

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 – There was no attendance at the Open Public Forum.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

145/13 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Wood, Smith, Bainbridge, Forrest, Ransted, Wilkes and Glaze.

146/13 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Cameron. The Meeting accepted the Apologies.

147/13 Declarations of Interest – Two Declarations were received:

- (a) Cllr Smith declared an interest in item 6 of the Agenda;
- (b) Cllr Bainbridge declared an interest in item 9 of the Agenda (Clerk to send Cllr Bainbridge a declaration of interest form).

148/13 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> October 2013 – Following two minor amendments, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08<sup>th</sup> October were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Smith, this was seconded by Cllr Glaze. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

149/13 District & County Councillor Reports –  
Cllr Davis reported that:

- SWDP – The three Councils (Worcestershire, Wychavon & Malvern) are still required to meet higher demands for housing within the locality;
- It is anticipated that the WDC 5 year business plan will be agreed before the end of the year – some services will need to be reduced;
- WDC have purchased eleven acres of employment land on the Wyre Piddle bypass (for various uses including housing small businesses).

150/13 Progress Reports – The following was reported:  
Clerk:

- Outstanding maintenance work at Glenmoor is due to be completed by Rooftop Housing Association within the week;
- The Meeting discussed and agreed the extra work at the Churchyard (clearing of cremation plots) funded by the PC;
- The Finance Committee agreed to meet before December's meeting, in order to prepare the draft budget for 2014/15.

Village Hall –

- Following a recent meeting with the architect, it was agreed that plans regarding building works at the Village Hall should be re-drawn, including only some of the proposals (carrying out the remainder of the works in a second phase, at a later date). It is anticipated that the work will start in August 2014;
- In order to cut costs, the Committee have agreed to change their current energy suppliers;
- The Committee are considering a proposal to purchase a bouncy castle for use at the Village Hall;
- £1,200 added to the funds from the recent jumble sale.

BHCG –

- MOD at Tewkesbury is due to close at the end of 2014;
- Planning application at Kinsham for 33 houses, has now been turned down by WDC.

151/13 – 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 08<sup>th</sup> October 2013:

**Applications to be Discussed:**

W/13/02214/PP The Chapel, Jarvis Street – Extension to the rear of the existing detached dwelling – no objection.

152/13 – Highway Matters – The following issues were brought to the attention of the Meeting:

- Tewkesbury Road (at bus turning area) - Robinia in need of pruning – Highways have been out to inspect the site, however as there is no safety issue they will not agree to the works;
- B4080 (clearing of grips) – WCC have now instructed the works;
- Maintenance work on footpaths at Station Road – WCC still have no date for the works – Cllr Hardman will pursue;
- Addition of yellow lines at Post Office/War Memorial – WCC are not progressing this presently – Cllr Hardman will pursue;
- Build up of silt in drain at Manor Road – a four week order has been raised for the works to be carried out.

Matters to be reported:

- Loose/sunken drain covers on B4080 (believed to be Severn Trent), causing loud noise when driven over;
- Drainage issue at Jarvis Street/Cherry Hey Cottage.

153/13 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing further to report at present.

154/13 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – The Meeting was informed that following the recent village consultation, discussion with the NHB Committee and the amount of funding now available, it had been agreed that proposals would be made to WDC for The Cricket Club and the purchase of a Village Defibrillator. It is anticipated that the application for funding towards the Village Hall will be made at a later date. The Meeting unanimously agreed this decision.

Following a second unsatisfactory reply to the Parish Council's letter (from the Department for Communities & Local Government), it was agreed that a further letter should be sent requesting that the issues raised by the Parish Council be properly addressed.

Cllr Glaze informed the Meeting that on his recent meeting with Harriet Baldwin he had raised the NHB funding issue, and in particular how this will affect Eckington's proposals. H. Hardman had therefore agreed to make a request to the Government for the shortfall of this funding.

155/13 – Allotments – The Meeting discussed the site visit made by two Parish Councillors, and the letter received from an allotment tenant requesting assistance from the PC in relation to the ongoing issue of rabbits at the allotment site. The Meeting agreed that due to the significant cost involved in requesting a contractor to carry out the works, the Parish Council would only be in a position to offer to purchase a roll of rabbit proof fencing. The Works would therefore need to be carried out by the tenants themselves.

156/13 – New Model Standing Orders – The Meeting briefly discussed and agreed to adopt the updated Model Standing Orders.

157/13 – Burial Fees – The Meeting discussed the proposed increases to burial fees for 2014. After two further modifications were made, the Meeting accepted the proposals.

158/13 – Superfast Broadband Committee – The Meeting was informed that a Committee (which includes three Parish Councillors) has now been set up within the village. In an effort to be included in BT's first phase of installation, information has been delivered to all residents urging their support in this issue.

159/13 – Finance – Cllr Forrest proposed and was seconded by Cllr Glaze that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£29.67
Lengthsman salary	£170.09
Village hall hire	£22.25
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£441.36
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£273.60
RBL Poppy Appeal	£25.00

160/13 – County Councillor's Report – Cllr Hardman arrived and gave the following report:

- WCC are considering reducing some of the current bus services. It is anticipated that this will have an effect on the 382 evening weekend services, this being due the fact that the subsidy currently received for this service will be withdrawn;
- The WCC Roadshows held throughout the County at various locations, will include a consultation regarding raising local Council Tax;
- Cllr Hardman agreed to pursue Highways issues concerning; yellow lines outside the old Post Office and resurfacing of pavements at Station Road.

161/13 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

162/13 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

- New Road – hedgerow has been removed. Cllr Bainbridge to check whether planning approval should have been obtained relating to this matter.
- The Meeting was informed that Eckington are currently within the top three in the recent Parish Games. The winner to be announced shortly.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Decvember 2013, in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.