

Tuesday 14 May 2013 – Mr K. Carson attended the Meeting. A brief discussion took place regarding planning application W/13/00689 (Holy Trinity Church, Eckington). Mr Carson raised his concerns regarding any possible effects the alterations would have to his property. The Parish Council agreed that consideration would be made to these comments during the discussion of the planning application, later in the Meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th May 2013

60/13 Present – Cllrs. Forrest, Ransted, Wood, Smith, Glaze, and Wilkes.

61/13 Election of Chair and to receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office
In Cllr Williamson's absence, the Clerk informed the Meeting that Cllr Williamson would be willing to stand for Chair for another year. There being no further nominations, a proposal was made by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Wilkes, for Cllr Williamson to take the Chair. The Meeting was unanimous in its agreement and therefore the Clerk agreed to arrange for Cllr Williamson to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, as soon as possible.

62/13 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Williamson, Bainbridge and Cameron. These were duly accepted by the Meeting.

63/13 Election of Vice Chair and to receive the Vice Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office
A proposal was made by Cllr Forrest and seconded by Cllr Smith for Cllr Glaze to take the position of Vice Chair. The Meeting being unanimous in its agreement and, there being no further nominations, Cllr Glaze accepted the proposal and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

64/13 Declarations of Interest – No declarations were received.

65/13 Standing Orders – The Meeting agreed to examine the Standing Orders at the next Parish Council Meeting.

66/13 To Appoint Members to the Following:

Cllr Forrest proposed and was seconded by Cllr Smith, that the following Councillors be appointed:

Staffing Committee – Cllrs Forrest, Glaze, Smith;

Planning Committee – Cllrs Bainbridge, Wood, Williamson, Ransted;

Finance & Budget Committee – Cameron, Williamson, Glaze;

NHB Committee – Cameron, Smith, Forrest, Glaze;

Section 106 – Bainbridge, Wilkes, Forrest, Williamson. The Meeting also agreed to appoint the Recreation Centre as client representatives acting for the Parish Council in relation to the Section 106 funding.

67/13 Annual Subscriptions:

Cllr Wilkes proposed and was seconded by Cllr Forrest that the following annual subscriptions be paid:

CPRE - £29.00

CLPG – 2013 invoice not yet received

ANT – 2013 invoice not yet received

Community First - £20.00

LCR – 2013 invoice not yet received

(CALC - £671.93 – The Clerk to query the amount with CALC, due to the significant increase)

68/12 Annual Risk Assessment

The Meeting considered and agreed the Annual Risk Assessment. A proposal was made by Cllr Wilkes and seconded by Cllr Smith that the Chair's allowance should be £30 for 2013/14.

To Appoint Individual Councillors to the following roles:

Footpath Officer – Cllr Wilkes;

Tree Warden – Cllr Wood;

Eckington Memorial Hall – Cllr Bainbridge;

Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr Ransted;

Eckington Recreation Centre – Cllr Wood;

Church & Bridge Trust – Cllrs Forrest, Wilkes;

CALC – Cllrs Glaze, Cameron;

PACT – Ransted;

PMTP – Ransted.

69/13 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 09th April 2013 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 09th April were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Wood, this was seconded by Cllr Forrest. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

70/13 District & County Councillor Reports –

Cllr Davis was not present at the Meeting, but sent the following report:

- Although continuing cuts in Government grants are still affecting WDC budget strategy, frontline services are still being maintained. All residents will receive a questionnaire regarding WDC budget and would be strongly encouraged to complete and return this. (It was agreed the Clerk would put a notice regarding this in the Parish Magazine;
- Crime incidents are currently down in West Mercia by 12.8% and 10.5% in Worcestershire.

71/13 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk –

- Rooftop will undertake a walkabout in Glenmoor and request two Parish Councillors to join them – it was agreed Cllrs Wilkes and Smith would attend.
- The Meeting discussed the letter received from WDC planning department regarding forthcoming changes. It was agreed that whilst the proposed changes to public speaking would be welcomed, the proposal to cease sending hard copies of planning applications to Parish Councils, would be problematic. It was therefore agreed the Clerk would write to WDC to express the Parish Council's concerns.
- The Clerk informed the Meeting that concerns had been raised to the Parish Council regarding parking at the Recreation Ground (during busy periods). The Meeting noted the concerns but agreed this was a matter for the Recreation Ground to consider.
- Cllr Wilkes agreed to complete and return the WDC flooding questionnaire (which had been sent to the PC).
- The Clerk confirmed that the Lengthsman's annual appraisal had now been carried out.

Village Hall – More detailed information has now been sought regarding building costings. The first application to the Big Lottery Funding is now in the process of being made.

