

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Apr 18th, 2018

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on April 18th, 2018, at Broughton Parish Rooms, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.15pm.

- 38/18). Present were:-**
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| Councillor G. Garner (Chairman) | Councillor T. Price |
| Councillor A. Le Monnier | Councillor J. Leather |
| Councillor R. Langford | Councillor P. Alcock |
| Councillor J. Jones | Councillor B. Delanchy |
| Councillor C. Marshall | Councillor L. Dale |
| Councillor P. Baskerville | |
| Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk) | |
| Borough and County Councillor Pert. | |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Amos, P. Jones, Mullee and Jacques.

The meeting opened with prayers

- 39/18). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.

- 40/18). Public Participation:-** There were three members of the public present.

- A resident asked whether the Neighbourhood Plan has been altered or changed in any way as a result of the confidential meeting item of March 21st 2018, regarding the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council confirmed that it is not empowered to change the Neighbourhood Plan, which will remain as it stands until there is a requirement for a new Plan.
- A resident highlighted the state of the roads due to potholes along the B5026 and side roads. The resident also noted that the increased size of tractors is causing an increased volume of mud being tracked onto roads.
- A resident wished to complain about the current condition of the roads in Croxton with regards to large deposits of mud being left on the roads by a local company. There are no pavements along the smaller lanes, and a resident recently slipped and fell on the mud deposits. There has been no effort to clear the mud from the roads. The resident also noted that the yard was in a state of disrepair and there were issues with rats.

- 41/18). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 21st, 2018:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.

- 42/18). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**

Cllr J. Jones provided a report on behalf of Borough Councillor P. Jones on the following:-

- Cllr. P. Jones met with Alex Yendole in Stafford Borough Planning Department to discuss the implications of the National Planning Policy Framework on our Neighbourhood Plan. He also met with Planning Officers regarding several local planning applications on behalf of residents.
- Cllr. P. Jones met with the Planning Enforcement team who will visit the Cross Butts development site to address concerns regarding flooding and road damage caused by the emptying of waste water from the site. He has also been in touch with the developers.
- Bovis have been approached for permission to install a public access defibrillator at Sancerre Grange.
- Cllr. P. Jones held his recent monthly surgery with PCSO Patrick Wright in attendance. PCSO Emily Davenhill has been transferred from Eccleshall and Eccleshall now awaits an additional PCSO.
- Cllrs P. Jones, J. Jones and D. Jacques met with County Council officers to explore the opportunity of Eccleshall participating in a pilot 'Share-a-Lift' Car Share Scheme. Councillors will be looking into the website based scheme and assessing its potential use for Eccleshall. The site is free to use.

- The CEO of the Co-Op has advised that they will participate in the potential adopt a trader scheme to provide a small number of parking spaces to local traders who are in the scheme.
- Cllrs P. Jones and J. Jones attended the Visit Stafford AGM on 18th April, and will be attending the Support Stafford Sports award ceremony on 27th April. They also supported the Eccleshall Trust Ploughman's lunch at the Cricket Club on 7th April, and Bingo evening on 14th April.
- Details of the Voluntary Car Scheme will soon be distributed to Eccleshall's senior citizens, and he is liaising with Crown Surgery to create a link between patients and the scheme.

County Councillor Pert provided a report on the following:

- The transport operations of Gist will be closing w/c 23rd April. The closure resulted in a loss of 160 jobs, but hard work by all those involved on providing alternate opportunities has reduced the number of people remaining out of work to 35.
- Steve Hill from Perrys the Butchers has been announced as the winner of the Midlands Best Butcher award by the Countryside Alliance and is a finalist in the national awards to be announced next week. The Council **resolved** to write to Mr. Hill to express their congratulations and best wishes for the finals.
- Eagle Street Art – Amey have confirmed their commitment to complete the construction works, and a major sponsor has confirmed their contribution to the project of £7500. The County Council has also confirmed its support regarding the approval of the remaining licenses to be applied for. Cllr. Pert requested that the Parish Council places the order for the sculpture and starts the application process for the remaining licenses.
- Taylor Wimpey has ordered a site noticeboard, which will be handed over to the Parish Council for its use. The site may be completed in about a year. It was noted that whilst Taylor Wimpey are on site, it may be worth discussing the possibility of obtaining help to repair any areas requiring maintenance on footpath 13 that runs from Shaws Lane to Blackbird Cottage.
- Work is in progress to re-instate a bus service between Stone and Newport, which affects schoolchildren travelling to schools in Newport.
- The library consultation period is now closed and feedback will be provided in due course. No decisions have yet been made, and there were a large number of respondents for all libraries involved.
- Flood Action Group – it has received verbal confirmation of success in their flood resilience grant application to the County Council and Environment Agency. As agreed previously, Eccleshall Parish Council will be involved in the administration of the grant.

