

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Two residents attended the Open Public Forum and raised the following (in relation to the approval of planning application 14/01794 & 001617 Manor Farm, Manor Road):

- In the light of several unresolved issues, it was requested that the Parish Council consider challenging the application approval granted by Wychavon;
- The Parish Council were asked to note a draft letter of objection (on the grounds of public nuisance and public safety), to Worcestershire Regulatory Services with regard to a licence application for the premises.

The Meeting agreed to consider these issues during the Parish Council Meeting (Item No.44/15).

The Parish Council was informed that Super Fast Broadband is now available within the Parish. The Meeting thanked Mr Kerrigan and his team for their effort in achieving this pleasing result.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th February 2015**

38/15 Present – Cllrs. Cameron, Williamson, Smith, Forrest, Wilkes, Bainbridge, Wood and Ransted.

39/15 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Glaze, these were unanimously accepted.

40/15 Declarations of Interest – No Declarations were received.

41/15 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Williamson, this was seconded by Cllr Wilkes. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

42/15 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis gave the following report:

- It is anticipated that in addition to the recent appointment of a joint Chief Exec. for both Wychavon and Malvern Hills, further joint posts are planned. This will reduce management costs for both Councils;
- Further cuts will be made, in an effort to reduce current costs;

The Meeting requested an update in relation to the proposed housing off Pershore Road (Cala Homes). Cllr Davis advised that (to his knowledge) there had been no further developments since the extension for amendments to the planning application to, 27<sup>th</sup> March.

43/15 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk:

- Network Rail (request to install rabbit proof fencing) – The Meeting was informed that NR would not be installing rabbit proof fencing, due to the fact that they are currently fully compliant with the law with the current boundary fencing. There was a possible option of gassing the rabbits, but that would need to take place at the optimum time (which would be the end of the year). The PC did not think this was a suitable option. Cllr Wilkes agreed to make further investigations regarding this matter;
- Urban grass cutting – The Meeting discussed a further proposed annual figure received from WCC in relation to village grass cutting. However, it was agreed that the increased level of funding would still not be enough to cover costs and therefore the responsibility for cutting should remain with WCC. The Clerk was awaiting clarification on the amount of cuts per year and areas currently on the works list;
- Pat Testing (Clerk's laptop) – It was reported that investigation into the matter had revealed that pat testing of the laptop would not be necessary.

Village Hall – It was reported that:

- The bank mandate has now been approved, this will allow access to the deeds file;
- Ownership of the land is currently being investigated;
- Current funding is close to the amount required in order to begin Phase 1 of the building works. Grant applications and fund raising events are ongoing;
- The central heating boiler is in need of replacement. As yet, it has not been decided when this will take place.

Footpaths – Modification Order at Hammock Lane/The Piecing – ongoing, nothing further to report at present.

BHCG – It was reported that:

- A planning application has been made to replace the current Vodafone mast situated on Bredon Hill;
- A planning application has been made for 150 houses in Pamington.

Church & Bridge Trusts – It was reported that efforts are ongoing to register the land.

CALC – It was reported that the main item of interest at the recent meeting was the new Transparency Code (to be discussed later in the Meeting).

44/15 – 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 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015:

**Approvals:**

W/14/01794/LB & 01617/CU Manor Farm & Lower End House, Manor Road – Amendment – Additional use of existing buildings and open areas for the use of holding weddings and civil partnership events, other celebratory events and corporate meetings. Minor amendments and additions to conversion of existing barn (approval no. 13/01447). Change of use of part of agricultural barn to toilets and furniture storage in association with existing barn.

W/14/02049/LB Whitehouse, Church Street – Amendment to the site area, to remove the railway embankment from the area.

W/14/02786/PP Quietways, Pass Street – Garage conversion, extension to form porch, internal/external alterations.

The Meeting discussed the request for further action regarding the approval of planning application 14/01794 & 01617. The following options were discussed:

- Bringing the matter to the attention of the Ombudsman;
- Requesting a Judicial Review;
- Further correspondence to WDC.

