

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

APRIL 25th, 2018

The Annual Parish Meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on Wednesday April 25th, 2018 at the Community Centre, Shaws Lane, Eccleshall at 7.30p.m.

1). Present were:-

Councillor G. Garner (Chair)	Councillor P. Jones
Councillor P. Mullee	Councillor E. Amos
Councillor D. Jacques	Councillor L. Dale
Councillor P. Alcock	Councillor J. Leather
Councillor R. Langford	Councillor P. Alcock
Councillor J. Jones	Councillor T. Price
Councillor A. Le Monnier	
County and Borough Councillor J. Pert	
Mrs S. J. Worden (Clerk)	
12 members of the public	

Apologies were received from:- Councillors Delanchy, Baskerville and Marshall, together with Mrs K. Bridgwood (Broughton Parish Rooms and Croxton Independent Methodist Church).

2). Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 26th, 2017 – The minutes, which had been previously ratified by the Council were presented to the meeting and copies were attached to the agendas.

3). Chairman's welcome and report:- Councillor Graham Garner welcomed those present and presented an overview of the Council's activities throughout the year.

During the past year Councillor Mike Starkey had to stand down after eight years serving on the Council, and was thanked for his hard work and thoughtful contributions. The vacancy created on the Council has been filled by the co-option of Mrs. Libby Dale. We welcome Mrs. Dale and look forward to working with her in the future.

The present year began with the Council welcoming its new Clerk, Mrs. Stacey Worden

Councillor Garner referred to a number of consultations that the Council had responded to regarding local services such as bus services and the library, as well as HS2 developments. Some success was achieved with the retention of the 13A bus service for a further year. The results of the other responses are not yet known.

It was noted that the Taylor Wimpey and Bovis developments were both nearing the 50% completion mark. The development at Cross Butts which began during the year is causing a number of issues and the Council have been communicating its concerns and hopes that problems will soon be dealt with following the appointment of a Clerk of Works.

The Council continues to be pro-active in pursuing aspirations outlined in our Neighbourhood Plan, such as Car Parking. Progress is being made, and it is hoped that we may be able to effect some improvements in the near future.

Councillor Garner also referred to the ongoing War Memorial project. The cleaning and adding of additional names will be done in May, in preparation for the re-dedication ceremony which will take place on Sunday, June 24th 2018.

In conclusion, Councillor Garner thanked Councillor P. Jones for his support as Vice-Chairman, and the Clerk for establishing herself so well in the post and her hard work and commitment was appreciated.

4). Clerks report and accounts:- Mrs. Worden presented the receipts and payments accounts which have been audited by the Independent Internal Auditor and are due to be signed off by the Council at the May Parish Meeting. It was stated that the balance at March 31st, 2018 was more the previous year due to projects yet to be completed and paid for, but where funding had been received into the bank account. Variations were also due to the change in staffing for the position of Clerk. There had been no extraordinary expenditure incurred during the year. No questions were raised regarding the Council's Accounts.

6). Reports from County and Borough Councillors:- County Councillor Pert provided a review of his activities in the previous year as Borough and County Councillor. Councillor Pert made reference to the reductions in funding received from Central Government and the resulting need to look at self-reliance in a number of areas including Highway Services.
Borough Councillor P. Jones also reported on his activities.
The members were thanked for their representation of the Parish and for pursuing matters of concern.

Borough Councillor Pert and P. Jones reported on their various roles at the Borough Council. The members were thanked for their representation of the Parish and for pursuing matters of concern.

8). Reports from Council Committees:- Reports were received from the Planning, Traffic Management, Policy and Resources, Footpaths and Enhancements Committees. Copies were available of reports from all the Council Committees.

9). Reports from Organisations in the Parish:-

Reports were received from the following organisations:- Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme, Broughton Tennis Club, Broughton C of E, Holy Trinity, Eccleshall Allotments Association, Croxton C of E, Eccleshall in Bloom, Eccleshall Methodist Church, St Chad's Church Slindon, The Historical Society, Eccleshall Community Centre, The 3rd Eccleshall Girl Guides, and Offley Hay Village Hall.

10). Any matters of Local or Topical Interest:- No other matters were raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending what had been a very interesting and worthwhile meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Refreshments were served following the meeting.