

## ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

A meeting of Eccleshall Parish Council was held on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, at Eccleshall Community Centre, at 7.30pm. This meeting was followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee at 9.25pm.

- 185/18). Present were:-**
- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Councillor G. Garner (Chairman) | Councillor P. Jones   |
| Councillor J. Jones             | Councillor T. Price   |
| Councillor B. Delanchy          | Councillor J. Leather |
| Councillor R. Langford          | Councillor L. Dale    |
| Councillor C. Marshall          | Councillor E. Amos    |
| Councillor P. Baskerville       | Councillor P. Edwards |
| Mrs S.J. Worden (Clerk)         |                       |
| One member of the public        |                       |

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Alcock, Mullee, Jacques, and Borough and County Councillor J.Pert.

*The meeting opened with prayers*

- 186/18). To consider Councillor requests for dispensations:-** There were no requests to receive.
- 187/18). Public Participation:-** Mr Chris Archer provided an overview of the Flood Action Group and spoke about the upcoming public meeting of the Flood Action Group, to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm in the function Room of the Royal Oak. It will be attended by a representative from Severn Trent and a consultant who has been working on a design to remodel the sewers. Parish Councillors were urged to support the work of the FAG and attend the meeting, which would provide an opportunity to talk with Severn Trent and discuss the serious issues with flooding in the Parish. It was noted that residents need to report all instances of flooding so that Severn Trent are aware of the problems. The Clerk will publicise the meeting on Facebook and the website, and also ensure the Flood Action Group flyer is available on the website, which provides contact details for reporting floods. It was noted that the telephone number and web link for reporting floods is also in the Parish Newsletter.
- 188/18). To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018:-** The minutes, which had been previously circulated were agreed and signed.
- 189/18). Co-option – Horsley Ward:-** The candidate gave a short presentation to the meeting, answering questions from existing Councillors.

Following a secret ballot Mr. Peter Edwards of 34, Claremont Road was duly co-opted to represent the Horsley Ward.

Councillor Garner welcomed Mr. Edwards to the Council. Councillor Edwards signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

- 190/18). Reports from Borough and County Councillors:-**

Cllr P. Jones had provided a report for inclusion in the Clerk's Report, and highlighted items of particular interest.

- 191/18). Committee Reports:-**  
**Traffic Management Committee:-** There had been no meeting since the last Parish Meeting. The next meeting will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.

**Enhancements Committee:-**

Cllr. P. Baskerville provided the following update:-

- Elford Pool –Cllr. Baskerville met with a tree surgeon to review the work required to cut back the trees and is awaiting feedback. It was noted that a resident had contacted the Clerk to volunteer to help organise a work group to clear the pond. The offer of help was

much appreciated and Cllr. Baskerville spoke to the resident to advise there would need to be a full review of the work required prior to commencement of any activity. Work includes removal of reed mace and silt from the pool as well as cutting back of trees. There is still no obvious reason as to why the pool has dried up but the volume of trees may well have taken up a large proportion of the water.

- The foundations for the Christmas tree at the Stone Road/Stafford Street crossroads have been completed pending replacement of turf at a later date. It was confirmed that Eccleshall in Bloom are covering all costs for the tree, including any additional costs that may arise. The Council wished to thank Cllr. Baskerville for all his hard work and effort regarding this project, as well as the Ecclesian Society. The Council **resolved** that the Chairman should sign the legal document from Stafford Borough Council that allowed the locating of the Christmas tree on the land. This was duly completed.
- A plaque of the Eccleshall Crest has been stolen from the Coach and Horses Railings in front of the Little George, but the fixings have been left intact. The cost for a replacement plaque has been quoted at £430 plus VAT and £25 shipping, but this can be claimed back on the Parish insurance, subject to a £100 excess. The Council **resolved to order** the new plaque and submit an insurance claim. When the plaque arrives Councillors will look into alternative methods of fixing the plaque to deter future theft.

