

Tuesday 12 February 2013 – One resident attended the open public forum.

A brief discussion took place regarding the approved planning application in relation to Eckington Manor Cookery School.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th February 2013

15/13 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Ransted, Glaze, Wood, Smith, Forrest, Bainbridge and Wilkes.

16/13 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Cameron (Cllr Cameron anticipated joining the Meeting later). The Meeting agreed to accept the Apologies.

17/13 Declarations of Interest – None received.

18/13 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 08th January 2013 – Following one minor amendment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08th January 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.

19/13 District & County Councillor Reports –

Cllr Davis was unable to attend the meeting, however a report was received covering the following issues:

- The Health Wellbeing Board is on track for going live on 1st April, as is the Police Crime Panel Board;
- Council tax for the coming year will be frozen again, if the recommendation is approved at full Council on 19th February. The Council tax will be collected over 12 months.

20/13 Progress Reports – Clerk:

The Clerk informed the Meeting that comments regarding the Waiting Restrictions & Street Parking Consolidation Order (which were requested from the Parish Council), had now been sent to Wychavon District Council.

The Meeting was informed that the application for Strensham Wind Turbines went to committee on 5th February and was refused.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Forrest for her detailed response, sent on behalf of the PC, relating to the Draft Police & Crime Plan.

The Meeting again discussed whether comments should be sent regarding the South Worcestershire Development Plan Draft Submission Document. It was agreed that the PC had no further relevant comments to make.

(Cllr Cameron arrived).

Village Hall – It was reported that:

- The new staging is now in use;
- The double glazing and insulation required for the Hall, is still under discussion but is anticipated within the next few months.

Recreation Centre – The following was reported:

- The Rec. Committee wished to thank the PC for agreeing to purchase the slide (using New Homes Bonus funding) on behalf of the Rec, in order that no VAT will be paid.
- Quotes are currently being sought for the surfacing of paths and car parking areas;
- The Committee have agreed that the Music Festival will be held in July.

Footpaths – The Meeting was informed that gates would be installed at Stoney Furlong (to replace stiles).

A request was made for the Clerk to check the progress in relation to the Modification Order concerning Drakesbridge Road/Peason Lane.

Trees – It was reported that the research regarding whether any measures could be taken, in order to prevent fungus developing in the local ash trees, was still ongoing.

CALC – The next Meeting will take place in March.

PACT – A significant rise in burglaries within the local area had been reported (although none in Eckington).

21/13 – 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 January 2013:

Planning Approvals

W/12/02491/PP The Bungalow, Station Road – Single storey extension, hipped tiled roof over existing flat roof and internal alterations.

W/12/02655/PP The Hollies, Cotheridge Lane – Part demolition of existing garden wall and construction of new single storey lounge extension, construct new section of garden wall.

Planning Refusal

W/12/02140/PP Old School House, Jarvis street – Single storey rear extension.

Planning Withdrawn

W/12/02577/CU Eckington Fields Farm, Hollands Road

Planning Applications to be discussed:

W/12/02620/PN Land adjacent Sandrene, Tewkesbury Road – Re-submission of planning app. W/12/00833/PN, for one detached bungalow, parking and access – No objection.

The Meeting discussed the opportunity to comment on a proposed planning application for a Dovecote at Mantoft, Upper End (this being a suggestion of WDC – to seek comments from the PC before the application is made to Wychavon). After discussing some of the concerns, it was agreed that a site visit would be made by two Councillors, with all comments then being sent to the Clerk, in order that a more informed response could be made to the Applicant.

22/13 – Highway Matters –

Nafford Road – The Meeting was informed that Highways have been out to investigate and that the matter is still currently under investigation.

Jarvis Street – It was reported that the maintenance works have now been carried out and that water drainage is now satisfactory.

Grass verge cutting – It was reported that further attempts had been made by both the Clerk and Cllr Wilkes to obtain the information required concerning the contractors, but that still no progress had been made. The Clerk would continue to pursue.

Hammock Lane – A report was made regarding the meeting which took place between Worcestershire Highways and two Parish Councillors, to discuss possible safety measures to be put in place (due to the expansion of the Cookery School). The following points were discussed:

- The erection of a safety mirror was discussed, however no suitable location was found;
- ‘Slow’ signs on tarmac and the replacement of existing road markings were discussed. Highways would need to authorise this. The PC are currently awaiting an update as to whether this is a possibility.

Relocation of bus turn from The Close to Glenmoor – The Meeting discussed a concern raised regarding damage currently being caused to the setts in The Close, due to the bus turning circle being a particularly small area. It was therefore suggested that the bus turning circle be changed to Glenmoor, where the area is much larger and has kerbstones. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into the matter.

Hedges, Nafford Road – The Meeting discussed and agreed the need to trim hedges along Nafford Road (between the dip and the Locke car park), this being particularly concerning whilst the road is used as a flood route.

Nafford Road – The Meeting also discussed concerns regarding the drop off along the side of the road (caused due to excess running water). It was agreed the matter would be reported to Worcestershire Highways.

23/13 – Cala Homes & Section 106 Funding - The Meeting was informed that the application for funding for improvements to the Recreation Ground had been considered at the Localism & Communities Advisory Panel, and would now go forward for formal approval by WDC.

24/13 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – Following advice from CALC, the Meeting agreed that they would be able to make purchases on behalf of village groups, in order that VAT could be re-claimed for products purchased.

The Meeting discussed the new protocol for use of New Homes Bonus Money and the need for the process to be more vigorous in terms of community involvement, ensuring that the proposed use of money is fully publicised within the community.

The Meeting then discussed suggestions for use of the funding:

- Defibrillator (including area for storage), for use within the parish (approximate cost of £3,000);
- War memorial – measures to be taken to limit damage caused to site by large vehicles (possibly harden surface, re-new posts, add step);
- Increase grass parking at the Recreation Centre by adding durable strip over grassy area, also adding strip alongside the allotment area;
- Possible addition of a CCTV system within the village;
- Improvement of broadband service/speed within the village;
- Research any additional traffic control and speed reducing measures within the village;
- Use of funding to pay off the Parish Council long term loan.

25/13 – Parish Council Training - The Meeting noted the arrangements and number of attendees for the two CALC training sessions.

26/13 – Eckington Picnic Site – Cllrs Smith and Glaze agreed to attend the site meeting with Countryside Services, in order to discuss management of the site.

27/13 – Finance – Cllr Glaze proposed and was seconded by Cllr Forrest that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£318.46
Admin expenses & mileage	£22.20
Lengthsman salary	£154.49
Recreation Centre hire	£18.00

28/13 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

29/13 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

- Clerk to request recent speed data from Highways.
- New and improved village website now up and running.
- Wall at The Bell leaning (possible safety issue?). Cllr Williamson would speak to the landlord.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th March 2013, in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 09.20pm.