

Tuesday 09th September 2014 – Mr A. Williams (attending on behalf of Mr B. Bolsover), one resident (Mr S. Hyatt) and Julie Pardoe (West Mercia Police) attended the Open Public Forum.

Mr Hyatt raised concerns regarding speeding through the village, in particular alongside the Recreation Ground, leaving the village towards Pershore.

The Chair explained that the PC had investigated various measures of speed control with Highways, however due to restrictions relating to road layout, lack of street lighting etc, no suitable additional measures had been found. It was however agreed that:

- The Clerk would speak with Safer Roads Partnership again to enquire whether an additional speed survey was undertaken in July (as had previously been agreed) and if so, request the results of the survey;
- Julie Pardoe would investigate whether Eckington could be involved in the Community Speed Watch Programme, which is currently being run within a small number of Parishes in the County;
- The Clerk would make Highways aware of the situation and request that the 30mph sign be moved further back (towards the bridge)

It was confirmed that no speed assessment along this stretch has been requested by Cala Homes.

Julie highlighted the surgeries, school drop ins and walkabouts which will be taking place in the village throughout the next few months.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 09th September 2014

122/14 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Smith, Glaze, Wood, Bainbridge and Ransted.

123/14 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Cameron, Wilkes and Forrest. The Meeting unanimously accepted the apologies.

124/14 Declarations of Interest – None received.

125/14 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 08th July 2014 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08th July were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Smith, this was seconded by Cllr Williamson. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

126/14 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis reported the following:

- SWDP – call for extra housing sites – following the consultation in August, it was confirmed that no additional allocations have been made for Eckington at present;
- WDC have now embarked on their new budget process relating to years 2015/16;

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of Section 106 funding being used towards road safety measures – thinking specifically of whether traffic lights should be added at the Birlingham junction onto Defford Road. The concern was that traffic may increase once the new development has been completed, which will in turn cause a build of traffic particularly in the morning and evening. Cllr Davis informed the meeting he would discuss this matter further with WDC.

127/14 Neighbourhood Plan – The Chair informed the meeting that following the Public Meeting held in August, it appeared that the vast majority of residents were in favour of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair also explained that:

- Anticipated duration of time to produce the Plan would be approximately 12/15 months;
- Cost will be approximately £7,000 (if the PC employ a planning consultant). Grants and funds will be available from WDC, which should cover this amount;
- Before the process can begin, the PC need to ensure that the village are in agreement with this course of action. Once the process has begun all proposed development has to have the agreement of the community, before it can be entered into the plan;
- The Neighbourhood Plan is not a tool to be used to refuse development, but rather gives protection, as planning will not take place unless it forms part of the Plan.

A discussion took place and concern was raised as to whether creating the plan may in fact encourage developers to come forward. It was generally agreed, however, that to be in possession of an adopted Neighbourhood Plan would be the only effective tool to ensure the villages have a degree of control on planning within the community.

Cllr Glaze then asked for a show of hands in favour of producing the Plan. Four Councillors were in favour, one abstained. It was therefore agreed that the Plan should be produced and a steering committee would need to be set up. Cllr Glaze proposed that along with himself, Cllrs Bainbridge, Wilkes and Wilkinson should be included in the steering group. The Meeting was in agreement and the Cllrs were duly appointed. It was also agreed that all residents who had offered assistance in producing the Plan would be contacted with a request to meet and discuss what skills they would be able to bring to the process.

Cllr Hardman arrived at the meeting and the following was raised/discussed:

- Re-surfacing of footways on Station Road – It was confirmed this is still on the maintenance list, however no timescale could be given;
- The Meeting raised the issue of speeding and whether the 30mph sign could be moved further back towards the bridge (in an effort to slow down traffic earlier). Cllr Hardman was doubtful that Highways would agree to move the sign, as it would then be in open countryside and not a built up area. He agreed, however, to raise the issue and discuss any further measures which could be taken with the Highways Department, and report back to the Parish Council.

128/14 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk: The Meeting discussed the request received from WDC regarding Parishes setting up planning compliance briefing sessions along with other local Parishes, to be run by WDC. It was agreed that, if such a session were set up by a neighbouring Parish, Eckington PC would be interested in attending.

