

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

October 17th, 2018

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on October 17th, 2018, at Offley Hay Village Hall, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.10pm.

- 166/18). Present were:-**
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| Councillor G. Garner (Chairman) | Councillor P. Jones |
| Councillor J. Jones | Councillor T. Price |
| Councillor B. Delanchy | Councillor J. Leather |
| Councillor D. Jacques | Councillor L. Dale |
| Councillor P. Mullee | Councillor E. Amos |
| Councillor P. Baskerville | |
| Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk) | |
| Borough and County Councillor J.Pert | |
| Two members of the public | |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Marshall, Alcock and Langford.

The meeting opened with prayers

- 167/18). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.
- 168/18). Public Participation:-** The members of the public present did not wish to speak.
- 169/18). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 19th, 2018:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.
- 170/18). Co-option – Horsley Ward:-** As no applications had been received for the post, the co-option was deferred until the November meeting. It was noted that there has been an expression of interest and information has been sent out.
- 171/18). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**
Cllr Pert provided a report on the following:-
- The County Council budget detailing the required 37 million pounds of budget cuts has now been passed by cabinet and the scrutiny committee. Due to the increased costs of Adult and Social Care, there was no alternative but to make these cuts. There is a possibility that the County Council in the future may only be able to provide statutory services.
 - The whole area of Stafford Borough has achieved 'Dementia Friendly Status', well ahead of the target date of 2020.
 - There will be a Councillors Forum held on Thursday November 29th, 6.30-8.30pm, venue to be finalised. Jointly sponsored by the Cllr. Pert and the SPCA, invites will shortly be extended to all Councillors within the county ward.
 - Following a meeting with Jules Walker, the vicar of Holy Trinity, a visit has been arranged to Rising Brook Baptist Church on 16th November at 10am, to explore examples of successful community initiatives, with a view to informing the development of outreach activities by Holy Trinity Church. If any councillors were interested in attending, please inform the Clerk.
 - A group of people including Cllr. Pert have launched a new endowment fund, called Stafford Together. The group will work to raise money for investment in the fund, and the extra monies obtained by the growth of this investment will provide grants to the voluntary sector.

Concerns were raised by a Councillor regarding the possibility that children from Bishops Lonsdale School would no longer be guaranteed a place at Sir Graham Balfour Secondary School due to capacity issues. Cllr. Pert acknowledged that pressures would be placed on schools at the north end of Stafford due to the new developments in the area but part of the plan is the provision of a new secondary school. Cllr. Pert would look into the query and advise the Clerk of the outcome.

Cllr P. Jones provided a report on the following:-

- He had attended the Annual General Meeting of Stafford and Rural Homes on 20th October.
- The next Borough Councillor Surgery will be held on 22nd October at the library.
- He attended a meeting with Richard Rayson of Highways on 26th September, with other members of the traffic committee.

172/18). Committee Reports:-

Traffic Management Committee:- The minutes of the meeting held on October 3rd had been circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted by the Council.

Enhancements Committee:- The minutes of the meeting held on October 3rd had been circulated prior to the meeting and were adopted by the Council.

Cllr. P. Baskerville provided the following update:-

- Elford Pool – Cllr. Mullee was looking into contractors who would be able to facilitate removal of the silt from the pool. Cllr. Baskerville will meet with a tree surgeon on Friday 19th October to review the work required to cut back the trees. It was noted that some of the scrub could be dug out rather than felled. It is clear that this will be a large project and require a management plan to be drawn up to address the initial problem and ensure ongoing maintenance of the area. This will be discussed further at the next enhancements meeting.
- Items on the asset inspection list as detailed on the risk assessment were re-allocated to councillors and any outstanding inspections were requested to be sent to the Clerk prior to the next meeting.
- The project to install an additional Christmas Tree at the roundabout at the bottom of the Stone Road is ongoing and awaiting final approval by the Borough Council. Final confirmation of cost is pending a quote for the tree mount and the installation cost for the new electrics. Permission was requested for the Clerk, on receipt of the donation from the Eccilian Society, to pay any invoices related to the project. The costs will be covered in full by the donation. The council **resolved to endorse this course of action.**
- Members requested that the enhancements meeting scheduled for the 12th December to be moved to 7pm on the 5th December, prior to the planning meeting. **All were in favour** of this course of action.
- The tender document outlying the items to be covered in the grass cutting contract for 2019-2021 was reviewed, and the committee recommended the addition of maintenance work to cover some verges in Church Street and Castle Street, a verge in Croxton, footpath 13, and the pathways between the Crescent/Gaol Butts, and Hartlands Road/Badgers Croft. Any final decision on taking up the work will be subject to the costs quoted. The council **resolved to accept** the amended document and start the tendering process.

Policy and Resources Committee:- The next meeting will be held on December 5th.

Footpaths Committee:- No meeting has been held since the last Parish Meeting. Cllr. Mullee advised that work to replace the kissing gate on footpath 13 is due to start on Friday 19th October.

173/18). Liaison Representatives:- Reports were accepted by the Council, as circulated in the Clerk's Report prior to the meeting. The following additional items were reported:-

Slindon:- a residents' meeting will take place next week.

Allotments:-

- A meeting was held on 15th October.
- There are 3 vacant lots that have been advertised on Social Media. Interest has been expressed for quarter and half plots.
- 2 further plots need spraying and may become available.
- Some plots are untidy and the holders have been requested to tidy them up.
- Further complaints have been received regarding the lock on the gate.

- No treasurer's report was available.

