

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011 – One resident attended the Parish Council Meeting, to request an update on the ongoing speeding issue within the village (see minute ref 89/11).

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th June 2011**

81/11 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Smith, Forrest, Ransted, Wilkes and Wood.

82/11 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Cameron, Bainbridge and Glaze. The Meeting agreed to accept the apologies.

83/11 Declarations of Interest – None received, however the Chair reminded all new Councillors to inform Wychavon DC in this regard and that also that all existing Councillors should update their Register of Interests, if appropriate.

84/11 Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 –  
The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Wilkes, this was seconded by Cllr Ransted. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

85/11 District & County Councillor Reports –  
District Cllr Davis gave a short report:

- Following the recent local elections, 15 new District Councillors have been appointed;
- A recommendation has been made to increase parking fees in Pershore (boosting Wychavon DC's yearly income). Pay meters will be updated and it is hoped the option of half hour parking will be made available.

County Councillor – no attendance.

86/11 Progress Reports – Clerk

The Clerk informed the Meeting that new topsoil would be laid and grass seed applied in the Churchard, where the large pampas grass was recently removed. This should take place in the next few days.

The Clerk read a press release to the Meeting relating to the proposed closure of Eckington Bridge during the summer holidays. It was agreed that the information would be included in the parish magazine and notice board and that leaflets should be made available which replicate the alternative public transport timetables with details and timings of closures.

The Meeting agreed the Clerk should request that Cllr Bainbridge should inspect the Consultation on Landscape Character Assessment, Supplementary Guidance, produced by Worcestershire County Council and report back to the next Meeting.

The Meeting agreed that 'Agreed Minutes' should be placed on the village website, rather than 'Draft Minutes'. It was also agreed that Minutes should now be archived on the Website.

Updates on Highway matters were reported, including:

- Jarvis Street, subsidence – has been deemed 'not hazardous'. Although the Clerk informed the Meeting that it may be beneficial to send a photo of the area in question to Highways in order to enforce the issue. Cllr Forrest agreed to undertake this and forward to the Clerk;

- New Road, verge erosion – matter still under investigation, Clerk to write a further letter in order to pursue the matter further;
- Tewkesbury Road, turning circle – Clerk to speak to Highways again, as although grass has been cut in the last 4 weeks, the Meeting agreed a cut is now once again overdue.

Rec Centre – It was reported that the recent Music Festival held at the Rec Centre had been very successful and had raised a good amount of funds.

BHCG – It was reported that a replacement for the position of Secretary is currently being sought. It was also reported that English Heritage have expressed an interest in purchasing Bredon Hill Tower. It is unclear at present of current ownership and the Meeting requested more details regarding this issue.

Church & Bridge Trusts – Cllr Forrest informed the Meeting that she wished to confirm whether or not she had become a Trustee of this Trust (since becoming a representative at the last meeting), as she believed this may have certain implications. Cllr Forrest agreed to look into the matter further and report back to the next meeting.

87/11 – Planning - The following planning matters have been brought before the Clerk and/or Wychavon District Council since the last Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011:

### **Planning Approvals**

W/11/00766/PP Sunrise, Manor Road – Replacement garage.

### **Planning Application to be discussed:**

W/11/01059/PN Village Hall, School Lane – Demolition of existing element of building comprising stepped external and internal access, lobby and toilet accommodation. Construction of new level access entrance, lobby and toilet accommodation – no objection.

88/11 – Cala Homes - Section 106 – Following the meeting with Wychavon DC, attended by Cllrs Wilkes, Glaze and Bainbridge, a draft questionnaire (seeking views of residents in relation to best use of the funding) had been prepared for discussion. The Meeting agreed that a questionnaire would prove beneficial to the Parish Council and agreed that one would be delivered to every household within the village. It was therefore agreed that, following the minor amendments discussed, a final draft should be prepared for the next Meeting in order to progress the matter further.

The Meeting discussed whether there was a need in the village for a ‘welcome letter’ from the Parish Council to be produced (including details of local clubs/societies etc), so that all newcomers to the village are officially welcomed by the Parish Council. As the Meeting was unsure if the WI already undertake something of a similar nature, it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the matter and then prepare a draft for discussion at the next Meeting.

89/11 – Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – Following a site meeting with a representative from Worcestershire Highways, 4 possible areas along the main road suitable to place the sign had been discussed. The Meeting agreed that a commitment to the scheme from one of the neighbouring villages was now necessary, in order for the matter to progress (as the scheme can only be undertaken in connection with a neighbouring parish). The Clerk would pursue the matter.

The Meeting discussed the issues raised by the resident who had attended the public forum in relation to this matter. The Meeting then discussed whether 30mph stickers, attached to wheelie bins along the main road would be beneficial in reducing speeding (only visible on bin collection

days). Cllr Williamson agreed to investigate the matter further and report back to the next Meeting. It was also agreed that some of the signs indicating the speed limits were not particularly visible at present, due to overgrowth of hedges. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should request that the Lengthsman cut back any foliage causing obstruction.

90/11 Standing Orders – The Meeting agreed that a copy of the current Standing Orders should be sent to all the Councillors in readiness for discussion at the next Parish Council Meeting.

91/11 – Clerk's Appraisal – The Clerk left the room while the Chair briefly discussed the Appraisal with the Meeting. Cllr Wilkes proposed the appropriate increase in salary scale, this was seconded by Cllr Smith. The Meeting was unanimous in its agreement.

92/11 – Correspondence for Information – The Meeting noted the file of correspondence available for inspection.

93/11 – Finance – Cllr Smith proposed and was seconded by Cllr Forrest that the following payments should be approved:

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Clerk's salary                        | £309.34 |
| Admin expenses & mileage              | £31.02  |
| Lengthsman salary                     | £142.50 |
| Avon Navigation Trust (subs)          | £10.00  |
| LCR (subs)                            | £15.50  |
| BT (reimbursement Clerk's phone bill) | £61.73  |
| New Farm Grounds Maintenance          | £564.64 |
| Jon Smith (accountancy fees)          | £120.00 |
| Village hall hire                     | £12.50  |

The Meeting inspected and approved the accounts for year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The Chair then duly signed the accounting statement in readiness for inspection by the external auditor.

Following a budget update, the Meeting agreed that the sum of £5,000 should be transferred from the current account to the treasury account.

94/11 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

- Jarvis Street – school sign needs replacing

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm