

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

July 18th, 2018

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on July 18th, 2018, at Broughton Parish Rooms, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.35pm.

- 132/18). Present were:-**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Councillor G. Garner (Chairman) | Councillor P. Jones |
| Councillor A. Le Monnier | Councillor C. Marshall |
| Councillor R. Langford | Councillor P. Alcock |
| Councillor J. Jones | Councillor B. Delanchy |
| Councillor L. Dale | Councillor P. Mullee |
| Councillor P. Baskerville | Councillor E. Amos |
| Councillor T. Price | |
| Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk) | |
| Borough and County Councillor Pert. | |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Leather and Jacques.

The meeting opened with prayers

- 133/18). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.
- 134/18). Public Participation:-** There was one member of the public present. Mr. Peter Chamberlain spoke on behalf of the Historical Society, and provided a summary of the War Memorial project and the success of the rededication service that was held on June 24th. It was noted that Creative Copy provided all printing free of charge and Mr. Chamberlain wished to thank the Parish Council and all donors for their generosity in supporting the project. Remaining funds will be put towards the further development of the area around the War Memorial, and this is aimed for completion by November. Duncan Honeybourne will be performing at an Eve of the Armistice Concert on the 10th November, time to be confirmed. Mr. Chamberlain also thanked the Clerk for all her work undertaken on behalf of the project.
- 135/18). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on June 20th, 2018:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.
- 136/18). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**
- Cllr P. Jones provided a report on the following:-
- Cllrs P. and J. Jones had attended a number of events, including many in their role as Deputy Mayor and Mayoress throughout the previous month.
 - The Parish Council wished to express their thanks to Cllr. P. Jones and the committee for the organisation of the Eccleshall Festival.
- 137/18). Committee Reports:-**
- Traffic Management Committee:-** The meeting was held prior to this Parish Council meeting, and discussed the proposal for the mobile speed indication devices, which would be discussed in detail in the appropriate agenda item.
- Enhancements Committee:-** Cllr. P. Alcock provided an update from the meeting held on July 4th 2018:-
- Repair work at Croxton Play area has been planned for 24th July, and Cllrs. Baskerville, Alcock and Marshall will attend.
 - The footpath between the Washpits and Shaw's Lane has been cleared.
 - The enhancements committee discussed the offer of volunteers from Drake Hall to support various enhancements activities and were in favour of the idea.

The Chair advised that he had visited Drake Hall with the Clerk on the 16th July, to discuss the provision of volunteers with the Outwork Officer, Mr. Tim Bailey. They received a very informative tour of the site and were advised that Drake Hall would be keen to offer support with community projects, and to contact them with further details to progress the work. The Council **resolved to**

accept the offer and members were asked to contact the Clerk with regards to suitable work to undertake. The Clerk would contact Drake Hall to progress the offer and discuss suitable opportunities.

- The committee discussed the possibility of stocking Elford Pool with fish, following the report from Mick Buxton who advised the water conditions were suitable for stocking. The Council would need to apply for a fishery licence before the fish could be supplied. It was noted that the reed mace still needed clearing. The committee were in favour of applying for the licence to stock the fish.

The Parish Council **resolved** to proceed with the application for the fishery licence, subject to Cllr. Baskerville confirming with Mr. Buxton that the reed mace was not detrimental to the fish. It was also resolved to check the signage around the pool to ensure the appropriate signage was in place for health and safety reasons.

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

Policy and Resources Committee:- A meeting was held on July 4th. Cllr. Garner provided the following report:-

- The Clerk presented an update of the precept expenditure to date, using a new report produced from the electronic accounts spreadsheet. The committee were happy to recommend use of the new format. The Council **resolved** to endorse this recommendation.
- The Clerk circulated a document detailing the Deeds and Insurances, and all were checked and in order.
- There is an ongoing review of our Standing Orders to ensure they are fit for purpose in light of new regulations.
- New procedures for grievance and bullying/harassment were considered by the committee and recommended for adoption by the Council. The Council **resolved to endorse** this recommendation.
- The new monthly bank reconciliation document was agreed by the committee and the Council **resolved to adopt** the document accordingly.
- The Committee advised that following further correspondence from the Borough Council, condolence papers in the event of the death of a monarch could no longer be held locally and papers would now be located centrally in Stafford and Stone churches. An online book of condolence would also be available. It was noted that Parishes could create their own books but they would not be part of the main condolence book for the County. The Council **resolved** to not create local books but to direct residents to the central locations. The library could be approached to support residents wishing to sign the online book.
- An application was made to the Parish Council for a grant to Miss Sylvia Keris, towards the cost of a place on a volunteering project with Mission Direct in Sierra Leone. The committee discussed the application and noted that although there was merit in the project, it resolved to recommend that regrettably they were unable to support the activity, as it does not fall within the legal criteria of grant allocations via section 137 funding, which requires grant funding to support groups or organisations rather than individuals. The Parish Council **resolved to endorse** this recommendation.
- The committee discussed the need for an accident reporting form for the play area at Croxton. The discussion expanded to include a review of current policies and existing risk assessments. The committee agreed that before any decisions could be made on the proposed policy, Cllr. Le Monnier would be asked to review the current health and safety documentation held by the Council and provide recommendations on any required amendments or new documents. This will be discussed at the next meeting, to be held on 5th September.

