An updated Duke of Edinburgh award flyer has been circulated and the scheme will be starting from 27<sup>th</sup> February, 6-7pm at the library. Anyone who is interested is still able to sign up. The age range is 13-23.

#### **Eccleshall Festival:-**

- P. Jones advised that festival preparations are underway, with bookings being taken for stalls at 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10-12pm in the library. An animatronic dinosaur has been booked for the festival. The Council will be asked to pay the insurance premium for the festival as in previous years, when the quotation has been received.

**27/18). Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme update:-** The bank account has now been opened, and the group wish to approach the Council to provide a grant to cover the insurance, at a cost of £227. Support for the scheme would need to be ongoing, so that the insurance costs could be supported upon annual renewal. Cllr P. Jones will complete a grant form for consideration at the Policy and Resources Committee on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Funds already held by the scheme will need to go towards payment for DBS checks.

**28/18). To consider the response to the County Council library services consultation:-** Documents detailing the proposals and the questionnaire have been circulated to all members. It was advised that the questionnaire can also be completed individually, and members were urged to do this.  
The Council **resolved** to form a working party to formulate a response for discussion at the Parish Meeting in March, ahead of the 1<sup>st</sup> April deadline. Cllrs Garner, J. Jones, Amos and the Clerk will make up the group, and Cllr. Price will also be invited to attend.

**29/18). To approve the commissioning of the Eagle sculpture following planning approval, and other supplementary requirements:-**  
Following planning approval for the Eagle Sculpture, the next steps to agree on the project are as follows:-

- Commissioning of the Eagle Sculpture with the artist
- Applying for the County Council licence to dig and to place apparatus in the highway.
- Applying for the Borough Council street art licence.

Cllr. Pert is in the process of formalising the contributions from Amey and Bovis.  
The Council **resolved** to proceed with the steps as listed above, **subject to formal confirmation** of the financial contribution from Bovis and the construction work from Amey.  
The Council also **resolved** to contact Richard Rayson and liaise with Cllr Pert to confirm we have all steps in place prior to commissioning the sculpture.

**30/18). To circulate updated copies of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, for signature by all members:**  
All members that were present signed the updated form. Members not present at the meeting would be circulated a copy of the form for signing and return at the next meeting.

**31/18). To consider any New Development updates:-**

**Taylor Wimpey site:-** There have been a number of complaints about the new abutment and yellow lines at Gaol Butts and School Road, and in response the Clerk wrote to Cllr. Pert and Highways to express their strong concerns at the new layout and impact on the junction. Cllr. Pert is liaising with the County Council to find out more information about the works and the safety assessments that were completed prior to the work being undertaken. A Road Safety Audit stage 3 is in the process of being undertaken and the results will advise on the safety of the revised layout. It was noted that the double yellow lines are not yet enforceable as the permanent road traffic order has not been approved, and is likely to take 2-3 months, as it has to go through a process of advertisement and consultation in local newspapers. The Road Safety Audit is expected to confirm the need for the double yellow lines, due to the change to the road design. The amended junction remains a problem and the Council **resolved** to endorse their original strong objection to Cllr. Pert and Richard Rayson regarding the changes, and the concerns that a dangerous junction has been created.

It was also noted that the Taylor Wimpey signage at the bottom of Gaol Butts and Small Lane is flat on the ground. This has been reported but no action has been taken either to move or re-erect sign. The Council **resolved** to contact the site manager to ask for it to be removed or re-erected and secured.

**Bovis:-** Cllr Alcock advised of an issue at the bottom of the site, regarding a footpath running adjacent to a balancing pond that is sited at a higher level than the footpath. It is possible that run off from the earth wall of the pond is causing flooding of the footpath. The path runs from Wells Farm Dairy to the back of Fletchers Garden Centre. It was unclear whether the pathway was on Bovis owned land. The Council **resolved** to contact Bovis with the issue and request a site visit to assess the problem. Cllr. Alcock will provide the Clerk with photos.

**Cross Butts:-** It was reported that contractor parking on the pavements outside of the site is again causing problems with vehicles restricting pedestrian access. In conjunction with the traffic lights, this is causing safety concerns. Pavements are also being covered in mud. The Council **resolved** to contact the site manager to raise its concerns. Cllr Le Monnier would provide the Clerk with photos.

