

Clerks Report – Parish Council Meeting 21st Nov 2018, Eccleshall Community Centre

Supplementary documents circulated to support the agenda:

- Councillor Application Form (sent separately)

Further Information for Agenda Items:

- **Item 11 - Background to Proposal for gateways at Slindon:-** The speed limit was reduced from 50mph to 40 mph through the majority of the area with new speed roundels painted on the road. The village committee hoped to have gateways installed on the verge at the same time. Whilst approved in principle by the County Council, delays of 2 years have occurred due to the procedure not being explained. Cllr. Pert has indicated that a grant of £1000 may be available towards the cost of the gateways and has suggested also applying to EPC for a grant.

The Slindon Committee believe that the Eccleshall Parish Council should be the lead for the gateway project moving forward as any licences need to be signed and granted in its name, and it would be appropriate for the Council to take ownership of the gateway project for this reason. The feature would also need to be appropriately maintained and insured. The village are prepared to contribute £5000 towards the total estimated cost of £7000.

These four gateways would be complementary to the proposal for the VAS signage within the overall Parish Area with two ground screw locations at present being proposed in Slindon.

- **Item 14 - Vision Process for C of E in Eccleshall-** The Clerk and Cllr. Garner were invited to a meeting with Jules Walker and County Cllr. Pert regarding the church's future plans to address social needs within the parish. Jules is planning to put together a project team of church and community representatives in order to produce a forward vision for the church. Since then, an initial meeting was held, which Cllr. Leather attended.

Borough Councillor Update:-

Cllr. P. Jones has provided the following update on activity since the last meeting:

Events attended included - Civic Service at St Paul's Croxton Sunday 21st October; Mayor's fund raising Curry night at the London House Monday 22nd October; AGM of the Talking Newspapers for the Blind Stafford on Wednesday 24th October; Trefoil Guild coffee morning on Saturday 27th October; Eccleshall Trust Coffee morning 3rd November; Chebsey Parish Council meeting on Monday 5th November; Holy Trinity lunchtime concert and Vision project session at the Holy Trinity Church on Thursday 8th November; Trinity Men's Fellowship concert at the church in memory of the 100 years of the ending of WW1; Remembrance Service at Stafford war memorial Sunday 11th November; Stone Town Council memorial service at St Michael's Church 11th November; Borough council planning department open day Monday 12th November.

Activities undertaken included - gave a talk to the Stafford Samaritans in the Mayor's Parlour Tuesday 23rd October; held a monthly surgery in the library on 27th October; gave a talk to the Stafford & District Stroke club in the Mayor's parlour on 31st October and sang with Eccleshall Singers in Concert at the community centre.

The next BC surgery will be at the library on the 17th November and he will be attending a Stafford Borough Council meeting on the 20th November and giving a talk to Gnosall Phoenix Club in the Mayor's Parlour, also on Tuesday 20th November.

Liaison Reports:

Community Centre – No report to receive.

Offley Hay Village Hall – No report has been received.

Tourism - No report to receive.

Slindon News – The Parish Council assets in Slindon have been inspected and the points noted for discussion in the Enhancements committee, as some refurbishments/cutting back around assets has been identified.

The Slindon Village committee had their AGM on 24th October when the main matter being discussed was the speed limits in the Village and what more could be done to finish the job which was started by the County Council. Further information is provided against agenda item 11.

At the meeting, it was noted that the County Council has advised it will repaint the white lines not only through the village but the length of the A519 from Eccleshall to the railway bridge at Mill Meece. As this is still awaited after some two years, the Parish Council are requested to help put pressure on the County to complete this.

Croxton News - No report has been received.

Allotments – No report to receive. The AGM will be held in early December.

