

Tuesday 10th July 2012 – One resident attended the open public forum.

The Parish Council was asked to consider whether a permanent sign could be erected at both entrances to the village on which to attach various notices of events within the village. The Meeting agreed that this was a good idea in principal but that an initial enquiry would need to be made to Worcestershire Highways to ascertain whether such a sign would be permitted to be erected on the public Highways. It was agreed that the Clerk would further investigate the matter and report back to the next Meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th July 2012

114/12 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Glaze, Ransted, Wood, Smith, Cameron, Wilkes and Bainbridge.

115/12 Apologies – An apology was received from Cllr Forrest. This was duly accepted by the Meeting.

116/12 Declarations of Interest – Cllrs Bainbridge and Smith declared an interest in item 8 of the Agenda (Minute reference 122/12), both being members of the Village Hall Committee.

117/12 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th June 2012 – Following two minor amendments, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 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.

118/12 District & County Councillor Reports –
Cllr Davis – The following report was made to the Meeting:

- Localism Bill – currently still ongoing;
- New health scheme – it is anticipated that local workshops/consultations will be arranged at different locations within the community where various options for the health scheme will be discussed. It is also anticipated that this may result in the closure of some NHS establishments;

Cllr Davis queried whether a request could be made to the Highways Department for the re-painting of the concrete posts at either end of the bridge, during the 4 week period of bridge closure. The Meeting agreed that the Clerk would make the request.

The Meeting asked Cllr Davis for information regarding the proposed housing development at Mitton Bank, however Cllr Davis declared an interest in this matter and was therefore unable to comment upon it (two contact names were given to the PC, should they wish to discuss this matter with a member of WDC).

119/12 Progress Reports – Clerk:

The Clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to two parishioners requesting that overhanging hedges be trimmed back (a request having been made at the June Parish Council Meeting).

It was also confirmed that the following requests had been made to Highways:

- Hedge trimming on Nafford Road;

- Information regarding grass verge cutting within the village – Who is responsible for this? Why has it not been undertaken more regularly? Is there a possibility that the Parish Council could take on the responsibility themselves?

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

- Building works funding –
 - (1) a request had been made to the Parish Council for funding from the New Homes Bonus Scheme to part fund the cost of new staging at the village hall;
 - (2) it was confirmed that the Committee will shortly be applying for a substantial grant from lottery funding;
 - (3) twelve hundred pounds was raised at the recent jumble sale.
- The Committee had now agreed that a hearing loop will be installed in the village hall;

Recreation Centre – The Meeting was informed that the Rec. Committee were pleased with the new fencing and that no further vandalism at the allotment site had taken place.

Footpaths – Cllr Wilkes informed the Meeting that the new Wychavon Way (walking route) will be officially opened on 14th August. The route runs from Droitwich to Broadway, passing through Eckington.

BHCG – Cllr Bainbridge again raised the issue of development at Mitton Bank and the impact this would have on traffic through Eckington. However, due the fact that the proposed development is outside of the Wychavon boundary and Wychavon DC are not directly involved, Eckington PC will not be consulted on any planning application which may be submitted.

PACT – It was reported that a further burglary within the village had recently taken place.

PMTP – The next meeting due to take place will be on September 4th. Cllr Ransted informed the Meeting that he is still pursuing this matter regarding whether there is a need for his involvement in the PMTP.

120/12 – 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 12th June 2012:

Planning Refusals

W/12/00833/PN Lane adjacent Sandrene, Tewkesbury Road – Detailed application for one detached bungalow, parking & access.

Planning Applications to be discussed:

W/12/01191/PP Orchard Elms, Jarvis Street – Extension to the rear ground floor of Orchard Elms – no objections.

The Meeting discussed:

- the letter received from Whychavon DC in response to the PC letter sent regarding planning issues;
- copies of correspondence from a local resident (who has been in contact with the Ombudsman, regarding the same issue.

It was agreed that Cllrs Bainbridge and Glaze would consider all correspondence relating to this matter to ascertain whether it can be further pursued by the Parish Council.

121/12 – Highway Matters –

- Nafford Road drainage issue – The Clerk reported that 4 separate land owners had now been contacted by Wychavon DC requesting that maintenance of the ditch at their property be carried out within a specified time period;

- New Road/Jarvis Street – The Clerk confirmed that a CCTV survey had taken place within the drainage system and that no issues had been found. Presently a survey is underway to ascertain whether the water flow path can be changed. The matter is therefore still ongoing;
- Church Street, broken manhole cover – It was confirmed that a works order has now been placed and that the work would be carried out within a 4 week period;

Matters to report:

- Blocked storm drain system – Hammock Road;
- Marker posts on road verge missing – Mill Lane

122/12 – Village Hall – The Meeting discussed the two requests received from the Village Hall Committee regarding a contribution for funding towards the refurbishment of the hall and towards the cost of new staging. A proposal was made by Cllr Cameron that a sum of £5,000 should be donated to the project, this was seconded by Cllr Ransted. The Meeting agreed that the request for funding towards staging should be passed to the New Homes Bonus Committee for their consideration.

123/12 – Code of Conduct – The Meeting discussed the information available regarding the new Code of Conduct. It was agreed that all Cllrs would look at the Worcestershire Code and the NALC Code, in readiness to make a decision regarding which Code the Parish Council would adopt at the September Meeting.

The Meeting discussed and approved the draft letter prepared by Cllr Bainbridge to be sent to the Information Commissioner regarding the Localism Act and Register of Council Members Disclosable Interests.

124/12 – Cala Homes & Section 106 Funding - The Meeting was informed that the Recreation Committee are currently preparing a proposal of works which will be passed to the Parish Council for consideration in relation to use of the Section 106 funding.

The Meeting agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries regarding the length of time the funding would be available to the Parish Council.

125/12 – Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – The Meeting was informed that the sign has now moved to its third location.

The Meeting examined the data collected so far.

126/12 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – Cllrs Smith and Glaze informed the Meeting that all interviews with the applicants for the scheme had now taken place. A meeting with Cllr Davis (Wychavon DC) had been arranged, following which the application will be submitted in readiness to be presented to the Committee at Wychavon DC in September.

127/12 – Finance – Cllr Wilkes proposed and was seconded by Cllr Cameron that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£318.46
Admin expenses & mileage	£24.65
Lengthsman salary	£148.00
Avon Navigation Trust	£10.00

New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£359.64
PAYE contribution	£51.00
Eckington Memorial Village Hall	£5,000.00

Payments Already Made:

L. Gerber (reimbursement – purchase of PC laptop computer	£329.00
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128/12 – Correspondence for Information – The Meeting noted the file of correspondence available for inspection.

129/12 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

The Meeting noted the letter received by Cllr Cameron from the Chairman of Wychavon District Council, offering his support to local events.

Cllr Williamson agreed to speak to Beverley Jones regarding her proposal to erect a Parish Council sign at both entrances to the village.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th September 2012.

The meeting was closed at 10.00pm.