Village Hall: The following was reported:

- Discussion regarding PC becoming Village Hall trustees – ongoing;
- An up to date treasurers report has now been produced;
- It was agreed that fundraising in relation to roof repairs needs to take place in the coming months;
- The Committee discussed the Section 106 funding, which it anticipates receiving from WDC towards proposed building work to the hall.

CALC – Cllr Glaze reported following:

- WDC reported on the new electoral registration process;
- New pension scheme for all employees (only applicable when salary is over minimum requirement);
- In the light of new laws relating to filming/recording at PC meetings, PC standing orders will need to be updated – Cllr Glaze agreed to make the required changes.

PACT: Cllr Ransted confirmed that speeding and parking issues will be raised at the next meeting.

129/14 – 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 July 2014:

W/14/01464/PP Wakefield House, 3 Church Street – Single storey side extension to provide utility and garage – Comments sent.

W/14/01171/PN Land rear of Roman Meadow – New residential development of 26 dwellings including 8 affordable dwellings with associated infrastructure – Objections sent.

W/14/01794/LB & W/14/01617/CU Manor Farm & Lower End House, Manor Road – Additional use of existing buildings and open areas for the use of conducting marriages & civil partnerships. Minor amendments & additions to conversion of existing barn (approval no. 13/01447). Change of use of part of agricultural barn to toilets & furniture storage in association with existing barn (approval no. 13/01447) – Objections sent.

Applications to be Discussed:

W/14/01554/PP Meadowcroft, Church Street – Proposed rear extension & conversion of garage – no objection.

W/14/01920 Hogarth House, Boon Street – Demolish conservatory and erect single storey rear extension – no objection.

Approvals:

W/14/01215/PP Harvest House, Upper End – Raise the roofline of existing garage and construct front extension to provide kitchens & bedroom.

W/14/01202/RM The Old Pike House, Pershore Road – Erection of 3 bedroom detached dwelling & garage. Reserved matters following outline planning permission W/13/01504/OU.

W/14/01464/PP Wakefield House, 3 Church Street – Single storey side extension to provide utility and garage

Cllr Bainbridge highlighted the planning extension to application W/14/01171/PN (Cala – land at rear of Roman Meadow).

130/14 – Highways – The following was reported:

- Junction Jarvis Street/School Lane/Cotheridge Lane – parking issues;
- Station Road (The Bell side) – parking issues;
- Alongside old Post Office – parking issues.

The Clerk agreed to report the issues to Highways.

131/14 – Grass Cutting – It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

132/14 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing to report.

133/14 – New Homes Bonus – It was reported that the application in respect of the Village Hall, would be ready for submission shortly.

134/14 – Cala Homes – Nothing to report.

135/14 – Cemetery – The Meeting noted the quote received in respect of further works to the Cemetery. It was agreed, however, that the matter would be further discussed at the next meeting.

136/14 – WCC Website – The Meeting agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

137/14 – Telephone Box – The Meeting agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

138/14 – Definitive Map Modification Order – Hammock Lane, Peason Lane – The Meeting discussed the request received from Worcestershire Countryside Services regarding the PC's views on the recommended request to the Planning Inspectorate to progress the Order. It was agreed that the PC are keen to see a conclusion reached in this matter and would therefore support the decision for the Planning Inspectorate to progress the Order, so that that a resolution can be found to this ongoing issue.

The Meeting also discussed the request from a local resident for all correspondence to be displayed publically within the village. It was agreed that the matter requires further consideration before a decision regarding this matter could be made.

139/14 – Finance – Cllr Williamson proposed and was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£53.54
Lengthsman salary	£154.10
Stuart Blunsom	£1450.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£359.64
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec cut)	£324.00
L. Gerber (BT reimbursement)	£62.49
CLPG (subs)	£10.00
WDC (bin charge)	£89.17
Grant Thornton	£240.00

Payments already made:

Foxley Tagg Planning Ltd	£1666.13
Greenfields Garden Services Ltd	£2601.01
Wychavon Sport	£69.00
George Glaze	£18.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£359.64
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. Ground)	£352.80
Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin & Expenses	£44.43
Lengthsman salary	£154.10

140/14 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

141/14 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda – No items or reports received.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th October 2014, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 10.20pm.