Ecclian Society:

- October 23rd 2018: A joint Ecclian/ Bloom Committee meeting was held, which included discussions on the installation of the Christmas tree at the crossroads; the removal of the Summer planting; plans for installation and switch on of all the other Christmas trees; plans for Christmas activities; planting of the troughs throughout the town; ordering of plants for 2019 and routine Ecclian business including calendars, welcome packs, lunch club and accounts.
- November 4th - the summer street planting was taken down with the help of approximately 40 volunteers who all worked extremely hard.
- November 11th - representatives of the Society took part in the Remembrance Service and laid a wreath at the War Memorial.
- Preparation on ongoing for decorations for the Ecclian Society entry for the Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival.
- Work is being completed at the crossroads for the Christmas tree support
- The Society's AGM is being held on Tuesday 20th November at the community centre starting at 7.30pm. Members of the community are invited to attend and take part.
- The Christmas lights will be fitted and trees erected from 10am on Sunday 2nd December.
- Santa will be at the Lych gate from 4pm on Sunday 2nd December and the lights will be switched on at 5pm on 2nd December.
- On Monday 17th December Carols around the tree will take place in the town centre starting at 7pm and followed by mulled wine

Children/Young People: No report to receive.

In addition, the following has been received from the Neighbourhood Watch group:

- John Baldry has contacted the council to advise that the Neighbourhood Watch have set up a "Traders back up" group on WHATSAPP for Eccleshall. This service will allow all traders, pub landlords and their respective staff to communicate with each other quickly if there is any criminal activity in the town that may affect either their business or welfare. Since 6th Nov many traders have already signed up to the group so NW hope that it will give peace of mind to many folks who work alone in some of the smaller businesses in town. Mr. Baldry has notified the police of the groups existence and it will be on the agenda for the next NHW meeting in January 2019. In the meantime if the council need any further information from Mr. Baldry about the scheme then please let the Clerk know. If you want Mr. Baldry to attend a parish council meeting to discuss this then he will be only too glad to do so.
- Mr. Baldry has spoken to the Community Speedwatch team at Stafford police, and training is being organised for a group of volunteers at the fire station in Eccleshall on Thursday 29th Nov. Michelle Shaker is their contact point and she will supply some equipment initially as Cllr. Jones has informed the group that the old equipment was faulty and has been disposed of. Michelle has advised the latest equipment costs around £350 and that funding may be available to cover this, although the amount of funding is not yet known.

Correspondence for consideration, additional information:

- Cash facilities – concerns have been raised about unreliability of the only 24hr cashpoint, not enough cash being in this cashpoint and other cashpoints not available after 6-6.30pm.

Correspondence circulated, to note:

1. Stafford Borough Council Members Digest received and circulated.
2. SPCA Weekly Bulletins – forwarded to all.
3. Visit Stafford Updates
4. Notice of closure of Windmill Lane 19-21 Nov (Back Lane to La Russe)
5. Notice of road closure of Mere Rise in Offleyhay from a point approx 150 metres from junction with Vinegar Hill in a NE direction for approx. 140 metres on the 29 November.
6. Public correspondence concerning young people doing wheelies on public pavements and intimidating older people.
7. The Flood Action Group have arranged a meeting with Severn Trent Water and their consultant, tasked with modelling the sewerage system in Eccleshall, on 28th November at 5.30pm in the Royal Oak. Councillors have been asked to attend to support the meeting.

Clerk Availability:

The Clerk has annual leave booked:

Friday 21st December until Monday 1st January inclusive and Friday 4th January 2019.

Unavailability due to CILCA training day will be Wednesday 12th December.

General Council Updates:

- **Parish Elections 2019.** The date of elections has been confirmed as 2nd May 2019. Councillors will be responsible for the submission **IN PERSON** of their nomination papers to the Borough Council. This is because if any amendments/confirmation of details are required to the paper, this can only be completed by the candidate. Whilst dates have yet to be confirmed, there is expected to be a period of approximately 6 working days in which papers can be submitted, which is likely to be around the last week of March 2019.
- Any items for inclusion on a meeting agenda must be received by the Clerk 10 clear days ahead of the meeting date.

Notes:

SCC- Staffordshire County Council

SBC- Stafford Borough Council

EPC – Eccleshall Parish Council

SARH – Stafford and Rural Homes

SPCA – Staffordshire Parish Councils Assc