**Policy and Resources Committee:-** The next meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and will consider next year's budget and precept. Councillors Edwards and Dale wished to be added to the committee membership and the council **resolved in favour** of this course of action.

**Footpaths Committee:-** The next meeting will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2019.

**192/18). Liaison Representatives:-** Reports were accepted by the Council, as circulated in the Clerk's Report prior to the meeting. It was noted that the speed watch group meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November had been moved to the Royal Oak.

**193/18). Eccleshall Community Transport scheme update:-** Funds are increasing and it is hoped that the scheme will be able to fund its own insurance next year. In future, updates will be included in the liaison section of the Clerks Report.

**194/18). To consider the response from D&G regarding the request to retain the 13A bus service after March 2019.** D&G clarified that the bus service was unlikely to be retained after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 as there was no subsidy and the bus would be taken out of service. There is no opportunity to review the timetable as the other buses are on mandatory school transport routes at that time. D&G noted the bus was not commercially sustainable due to the low number of users. Residents have written to the County Council expressing their concerns, and it has advised there is no legal requirement to provide a bus for post 16 students to attend school/college. Parents are looking into options with regards to a community service. It was noted that the subsidised fares for 16-19 year olds will be removed in the summer of 2019, so full fares would be payable to the bus companies. The council **resolved** to write again to the County Council and D&G to further express their frustrations and annoyance at the removal of the service and the impact on local residents who do not have access to transport. The council agreed to also send the correspondence to the local newspapers in order to raise awareness of the issue. Cllr. Price will provide the Clerk with resident correspondence to date.

**195/18). To discuss the request to adopt the project for purchase and installation of gateway features in Slindon:-** Slindon residents committee have an ongoing project to install gateway features at the entrances to Slindon, to reinforce the new 40mph speed restriction. To date they have raised £5000 towards the project, and Cllr. Pert has indicated a further £1000 could be provided via the Divisional Highways Programme fund. It was noted that the agreement to adopt and place apparatus on the verge is in the name of Eccleshall Parish Council, and that ongoing maintenance and insurance would need to be in place for the gateways. The project was considered to be in line with the traffic calming measures considered by the Traffic committee and the **Council resolved to adopt** the project and work with Slindon residents to deliver the project. The Council would require the funds raised to date to be donated to the Council, and **further resolved** to match fund Cllr. Perts contribution and provide a further £1000 so that the expected

costs of £7000 can be covered. The gateways will be the property of the Parish Council and covered by relevant insurances.

**196/18). Update regarding Copmere picnic site:-** It was noted that as this is common land, the Parish Council have no obligation to maintain the area but are entitled to undertake a number of activities on common land, such as mowing, placing of benches, tables etc. It is good practice to advise the Borough Council and the neighbouring Sugnall Estate of any further plans to enhance the area, and as such Mr. Le Monnier has provided correspondence templates to facilitate this. The Council **resolved to refer** Copmere picnic site to the Enhancements committee, to consider any future plans for improvement in due course.

**197/18). To consider the quotations received for additional landscape maintenance work:-** The Clerk requested quotations from 4 suppliers, and after two months has still received only two quotations. The **Council resolved** to consider the two quotations provided, as all reasonable efforts have been made to obtain three quotes. **The Council resolved to accept** the quotation provided by Trent Grounds Maintenance, and priority will be requested for digging off the verge overgrowth along the Stone Road from Fletchers to Badgers Croft, followed by Newport Road, Church Road to Kerry Lane, Croxton and Slindon pavements. The walkway between Badgers Croft and Hartlands Road will also be maintained.