**32/18). To receive the Clerk's report and correspondence:-**

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

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

- **Councillor Vacancy for Eccleshall Ward.** Applications are being welcomed for the Councillor Vacancy, with an application deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> March, and co-option to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Please ask anyone who may be interested to contact the Clerk for further information.
- **Resident email regarding car parking** – a resident wished to register their concern at the decision of the Co-Op to change its parking policy, and the high level of charges enforced. It was also felt there would be a knock on effect for High Street parking and some visitors may choose to avoid shopping in Eccleshall. The Council has been asked to persuade the Co-Op to review their parking policy and provide a period of free parking for shoppers. The Council **resolved** to respond to the resident to advise their current course of action as agreed earlier.
- **Resident email regarding the Eagle:-** A resident had written to Cllr Pert with concerns regarding the proposed Eagle street art. He felt that the design had only a vague connection to Eccleshall, that the site was too out of town, and that the money spent would be better going towards a car park. Cllr Pert had responded to the resident to advise this was a matter for the Parish Council, but made some relevant observations, including the fact that the small £4,000 contribution to be made by the Parish Council towards the Eagle would probably only create 2 or 3 car parking spaces even if suitable land could be found.

Cllr Pert did also note that, as in the case of other art, it may not be to everyone's taste but noted that features such as clocks, church lighting and street art all contribute to making the town a desirable place in which to live. The Council **resolved** to respond to the resident to advise that his concerns were noted, but to support the comments made by Cllr Pert.

- **Gullies letter drafted by the Collaborative Group** – As a member of the Stafford West Collaboration Group, the Council have been invited to add their support to a group letter to Mr Mark Deaville of the County Council, highlighting the problem with the backlog in gully emptying and asking for resolution. The Council **resolved** to add their name to the letter and the Clerk would advise the group accordingly.
- **Resident email regarding footpath from Arn Hill to the Millennium Wood** – a complaint has been sent via Cllr. Pert regarding the state of the path by the play area, which is covered in mud and has debris on it from recent hedge cutting. The footpath was checked and the areas in question were observed. It was noted that there are areas in worse condition within the Parish, and **resolved** to respond to the resident to note their concerns and that as a mainly seasonal problem, it is hoped that this has now improved.
- **Invitation to attend the next Collaboration Meeting** – this is to be held at Gnosall, on Thurs 22nd March at 7.30pm. Agenda items are welcomed, and members were asked to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend. The Clerk is able to attend the meeting if required.
- **War Memorial update** – the Clerk and Cllr. Garner attended a meeting with representatives of the Historical Society and Holy Trinity Church to progress the War Memorial project. The group are in the process of finalising a formal invitation list, although the service will be open to anyone who wishes to attend. The Clerk has extended save the date invitations to local dignitaries including the Lord Lieutenant, The High Sheriff, The Mayor, and Mr. Bill Cash, as well as County and Borough Councillors. Bentons have scheduled in the cleaning and engraving work for completion over a 2 week period, from week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> May. The work is expected to take 4 days within this period. The logistic planning of the ceremony is ongoing. All formal invitations will be sent out by the Historical Society, but all RSVP's will be sent to the Clerk, to collate an attendee list. They are hoping to undertake landscaping of the area in conjunction with the project, but it is not yet confirmed if this can be completed ahead of the June ceremony. If this is not possible, it will be completed by November. The next meeting is planned for April.

33/18). **Chairman's Report:-** There were no items to report.

34/18). **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	220.57
PAYE - LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963	15.00
NHI - LGA (Financial Provisions )1963	106.81
Pension LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	303.04
SPCA – Good Councillor Guides - LGA 1972 s.111	77.75
Holy Trinity - Churchyard maintenance - LGA 1972 s.214	195.00
Holy Trinity - Floodlighting Contribution - Concurrent Allowance	150.00
Broughton C of E - Churchyard maintenance - LGA 1972 s.214	135.00
Croxton C of E - Churchyard maintenance - LGA 1972 s.214	135.00
Croxton Methodist - Churchyard maintenance - LGA 1972 s.214	85.00

Slindon PCC - Churchyard maintenance - <i>LGA 1972 s.214</i>	135.00
Eccleshall Methodist - Churchyard maintenance - <i>LGA1972 s.214</i>	85.00
Broughton Parish Rooms - Grounds maintenance - <i>Section 137</i>	55.00
Eccleshall Community Centre - Hall Hire - <i>LGA 1972 s.134</i>	750.00
Offley Hay Village Hall - Hall Hire - <i>LGA 1972 s.134</i>	125.00
Broughton Parish Rooms - Hire - <i>LGA Act 1972 s.134</i>	125.00
D. Jacques - storage of footpath materials - <i>Concurrent allowance</i>	5.00

**Receipt of request to renew Visit Stafford Membership** – an invoice has been received for £30 to renew our membership for 2018. Earlier comments were noted regarding the advertising provided by the membership and the council **resolved** to renew the membership, and the cheque was written and signed.

**To minute retrospective payment for Parton Agriplant, Nov 2017:-** The Clerk noted an omission in the minutes of November 15th 2017, relating to the authorised payment of hedge cutting works by Parton Agriplant, at a cost of £72. The Council **resolved** to minute that the payment had been authorised in the accounts presented at the November meeting.

**35/18). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:-** March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

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