Following discussion it was agreed that a letter should be drafted to WDC highlighting concerns in relation to procedure followed regarding this application. It was agreed that, once drafted, the letter would be e-mailed to all Councillors for their approval.

The Meeting also discussed making a response to WRS in relation to the entertainment and drinks licence. It was agreed that a sub-committee would be formed in order that a response would be drafted and circulated for approval by the rest of the Parish Council. It was proposed that Cllrs Bainbridge, Wilkes and Cameron would make up the sub-committee. The Meeting unanimously agreed the proposal.

It was reported that WDC had investigated the enforcement issue reported at Court Close Farm, Manor Road, following which a timescale of 3 months had been given to the land owners for the removal of the static caravan

Cllr Cameron attended a recent Community Infrastructure Levy Event, and reported the following:

- CIL sits alongside the current Section 106 funding scheme;
- There is no extra funding to be gained, the amount is merely distributed between the two;
- Only applies to new development (April 2016);
- It aims to give greater flexibility on how funding is spent in the community;
- The amount increases when paid to Parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan;
- The document is still only a draft, and yet to be finally agreed.

45/15 – Neighbourhood Plan – The following was reported:

- The response rate to the household survey was 66%
- Housing needs surveys are currently being distributed to the relevant households;
- It is expected that a consultation meeting will be held in the Village Hall during May;
- The Plan remains on target, the aim is to submit the Plan by the end of 2015.

46/15 – Astons – Following concerns raised by a resident regarding the state of the grass verge at Tewkesbury Road (bus turning area), Astons Bus Company had informed the Clerk that, in an effort to protect the verges from further ruin, they are currently in the process of looking to replace the current buses to smaller, shorter vehicles. The Meeting agreed that the Clerk would request that Astons keep the PC updated regarding this issue.

47/15 – Highways – Issues reported to WCC:

- Nafford Road – Second request made asking for hedges to be cut back along this stretch – awaiting response;

The Meeting discussed the request made by a local resident, to move the 30mph sign on Nafford Road further into the village. Following a brief discussion, the request was put to the vote. Five Councillors were in favour that the sign should be relocated to the border of Clennage (eastern boundary), the remaining three Councillors were not in favour. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would make the request to Highways for the relocation of the sign.

48/15 – Transparency – The Meeting discussed the Transparency Code (Department for Communities & Local Government). Due to the fact that the Code has not yet been finalised, and should only apply to smaller Councils, it was agreed that no action was required at present.

49/15 – Community Speedwatch – The Meeting was informed that currently only two residents had volunteered to assist with the Scheme. As the Scheme requires a minimum of six, it was agreed that the Clerk would make another request for assistance in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk agreed to remind residents of the many concerns brought to the Parish Council, regarding speeding through the village.

50/15 – Cemetery – The Meeting considered and approved the minor amendments made to Garden of Remembrance section of the Cemetery Policy Document.

51/15 – Road and Verge Management – Cllr Wilkes gave a brief report on the recent seminar he had attended. It was agreed that, as the verges within Eckington are mostly narrow and therefore consist mainly of ditches, suggestions and issues raised at the seminar were not relevant to the Parish of Eckington.

52/15 – Section 106 Funding – The Meeting was informed that it had come to light that the PC had been invoiced in error by one of the contractors for work. As the invoice had been paid by the PC, it had been agreed with the contractor that the money would be re-funded into the Parish Council account within the next few days.

53/15 – New Homes Bonus - Nothing to report.

54/15 – Correspondence for Information – Correspondence circulated.

55/15 – Finance – Cllr Williamson proposed and was seconded by Cllr Ransted that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary (inc. backdated pay)	£545.56
L. Gerber (BT reimbursement)	£66.40
L. Gerber (ink cartridge reimbursement)	£25.50
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£40.06
Lengthsman salary	£154.10
Village hall hire	£32.50
N. Wilkes (reimbursement purchase of map NP)	£25.00
WDC (rating demand)	£79.18

56/15 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

A request was made to move the finance item on the Agenda to just after planning. The Clerk agreed to undertake this on the next Agenda.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and will include the Annual Parish Meeting. This will take place at 7.00pm in the Recreation Centre.

The meeting was closed at 9.45pm.