

Tuesday 12th June 2012 – There were no residents present at the open public forum.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th June 2012

96/12 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Glaze, Smith, Cameron, Wilkes and Bainbridge.

97/12 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Wood, Forrest and Ransted. These were duly accepted by the Meeting.

98/12 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Cameron requested that the Clerk check whether her DOI Form is up to date.

99/12 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 08th May 2012 – Following one minor amendment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08th May were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Smith, this was seconded by Cllr Wilkes. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

100/12 District & County Councillor Reports –

Cllr Davis – The following report was made to the Meeting:

- WDC have granted the village hall £4,000 towards the renovations. Cllr Davis informed the Meeting that there may be an opportunity to apply for more funding from the ‘Health Grant’, later in the year;
- Richard Morris has been now been appointed new Chair of WDC;
- Cllr Davis encouraged all Cllrs to attend forthcoming Code of Conduct training (a new Code is expected shortly).

Cllr Hardman – The following report was made to the Meeting:

- The Meeting discussed the Eckington bridge repairs. Cllr Hardman agreed to obtain an update regarding specific works to be carried out;
- Re-surfacing of Station Road – it was confirmed this would be carried out in October of this year. Cllr Hardman would investigate the matter of leveling the road;
- Eckington Wharf – In due course, WCC may request contracting the PC to maintain the site. The Meeting again agreed that the PC had no desire to undertake this responsibility.
- Widening of carriageway at Pike House – the Meeting was informed that although a request for this had been made, due to cost the work required seemed unlikely;

Requests made by the PC:

- An update regarding grass verge cutting within the village;
- Update regarding the footpath modification orders sought within the village.

101/12 Progress Reports – Clerk:

The Clerk confirmed that following advice received from Community First, public liability insurance would remain at 10 million, lychgate cover had been raised and the notice board was now insured. The Clerk agreed to check money and fidelity cover.

The Meeting was informed of the forthcoming SWDP Briefing Session, to be held at Wychavon DC. It was agreed that the information would be forwarded to Cllr Ransted.

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

- Two substantial grants towards the building works have now been received;

- A Village Pig Roast fundraising event will be held in August (funds will go towards building works);
- New staging for the hall needs to be agreed upon.

Recreation Centre –

- It was reported that an application will now be made to the New Homes Bonus Scheme, for funding towards a new slide for the playground;
- Further vandalism at the allotments was reported. New, higher fencing has now been installed (it is hoped this will deter further problems).

Footpaths – Cllr Wilkes informed the Meeting that all village gateways and Oatsley Lane have now been cleared.

CALC – Cllr Glaze gave a report to the Meeting regarding the recent Meeting he had attended. The main topics covered were:

- Localism – a presentation to the meeting was made by a guest speaker;
- Draft Code of Conduct – significant proposed changes to the Code were highlighted and discussed (as yet only a draft is available).

102/12 – 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 08th May 2012:

W/12/00842/ET 11 The Close – Application to extend implementation of planning permission W/09/00638/PN to erect a two storey dwelling (application re-started) – no objection.

Planning Approvals

W/12/00532/CA Woodbine Cottage, Mill Lane – Two storey extension and new garage wood store.

The Meeting discussed the draft letter to Wychavon Planning, prepared by Cllrs Bainbridge and Glaze. Following two minor modifications, the Meeting agreed that the Clerk should send the letter to WDC.

103/12 – Highway Matters –

- Nafford Road drainage issue – The Clerk reported that owners of the land had been contacted by Wychavon DC requesting that maintenance of the ditch be carried out within a specified time period;
- New Road/Jarvis Street – no response had yet been received from Highways, the Clerk would chase this matter;
- Church Street, broken manhole cover – It was confirmed that Highways will now investigate this matter.

104/12 – Standing Orders – The Meeting agreed to adopt the current standing orders for the next 12 months.

105/12 – Annual Risk Assessment – Following the recent amendments to the PC insurance policy, the Meeting agreed the annual risk assessment.

106/12 – Code of Conduct – The Meeting discussed the draft Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the Meeting would be unable to adopt the draft proposed at present. The Meeting also agreed that Cllr Bainbridge would further investigate this matter and draft a letter to the Information Commissioner, seeking clarification on issues raised relating to the draft.

107/12 – Cala Homes & Section 106 Funding - The Meeting was informed that improvements at the Recreation Centre would be discussed at their forthcoming meeting. After which, the Parish Council may, therefore, consider this as an option for the use of the Section 106 funding.

108/12 – Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – The Meeting was informed that the sign would be moved to an alternative location later in the week. Cllr Williamson agreed to be responsible for re-charging the battery for the sign. A final decision had not yet been made regarding who will ultimately be responsible for the monthly change of location of the sign (Readyhedge Ltd have agreed to take this on, should the Parish Lengthsman not wish to do so).

Cllr Williamson agreed to mark the sign with the letters ‘ECK’, to help deter theft.

109/12 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – The sub-committee confirmed that two of the requests had been completed and would shortly be submitted to Wychavon District Council. It was also confirmed that the application process is on-going and it is anticipated that all groups within the village who have made a request for funding, will have their application submitted to WDC.

110/12 – Clerk’s Appraisal – The Clerk left the room, while the Meeting discussed and agreed the proposed salary increase recommended by the Chair and the Vice Chair.

A proposal was made by Cllr Glaze and seconded by Cllr Cameron that a new computer should be purchased for use by the Clerk. The Clerk would purchase the agreed laptop, following which reimbursement from the PC would be made.

111/12 – Finance – Cllr Smith proposed and was seconded by Cllr Cameron that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk’s salary	£309.34
Admin expenses & mileage	£63.10
Lengthsman salary	£148.00
Chair’s allowance	£22.40
S. Williamson (reimbursement VAS sign additional costs)	£24.45
Village hall hire	£15.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£359.64
Eckington Recreation Centre (water allotments)	£70.21
L Gerber (BT line – reimbursement)	£65.64
Worcestershire CALC	£36.00
Nils Wilkes (plants)	£28.00
Andrew Binns (fencing – allotments)	£600.00

Payments Already Made:

Community First (annual insurance – additions)	£46.00
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The Meeting inspected and approved the accounts for year end 31st March 2012. The Chair then signed the accounting statement in readiness for inspection by the external auditor.

112/12 – Correspondence for Information – The Meeting noted the file of correspondence available for inspection.

113/12 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

Items reported:

- Commercial van parked at Jarvis Street causing obstruction – Clerk would contact company to request details of company terms and conditions of parking and request that it be parked in a more suitable location.
- Hedge and vegetation trimming required at Longcroft New Road, Westgate Villa Church Street and Nafford Road – Clerk would contact respective owners of properties in relation to this matter.
- Grass verges in Eckington – Clerk to investigate whether it would be a viable option in the future, for the PC to be responsible for the upkeep of the verges.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th July 2012.

The meeting was closed at 10.00pm.