174/18). Eccleshall Community Transport scheme update:-

- The quarterly update meeting was held on September 21st.
- The scheme has over 30 registered passengers and nine drivers
- During the first three months from May, 17 lifts were provided
- During the last two months a further 30 lifts were provided.
- More drivers are still needed and potential users are encouraged sign up so that they will be ready to access the scheme when they need it.
- Forms for drivers and passengers to register are available at the Library, Crown Surgery, Eccleshall Pharmacy and online at www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk

The Council wished to congratulate all of the organisers regarding the success of the scheme. The Council **resolved** to support the scheme by adding links to the website on the Parish website and to promote the scheme where possible.

175/18). To consider the request to use the Eccleshall crest as part of the publicity and branding for the Eccleshall Cluster:- The cluster consists of a number of Eccleshall based group of businesses, including retail and hospitality, as well as community organisations, including sports and leisure. The aim of the group is to promote Eccleshall as a visitor destination. The group have obtained start-up funding and wish to use the crest as part of their logo for marketing materials. Council **resolved to approve this request**, subject to the condition that it is for businesses within the parish only.

176/18). Update regarding Copmere Picnic Site tree works and consideration of next steps:- Mr. Le Monnier has provided a comprehensive legal review of the Copmere common land, which clarifies that there is no obligation on the Parish Council to maintain the land, but if it wishes to consider any maintenance work, this could be possible within the legal framework of the Commons Act. At present, the Council cut the grass of the picnic area and monitor the current seating provision. It was noted that if there was any incidences of trees falling and causing injury, this is at the liability of the individual. The Council **resolved** for Cllr. Garner to speak to Mr. Le Monnier regarding next steps to be taken, to clarify his recommendation around writing to various authorities about the land.

177/18). To consider the quotations received for additional landscape maintenance work:- Quotations have been requested from four companies regarding work to remove verge overgrowth from pavements in a number of locations within the parish, as well as clearance work on alleyways between the Crescent/Gaol Butts and Badgers Croft/Hartlands Road. To date the Council has only received two quotations. The Council **resolved to defer the decision** on the quotations until the next meeting, when all quotes should be available. The Clerk was asked to obtain more detailed information on the intended plan of work for each area from the contractors to ensure there was a clear understanding of the scope of work planned by each company.

178/18). Winter newsletter update:- The winter newsletter has been completed and proof read by members of the editorial team. A copy was circulated at the meeting. Subject to any last minute amendments, the aim is to print and circulate from week commencing 5th November.

179/18). To consider any New Development updates:-

Taylor Wimpey site:- Nothing to report

Bovis:- The Clerk has contacted highways to request when permanent speed signage would be in place to replace the temporary 30mph signs. It was noted by Cllr. Delanchy that those signs would not be replaced as they are a temporary extension to the 30mph limit required for the Bovis development traffic. Excess signs discarded in the verge have yet to be removed.

Cllr. Pert advised that the footpath link was now open, but discussions are ongoing with regards to bringing forward the opening date for the play area. The Borough Council enforcement and planning officers have visited the site to investigate the issues, but no resolution has been found to date.

Roundabout Feature:- All outstanding paperwork has been submitted to the County Council regarding the plans, and a response is awaited.

Cross Butts:- It was noted that a number of properties are now inhabited.

180/18). To receive the Clerk's report and correspondence:-

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

Correspondence for discussion:

- Concerns over the condition of the Co-Op cashpoint:- It was reported that the cashpoint and the brick surround is extremely dirty and in urgent need of cleaning. Cllr. Price agreed to obtain the contact details listed on the machine for the persons responsible and the Clerk would contact them to request that it is cleaned.

181/18). Chairman's Report:-

The Chair noted that the Civic Service will be held on October 21st at 11am at St. Pauls Church Croxton and reminded everyone they were welcome to attend.

182/18). Accounts:-

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

SLCC - CiLCA Portfolio registration - Training - LGA 1972 s.111	250.00
SLCC – 11th ed. Local Council Admin Publication - LGA 1972 s.111	108.79
Stafford Borough Council - Watering - Concurrent Allowance	6403.01
NALC – Local Councils Publication - LGA 1972 s.111	19.99

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

S. Worden - Salary - LGA 1972 s. 112	1033.61
Expenses - Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963	107.81
PAYE - LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963	25.80
NHI - LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963	125.02
Pension LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995	346.48
TGM Grass and hedge cutting - Open Space Act 1906 s10	250.80
Poppy Appeal Wreath - Section 137	25.00

The Council **resolved to approve** the printing costs of £306 for 2000 copies of the winter newsletter.

The Council **resolved to approve** the quotation for the installation of the Christmas lights on the large tree at £275 and their removal at £125 plus VAT.

183/18). To pass a resolution in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press whilst confidential information is being discussed:

To receive feedback from the Staffing Committee about the Clerk's working hours and updating of pension documentation:- The Staffing Committee met on the 16th October to discuss the Clerks working hours. The Council **resolved to accept** the Committee's recommendation that the Clerk's weekly hours were increased in line with the increased daily workload and study time required for the CiLCA course. A number of accrued hours already worked would also be paid at the standard hourly rate. These changes will be effective from 1st November 2018.

The Council also **resolved to accept** the updated Employer Pensions Discretions policy statement for employees, as recommended by the committee. None of the recommendations will result in increased expenditure for the Parish Council.

Discussion regarding delivery of Neighbourhood Plan aspirations. Following discussions, the Council **resolved to defer** further discussions on this item until next year, as noted in the confidential document.

184/18). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:- The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on November 21st, 2018, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

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