With regards to the Eagle Sculpture, the Council **resolved** that the Clerk should contact the sculptor to confirm the price and progress the ordering of the sculpture, and to progress the relevant licence applications.

43/18). **Committee Reports:-**

Traffic Management Committee:- The next meeting will be held on June 6th. Cllr J. Jones provided the following update:-

- Cllr. P. Jones is two thirds of the way through a survey of the parking needs of town centre traders. To date, 104 staff need parking spaces, but a number already have parking arrangements in place. Businesses are concerned that trader parking in the High Street reduces car parking availability for shoppers. Cllr P. Jones is investigating the possibility of re-starting the Adopt a Trader scheme which allows other traders staff to use vacant spaces on car parks belonging to other businesses such as local pubs and the Police.
- There is a meeting with Richard Rayson scheduled for May 23rd, and any agenda items can be sent to the Clerk.

The Parish Council extended their thanks to Cllr. P. Jones for his time and effort in exploring the parking issues and the potential for a new scheme to help alleviate the problem of parking.

It was noted that parking issues will only increase if there are any future plans by the Borough Council to increase the number of houses in the area, and that infrastructure planning is needed to support planning and community pressures. Cllr. Pert noted there is no responsibility for the County Council to provide parking, but acknowledges that it is a difficult balance and a vibrant High Street is needed to bring customers in.

Enhancements Committee:- The next meeting of the Enhancements Committee will be held on 4th July 2018. Cllr. Baskerville provided the following update from the meeting held on April 4th:-

- Following installation of the heater in the clock by an electrician, the amplifier and heater had not been switched back on. After a check by Hawkins this was rectified and the clock is now in full working order.
- Cllr. Baskerville and Dr. Freeman met with Amey to discuss the work required on the bloom posts, and they have agreed to complete the work free of charge, and within the next week.
- Amey have also filled in the worst of the potholes at Elford Car Park.
- Work on the BT Phone Box at Croxton is ongoing.
- In order to complete the surface repairs at Croxton Play Area, additional items are required, at a cost of £47.70 plus VAT. The Council **resolved** for the Clerk to place the order for the additional items.
- The committee has obtained a quotation from Stafford Borough Council to undertake the watering of the mangers and baskets throughout the summer at a cost of £5022.00 plus VAT. Members were unaware of anyone else who may be able/willing to undertake the work as effectively as the Borough Council. The Council **resolved** to suspend standing orders and to accept the quotation by the Borough Council to undertake the work.

The minutes of the Enhancements Committee were adopted by the Council.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting will be held on June 20th 2018.

Footpaths Committee:- The next meeting will be held on June 6th 2018. It was noted that as weather improves, repairs to the gate on footpath 13 will be looked into by Mr. Smith.

44/18).

Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Allotments Association, Eccleshall Community Centre or Offley Hay Village Hall.

Ecclian Society:- The following report was provided:

- Following Mike Starkey's resignation, David Heelis has taken on the role as Treasurer of the Ecclian Society.
- The Ecclian Dinner took place on Sunday, 18th February and was enjoyed by the 26 attendees.
- The Ecclian newsletter was delivered to all the houses in Eccleshall in March.
- Welcome packs continue to be delivered to all new residents in Eccleshall including the new Bovis and Taylor Wimpey developments and are very well received.
- Following the annual survey, plans are in place to replace and/or repair the oak posts prior to erecting the mangers in early June.
- Representations have been made to SCC expressing concern regarding the plans for Eccleshall library.
- Plans are being put in place for the summer with the street planting, open gardens and the street market.
- The Ecclian Society will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on June 8th 2018.

Tourism:- The annual meeting was held at the County Showground on April 18th 2018. There was a presentation on the plans for Victoria Park, where work is due to start early 2019, for completion by October 2019. Facilities will include a café, community areas and retention of the bowling green.

Young People:- The Cricket Club and YoYo are discussing a 5 year agreement for use of the Cricket Club facilities by YoYo. A new treasurer will be appointed soon. It was noted that the Junior Young Eagles group for 15-17 year olds is separate to YoYo.

Slindon Residents:- The white lines on the A519 are partially completed, and work on the new access to Raleigh Hall has commenced. Sturbridge and Brock Lane will be closed for 12 weeks from w/c 23rd April.

Croxton News:-

- Over 30 people participated in community litter picks held on the 8th and 14th April. 35 bags of litter were collected and taken to the tip. It was noted that it was difficult to dispose of broken road signs and sand bags without charges.
- Following work by Severn Trent Water on the road by Broughton Car Park, the car park granite stones have not been put back correctly. It was advised this can be reported to the County Council Network Management Unit to request the defect be re-instated by Severn Trent Water. Cllr. Langford will report the issue to the NMU.
- Croxton Play area – the trees are growing well and maintenance will soon be needed to maintain clear access to the play area.
- Both entrances to Croxton have had sharks teeth and roundels added to the roads.
- Cllr. Langford is in support of the residents complaint regarding the dumping of mud on the lanes around Croxton. Mud is being tracked out of a new entrance made in the hedgerow by a local landowner. There is no hardcore at the new entrance to prevent the mud being spread. There has been no attempt to clear the road. The County Council were advised of the new field entrance being made in the hedgerow but it is not considered a problem. The Parish Council **resolved** to support the complaints and to write to Mr. Plant to request cleaning of the roads within 7 days. If roads were not cleaned within this timeframe, the matter would be referred to the Highways department for enforcement. Concerns were also raised with regards to the unsuitable usage of land in the village, and the item would be added to the next meeting agenda.

45/18). Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme update:- The scheme is due to start on the 1st May, and interest is being received by both potential drivers and users.

46/18). To consider the Data Protection Officer service offered by Staffordshire County Council:- Cllr. Le Monnier provided a brief overview of the new General Data Protection Regulations due to be enforced from 25th May. After discussion, the Council **resolved** to take up the tier 2 option of the Data Protection Officer service offered by the County Council as this was deemed to offer a suitable level of support and an update service. The Tier 2 service will be at a cost of £250 per year plus VAT. There will also be a one off fee of £140 plus VAT for a mandatory GAP analysis package. Cllr. Le Monnier advised he would be happy to take up the role of support officer. It was felt that the Clerk, in her role as Data Controller, would not be in a position to act as the Data Protection Officer, nor have the capacity to do so.

47/18). To consider any New Development updates:-
Taylor Wimpey site:- It was noted that they are near to 50% completion of the site build, and 37 out of the 41 completed houses are occupied.

Bovis:- 56 houses are occupied, out of the 76 built to date. Another 20 houses are in progress. One of the play areas appears complete but is not yet open. The Clerk will ask Bovis for the planned opening date. Bovis advised that landscaping works will be started on the Badgers Croft area on 19th April.

Roundabout Feature:- As reported in Cllr. Pert's report earlier and **resolved** by the Council, the Parish Council are in a position to apply for the remaining permits and place the order for the sculpture.

Cross Butts:- It was noted that a Clerk of Works has now been appointed by the County Council to oversee the site works. There have been numerous complaints regarding the overflow from the drains due to the pumping of water off the site, and the resulting damage to the road along the Crescent. The Clerk has reported all these issues to the County Council. Cllr. P. Jones has also been involved in reporting issues to the Borough Council and liaising with the developers to highlight the issues.

48/18). 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:

- Any items to be considered for the Neighbourhood Highways Works need to be forwarded to the Clerk.

- The thank you letter from the Allotments Association regarding the funding for the shed roof was circulated to all members.
- The Parish Council had received an invitation to take part on Eccleshall Parish Festival displays in Holy Trinity Church, which were to be based on the theme of Well Known Events in the Bible.
- Eccleshall in Bloom has written to request support for the annual Eccleshall in Bloom baskets and mangers. The Council **resolved** to sponsor 4 baskets, at a cost of £120.

49/18). Chairman's Report:-

- The Chairman and the Clerk attended an meeting of the War Memorial project on April 21st. The new Vicar was in attendance, and the project is progressing well. The Clerk will be in receipt of all RSVPs, and the invitation list is being finalised and invitations will be sent out in the name of the Parish Council.

50/18). 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	80.49
PAYE - LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963	9.00
NHI - LGA (Financial Provisions)1963	101.14
Pension LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	303.04
SPCA Subscription - LGA 1972 s.111	551.00
Eccleshall in Bloom Baskets x 4 - Concurrent Allowance	120.00
A.A. Roofing, Allotments Roof Repair - Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908 s.29*	1380.00

The Clerk also circulated the end of year accounts to 31st March 2018 for information. The Clerk noted that the internal audit had been completed today, and had been advised verbally that all was in order.

The Council also approved attendance for Cllr. Dale at the SPCA New Councillor Course, at a cost of £20.

To update the annual increment to point 21 of the pay scale for the Clerk from 1st May 2018, and any qualification related increments:- In accordance with the Clerk's contract, an annual increment is payable from the 1st May, which would be to point 21 of the NALC pay scale. The Chairman also noted that an additional increment is payable on successful completion of the Introduction to Local Council Administration award. The Council **resolved to approve** the award of two increment points to the Clerk from 1st May 2018, to point 22 of the NALC pay scale.

51/18). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:- The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on May 16th, 2018, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.