**198/18). To discuss the involvement of the Council in the Vision process for the Church of England in Eccleshall:-** Cllr. Garner and the Clerk attended a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October with Jules Walker and Cllr. Pert. It was an informal meeting where the vicar outlined plans to look at the future for the church in the community, and to consider how the church can evolve to support the community and tackle many issues faced by the community, such as social isolation. The vicar was planning to invite representatives from local groups to engage with the church to develop a vision for the church. The first Vision meeting took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> November, and Cllr. Leather attended as a representative for Slindon Church. Cllrs P. and J. Jones also attended. Cllr. Leather advised that the next meeting is planned for the 6<sup>th</sup> Dec and an away day is to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. Councillors were happy to provide relevant updates to the Parish Council so members were aware of progress and to discuss if any involvement is appropriate as the plans develop.

**199/18). To consider any New Development updates:-**  
**Taylor Wimpey site:-** Nothing to report  
**Bovis:-** The Clerk has been chasing the removal of excess signage on the verge area.  
**Roundabout Feature:-** Cllr. Delanchy will request if the relevant department require any further documentation from the Council in order for a decision to be made.  
**Cross Butts:-** Nothing to report.  
The Clerk has been advised that an outline planning application for development of land off Castle Street is due to be submitted in December, which is a scaled down application that will sit within the development boundary of the Parish.

**200/18). 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:- The Clerk has received feedback from Cash Zone, who have advised that a maintenance request has been logged for the cashpoint and will also advise the cash planning department of the need to review the amount of cash held in the machine so that it does not run out.
- Correspondence concerning young people doing wheelies on public pavements:-resident concerns were noted. It was advised that no formal complaints have been made to the PCSO, but he has been made aware of the situation and will be looking out for issues.
- Invitation to the opening ceremony of the new Guide Headquarters at Westbridge Park:- As the chair is unable to attend, Cllr. Marshall has agreed to attend the event on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**201/18). Chairman's Report:-**

The Chair recently attended the Trafalgar Dinner hosted by Stone Town Council. The Parish Council Civic service held at Croxton on the 21<sup>st</sup> October was very well organised and thanks were given to all involved. The Chair represented the Council and laid a wreath at the 11<sup>th</sup> November remembrance service. The service was very well attended with numbers estimated at around 700. Councillors who attended were thanked for their presence.

**202/18). Accounts:-**

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

E.ON Street lighting & maintenance - <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3</i>	185.92
TGM Grass and hedge cutting - <i>Open Space Act 1906 s10</i>	250.80
Mr. D. Minshull - installation of kissing gate - <i>Highways Act 1980 ss43</i>	388.38
Creative Copy 'n' Colour – <i>Newsletters – LGA 1972 s.142</i>	306.00

Authorisation was requested for payment of the following:-

S. Worden - Salary - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	1232.50
Expenses - <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	100.09
PAYE - <i>LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963</i>	85.20
NHI - <i>LGA (Financial Provisions) 1963</i>	206.03
Pension <i>LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995</i>	438.16
Wicksteed Playground Inspections - <i>Public Health Act 1875 s.164</i>	54.00
Caroline Law - high resolution image Eccleshall Crest - <i>LGA 1972 s.111</i>	30.00
AS Electrical Services - new electrical supply to tree at Stone Road - <i>Section 137</i>	1660.80
International Components - festive lighting - <i>Section 137</i>	615.60
S. Worden - December Salary - <i>LGA 1972 s. 112</i>	1094.03
Expenses (fixed element) -December, <i>Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963</i>	16.00
PAYE - <i>LGA December (Financial Provisions) 1963</i>	43.60
NHI - <i>LGA December (Financial Provisions) 1963</i>	149.51
Pension December <i>LG Pensions Scheme Regs. 1995</i>	374.20
SLCC Membership - <i>LGA 1972 s.143*</i>	175.00

The Clerk advised that the Parish telephone was no longer working and a replacement phone with an answerphone will cost £35. There will be an overall cost saving as the BT voicemail service will be cancelled. The council **resolved to approve** the purchase of the phone.

**203/18). To pass a resolution 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.**

The Council **resolved to approve** this course of action.

**204/18). Items / Date and Venue for next meeting:-** The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Eccleshall Community Centre, 7.30pm.

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