Recreation Centre – Concerns had been raised to the Rec. Committee, from the allotment holders, regarding rabbits still accessing the allotment plots. The Meeting agreed therefore, that the Clerk should write to Network Rail requesting that their fencing (which runs alongside the allotment

plots), also needs rabbit proofing (as the rest of the PC owned fencing has already been rabbit proofed).

Footpaths – The Meeting requested the Clerk seek an update in relation to the Modification Order concerning Drakesbridge Road/Peason Lane.

72/13 – 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 09th April 2013:

W/13/00658/AC Eckington Fields Farm, Hollands Road – New vehicular access to farmhouse – no objection.

W/13/00368/PP 3 Ninesquares – First floor extension – no objection.

W/13/00671/PP 6 Russell Drive – Single storey extension – no objection.

Planning Approvals

W/13/00306/PN Court Gate Nursery, Station Road – Single storey extension to the rear of existing office/storage unit.

W/13/00505/PN Eckington Fields Farm, Hollands Road – proposed conversion of existing redundant stable and dairy buildings, to 2 residential dwellings, complete with 2 detached garage buildings

W/13/00509/PP Croft Cottage, Upper End – Construction of a dovecote in garden area.

Planning Applications to be discussed:

W/13/00708/PP Laburnum Cottage, Station Road – A kitchen and conservatory to the side of the property – objection.

W/13/00689/PN Holy Trinity Church, Church Street – New landscaping to the west end of the Church to include new Yorkstone paving and steps, new tarmacadam path, new stone edging and blacksmith made archway, lantern and handrails – no objection.

73/13 – Highway Matters –

Nafford Road (overgrown hedges) – Hedges have now been cut.

Grass verge cutting – The Clerk reported that a price of £380 plus VAT, for an extra cut during the year, had now been received from the contractors responsible for maintaining the urban areas within the village.

Cllr Wilkes confirmed that he had met with Highways (during a recent visit to Eckington), in order to take measurements of the areas which require cutting. Highways confirmed that cuts will take place 5 times per year. The PC still await a total amount of funding which would be awarded to the Parish, if they were to undertake the grass cutting themselves. The Clerk would pursue this matter.

Nafford Road (subsidence) – The matter is now with the local works team. The work will be subject to funding availability.

Relocation of the bus turn – The Clerk informed the Meeting that Astons Coach Company have now confirmed that they will not be moving the bus turn from its current location, as they feel this may put off some of their more elderly customers.

Mill Lane – The Clerk informed the Meeting that Highways have now agreed to reinstate the white marker posts along the lane.

Station Road - Re-surfacing of pavements at Station Road – Highways confirm that this has unfortunately been pushed back, but should be done at some point later in the year.

74/13 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing to report.

75/13 – New Homes Bonus Meeting - A report was made to the Meeting regarding the recent meeting which took place between the NHB Committee and WDC, to discuss further use of NHB funding:

- Parish defibrillator – agreed, although would also need cover for training purposes;
- Cleaning of War Memorial – if there is enough community concern, this would be considered;
- CCTV within the village – WDC queried why the Parish would want this, a need would have to be established within the community, before this option could be considered;
- Improved Broadband speed – would be considered, only if there is enough interest within the community;
- Traffic control – speed data and traffic statistics would have to be examined, in order for WDC to consider this;
- Recreation Centre (increase re-enforced parking area) – would be considered;
- Pay off Parish Council long term loan – this would not be considered.

The Meeting was informed that WDC have imposed new regulations, which would have to be followed in order to obtain the funding. The NHB committee confirmed that a request for any additional ideas for use of the funding, will be placed in the Parish Magazine. The presentation of ideas to the Parish Council will be re-scheduled to the July Meeting.

76/13 – Parish Council Insurance Renewal- Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the 3 year quote received from Community First should be accepted. A proposal was therefore made by Cllr Forrest and seconded by Cllr Smith.

77/13 – Smartwater – The Meeting discussed whether there was a need for the Parish Council to distribute Smartwater to the local community. It was agreed that Smartwater was already readily available within the locality and therefore there was not a need for the PC to become involved.

78/13 – Finance – Cllr Smith proposed and was seconded by Cllr Wilkes that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£318.46
Admin expenses & mileage	£51.15
Lengthsman salary	£148.00
Village hall hire	£27.00
Blue Gecko Plants (village planters)	£80.00
Clerk's annual room allowance	£200.00
Community First (subs)	£20.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (October cuts)	£621.18
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (April)	£273.60
CPRE (subs)	£29.00
T. S. Gittins	£162.00
Community First (insurance renewal)	£387.85
Worcestershire CALC (subs)	(Clerk to query amount)

Cheques already paid:

PAYE	£51.00
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79/13 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

80/13 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

To discuss agreeing a block dispensation regarding committees/items on the Agenda.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th June 2013, in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 09.55pm.