

Tuesday 13th March 2012 – There was no attendance at the open public forum.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th March 2012

35/12 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Cameron, Ransted, Smith, Bainbridge, Forrest, Wilkes and Wood.

36/12 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Glaze and were accepted by the Meeting.

37/12 Declarations of Interest – A declaration of interest was made by Cllr Wilkes in relation to Item no. 6 on the Agenda.

38/12 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14th February 2012 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th February were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Wilkes, this was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

39/12 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis informed the Meeting of the following:

- The new head of Planning at Wychavon DC has now been appointed;
- Meeting dates and training sessions for diaries: New Homes Bonus & Neighbourhood Planning, Assets of Community Value & Community Right to Challenge and New Code of Conduct;

A request was made for a letter of support from Cllr Davis in relation to the proposed building works project for the village hall. Cllr Davis agreed he would produce a letter for the Parish Council.

There was no attendance from the County Councillor.

40/12 Progress Reports – Clerk:

It was reported that the request for the installation of a grit bin at Hammock Lane/Manor Road had been declined by Worcestershire Highways (this being primarily due to gradient and number/type of properties served).

It was reported that a request to trim overgrown hedges bordering the B4080 has been made to the landowners of Eckington Caravan Park. The owners have agreed to attend to this matter.

Village Hall – The following matters were reported to the Meeting:

- Event planning for the Queens Jubilee is now underway – all funds raised will go towards the village hall building works ;
- At present four of the fundraising requests are currently in progress;
- Additional Village Hall Trustees will be agreed at the AGM;
- The possibility of requesting a ‘listed building’ status for the village hall has recently been discussed. Further information regarding this matter is being sought, following which the matter will be discussed again at the next village hall meeting.

Recreation Centre – It was reported that the annual inspection is now due to be carried out.

Footpaths - It was reported that stiles recently installed on land at Woollas Hall will now be replaced with gates, in order that they can be used more easily by dog-walkers.

BHCG – The Meeting discussed the proposed Strensham Wind Farm and how this may affect Eckington. Cllr Ransted agreed to keep the Parish Council up to date regarding this matter.

CALC – Cllr Cameron informed the Meeting that she had not been notified of the change of date for the last meeting and consequently had not attended. It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries regarding this and report back to Cllr Cameron.

PACT – A recent car theft within the village was reported.

PMTP – Cllr Ransted requested that the Clerk make enquiries to find out whether he is required to serve on the PMTP Committee. The Clerk agreed to do so and report back to the next Meeting.

41/12 – 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 14th February 2012:

Planning Approvals

W/12/00001/PP Halcyon Days & Days Farm, Upper End – Demolish existing outhouses. Construct new 2 storey extension to provide new bathroom, bedroom & utility. Form new vehicular entrance & timber garage with parking & turning area. Replace windows and render end elevation. Construct new porch.

W/12/00069 5 Hacketts Lane – Conversion of flat roof and addition of porch to house front.

Planning Applications to be discussed:

W/12/00363/LB Whitehouse, Church Street – Internal alterations to brick arch (amendment to approval W/11/017341/LB) – no objection.

(Cllr Wilkes declared an interest in Item 6 of the Agenda).

Following a short discussion regarding the two draft letters prepared in regard to the planning process at Wychavon DC, it was agreed that Cllrs Glaze and Bainbridge would prepare one letter in readiness for the Parish Council to agree at the next meeting.

42/12 – Highway Matters – The Meeting discussed the condition of the road at Piecing Lane. The Meeting was informed that although tarmacing the area had been an early recommendation from Worcestershire Highways, Wychavon DC did not make this a condition of planning. The Meeting agreed that the Parish Council would be unable to pursue this matter further until land ownership is established.

The Meeting discussed the report received from Worcestershire Highways regarding any possible traffic calming measures at Pike House, which could be undertaken in an attempt to improve the area for pedestrians. It was agreed that the Clerk would request that the footpath be widened, with the carriageway kept at the same width, therefore extra area being taken from the opposite side of the road. The request would be made for this to be included in a future maintenance budget.

43/12 – Eckington Wharf – Cllrs. Wilkes and Ransted gave a report to the Meeting regarding the Worcestershire County Council Parks and Greenspaces Forum which they had both attended. The aim of the Forum was to discuss the proposal to remove/reduce the costs of running and maintaining the County's parks and picnic sites. The Meeting agreed that Cllrs Wilkes and Ransted would attend a further meeting with Worcestershire CC, to discuss the impact that this would have on the Parish Council, and costings involved. A further report would then be made at the next Meeting.

44/12 – West Mercia Police – The Meeting agreed to make a financial contribution to the ‘Bobby Club’ (a police club/magazine which highlights road/general safety for children).

45/12 – Cala Homes & Section 106 Funding - Nothing to report.

46/12 – Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – The Meeting was informed that, due to the lengthy delay in erecting the columns for the sign, Highways have agreed to cover any costs of repairs normally covered by the 12 month warranty.

It was agreed that the Clerk should continue to actively pursue this matter with Highways, in an effort to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

47/12 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – The Meeting received a report from the sub-committee. It was agreed that a letter including a proposal form and guidance notes should be sent to all groups within the village, from whom a response in relation to this matter had been received.

48/12 – Community Bus Service Scheme – The Meeting discussed the letter and funding contribution request received from Pershore Town Council, relating to the Sunday and Bank Holiday Community Bus Service. The Meeting was in agreement that this scheme would benefit the community and therefore agreed to give their financial support to this venture. A proposal was therefore made by Cllr Wood and was seconded by Cllr Forrest.

49/12 – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting – The Meeting agreed the following:

- Annual Parish Meeting and next PC Meeting – 17th April (Clerk to book Recreation Centre if the Village Hall was unavailable).
- Annual Parish Council Meeting – 8th May

50/12 – Finance – Cllr Bainbridge proposed and was seconded by Cllr Forrest that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk’s salary	£309.34
Admin expenses & mileage	£31.89
Lengthsman salary	£141.90
Village hall hire	£12.00
L. Gerber (BT – phone line reimbursement)	£62.53
Wychavon DC (recharge costs elections 2011)	£1009.74
S. Williamson (Chairman’s allowance)	£30.00
N. Wilkes (reimbursement – plants)	£7.50

51/12 – Correspondence for Information – The Meeting noted the file of correspondence available for inspection.

52/12 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

Cllr Bainbridge confirmed that he would be responsible for sending any relevant PC information to the new Bredon Hill Villages Website.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th April 2012.

The meeting was closed at 9.35pm.