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee were adopted by the Council.

Footpaths Committee:- The next meeting will be held on September 5th. It was noted that Mr. Smith was happy with the suggestion to appoint another person to support the work, but no suggestions have been made for people to approach who may be interested in the work. Members were asked to consider who may be interested in the opportunity and advise the Clerk.

138/18). Liaison Representatives:- There were no reports to receive from the Community Centre, Offley Hay Village Hall, Croxton News or Slindon Residents.

Allotments Association:- The following report was provided:

- A meeting was held on the 16th July, 2018 and the bank balance was healthy at £1,526. However, a water bill is due, and as the last one was September 2017, it is expected to be a considerable amount.
- All plots are let, and there may soon be a small waiting list.
- The rents have been paid to the Parish Council, and the small increment in rent from 2019 has been accepted.
- Work on the interior of the shed is nearly completed.
- A committee is being formed to draw up a new constitution and rules for the allotments, with the aim of completion by October and ratification at the December AGM.
- There are reports of horsetail in the allotments and treatment will commence to prevent spreading.
- The BBQ made a £200 profit, which will go to the Scouts for the loan of the gazebo. Over 60 people attended.

Ecclian Society:- The following report was provided:

- Nearly 400 people attended the recent Open Gardens weekend.
- Eccleshall in Bloom completed a display for the Church over the Festival period.
- The Tool Stall was very successful at the festival.
- Representatives attended the War Memorial rededication service on the 24th June.
- The hanging baskets are looking very healthy and the Borough Council continue to provide an excellent service in the watering of the baskets and troughs.

Tourism:- The next meeting will be held at the Smithy in Eccleshall, on the 7th August at 2pm. Some local businesses have expressed an interest in forming a local group to promote tourism in Eccleshall and Cllr. Marshall would advise their details to Cllr. P. Jones so they can be invited to the meeting.

Young People:- A 5 year agreement has now been signed with the Cricket Club for the ongoing provision of the club house for the meetings of the youth club.

139/18). Eccleshall Community Transport scheme update:- There are now 29 clients and 9 regular drivers. More drivers would be welcomed, as availability of those drivers are limited and Cllr. J. Jones has been taking on many of the journeys.

140/18). To consider the proposal for purchase and installation of Vehicle Activated Signs in the parish.:- The Traffic Committee had discussed in detail the proposal to invest in portable Vehicle Activated Signage, which would be moved to various identified locations around the Parish to encourage reductions in speed. Costs for signage and installation were provided by the Clerk. The committee resolved to recommend the following:

- To recommend to the Parish Council to proceed in principle with the plan to purchase and install two VAS signs, subject to a successful application for funding support from Safer Roads Partnership.
- To submit a grant application for £5,000 to Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership and obtain support from the local PCSO and Mr. Richard Rayson.
- The Clerk will obtain 2 further quotations for the supply and fitting of the ground screws.

Once all quotes have been received, and the outcome of the grant application is known, the committee will review the plan to determine the final number of ground screws to work within the budget available for the project, and advise the Parish Council accordingly for final agreement prior to purchasing.

The Parish Council **resolved to accept** the recommendations of the Committee and proceed accordingly. The outcome of the grant application and next steps will be discussed at the next Traffic Management Committee meeting.

141/18). **Update regarding Copmere Picnic Site tree works and consideration of next steps:-** Investigations are ongoing with regards to the legal history of Copmere Picnic site, and once all information is collated it will be brought to the attention of the Parish Council for discussion.

142/18). **To consider any New Development updates:-**

Taylor Wimpey site:- A complaint had been received from a local resident regarding the excessive dust levels generated by the development. The site manager advised that they were employing a regular road sweeper on site and using a dust suppression bouser for regular watering of the site. It was also noted that the trees planted on the front of the site were in urgent need of regular watering. Cllr. Baskerville would bring this to the attention of Taylor Wimpey representatives on the 19th July.

Bovis:- Mr. Rob Ellam was contacted with regards to a planning application from a householder wishing to acquire open space adjacent to their property. He was not aware of the application but has not provided any feedback.

Maintenance work on Badgers Croft has now been completed and no further complaints have been received to date.

Correspondence regarding the siting of a public access defibrillator is ongoing between Bovis and Cllr. P. Jones.

Bovis have advised that the completed play area cannot yet be opened to due ongoing building works in the proximity of the area. No expected opening date has been advised.

Roundabout Feature:- The Section 50 licence has been obtained from the County Council and the other licence application is still ongoing.

Cross Butts:- A complaint has been received regarding problems with dust levels for residents in the vicinity of the site. The site manager advised that their site team dampen the site road about three times a day in an attempt to control the dust and also scrape the road to try and reduce and mud deposits being tracked off site.

143/18). **To receive the Clerk's report and correspondence:-**

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

Correspondence for discussion:

- Resident complaint regarding late night noise levels at the Royal Oak and concerns about antisocial behaviour in the High Street:- The Council **resolved** to note the concerns and to advise the resident that any anti-social behaviour be reported to the Police, as it was outside of the powers of the Council.
- Resident complaint regarding the unreliability and issues of the no. 13A bus service:- Concerns raised included issues of breaking down and drivers deviating from the correct morning route, resulting in schoolchildren being stranded for their service to school. The Council **resolved** to write to D&G, endorsing the complaints and requesting feedback on remedial action to be taken.
- Resident request for improvements to Beech Road play area:- The resident wished the Parish Council to consider improvements to the small play area at Beech Road. It was noted that the resident had been advised via Facebook of the play areas that will be provided on the new Bovis and Taylor Wimpey sites, and also that this play area was owned and maintained by the Borough Council. It was **resolved** to respond to note the correspondence and reinforce the new, much improved play areas that will be available in the future.
- Removal of hedge and new gate onto Bishops Court:- It was brought to the attention of the Council that residents of a property owned by Stafford and Rural Homes have removed hedging and installed a gate that opens onto Bishops Court open space. They have been pulling their car up to the gate on the open space in order to load and unload. The Council **resolved** to write to SARH to strongly object and request removal of the gate and reinstatement of the hedge. It was noted they are trespassing on Parish Council owned land and are also committing a highways offence by mounting a kerb to gain access to the gate.
- Further response from RBS regarding the condition of the old Nat West Building:-. The letter advised that the relevant team would be chased up to ensure the clean-up of the building will be facilitated as soon as possible. RBS also advised that they had been unable to find an alternative location for the cashpoint, which will be removed around September. The Council **resolved** to respond to RBS to strongly object to the removal of the cashpoint and request that RBS try harder to find a new location. It was noted that this was a vital service for the community and

other cashpoints were either unreliable or located within businesses that are only available during standard opening hours.

- The County Council had written to confirm that Eccleshall Library was to be transferred to a community managed library, following agreement at its recent cabinet meeting. The procurement process would commence in September and applications will be considered and the contract awarded in December. The aim is for the successful organisation to take over the day to day running of the library from April 2019. Councillor Pert offered to facilitate meetings at Shenstone and Brewood community libraries for Councillors to visit and understand more about how they will operate. The Council resolved for Cllr. Pert to arrange the visits and further discussion would take place at the next Parish meeting in September.
- Consideration of nominees for the Borough Council Community Awards:- The Chair requested members to consider any possible nominees to be put forward for the awards. Suggestions included the Historical Society and the research team for the War Memorial project, and Mr. David Smith for his longstanding support and work on the footpaths.

144/18). Chairman's Report:-

The Chair noted his recent attendance at the Mayor's charity afternoon tea at the Upper House, Barlaston.

Cllr. Pert was not available at the start of the meeting and now provided the following report:-

- He attended the recent War Memorial rededication service and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.
- There is still a small amount of funding left in the Community Fund if there are any projects that can be considered for funding.
- Planning applications at 64 High Street and Perry's Butchers have been called in to the Borough Council Planning Committee.
- Parking on the High Street appears to be erratic with regards to improper use of the space provided and Cllr. Pert questioned whether lining of the bays would be beneficial.
- Regarding the ongoing issue of speeding vehicles on the Stone Road, it was noted that a 'build out' near to the Methodist Church might force vehicles to slow down to navigate around it. Councillors noted this may have benefit from being positioned further up the road, by Shires Vets.

145/18). Accounts:-

Retrospective approval was granted for the payment of the following accounts:-

Rod Sheard seat re-painting x 8 - Parish Council Act 1957 s.2*	215.00
TGM Grass and hedge cutting - <i>Open Space Act 1906 s10</i>	244.80
Community First – Community Centre Insurance - <i>LGA 1972 s. 145</i>	1477.00
The Flood Company - High St. Hydroshield barriers <i>LGA 1972 s.137</i>	2121.00
Bentons Memorials - clean and inscription - The War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923	1714.80
The Flood Company - High St. Hydroshield barriers <i>LGA 1972 s.137</i>	2121.00
paid in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman	

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

S. Worden - Salary - LGA 1972 s. 112	1033.61
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	84.98
PAYE - LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963	26.00
NHI - LGA (Financial Provisions)1963	125.02
Pension LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	346.48
Staffordshire County Council - Data Protection Service Subscription - LGA 1972 s.111	390.00

The Clerk had received a quotation for £186 from Parton Agriplant for the cutting of hedges at Croxton, Elford and the Allotments. The Council resolved to accept the quotation and commission the work.

All were in favour and the cheques were signed.

146/18). To approve delegation to the Clerk for dealing with items of emergency and payment of accounts until the next Parish Council meeting, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. All **resolved to accept** this proposal.

146/18). **Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:-** The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on September 19th, 2018, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.