

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – Three residents attended the Open Public Forum. The following was raised:

- Concern was expressed in relation to the request made by the Parish Council to re-site the 30mph sign on Nafford Road. The resident was informed that, a decision from Highways regarding this matter, was due at the end of the week.
- Concerns over the SWDP requirement within Eckington. A letter of response from WDC relating to queries raised regarding this issue, was passed to the Parish Council to be kept on file.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th April 2015**

57/15 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Smith, Glaze, Forrest, Wilkes, Bainbridge, Wood and Ransted.

58/15 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Cameron, these were unanimously accepted.

59/15 Declarations of Interest – Declarations regarding Item 63/15 (planning application W/15/00812/PN) were received from Cllrs. Glaze, Williamson and Forrest.

60/15 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Following two minor amendments, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Bainbridge, this was seconded by Cllr Williamson. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

61/15 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis gave the following report:

- WDC preparing for forthcoming elections;
- The financial position remains strong – 38 million currently on deposit;
- Further integration between WDC and Malvern Hills is currently under consideration.

62/15 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk: - Nothing to report.

Village Hall – It was reported that:

- Deeds & Trusteeship – the new mandate has now been accepted by Lloyds Bank;
- Fund raising continues with a program of events organized for the coming months. A further grant application has also been made;
- A Village Hall Networking & Best Practice Event organized by Community First was recently attended – useful information obtained was that the Parish Council are able to be custodial trustees of the Village Hall;
- Post Office sorting room contract – the Village Hall will contact the Post Office to ask whether they wish to renew their arrangement;
- It is anticipated that the first stage in the renovation project will take place within the next 6 months.

Footpaths – It was reported that:

- An inspection of the Wychavon Way has recently taken place. Due to uneven ground along the river walk, stones may be laid in an attempt to level and improve the path. A dog gate has also been requested (allowing easier access for dogs);
- Piecing/Hammock Lane Modification Order – The Inspector is due to visit the site later this month. Cllr Wilkes to accompany him (upon request by the applicant of the Order).

BHCG – Meeting to take place next week.

Church & Bridge Trusts – Due to the requirement of a funds transfer to the Church, a meeting is due to take place shortly.

PACT – Next Meeting due shortly.

63/15 – 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> March 2015:

W/15/00538/LB Piecing Cottage, Boon Street – Removal of ground floor wall between kitchen & dining room within Victorian extension to original timber frame building – No objection.

W/14/01862/PN Church Cottages, Church Street – Alterations to annex to provide guest accommodation. Changes to front of property & changes to access and parking – No objection, comments sent.

W/15/00404/PP & 15/00405/LB Anchor Cottage, Boon Street – Various renovation works – No objection, comments sent.

**Refusals:**

W/15/00084/PN Nafford Bank Farm, Nafford Road – Erection of 4 stables & amendment to existing access including re-positioning of existing gate.

**Planning Matters to be discussed:**

W/15/00812/PN The Old Pike House, Pershore Road – Erection of a 5 bed detached dwelling – Objection/comments sent.

W/15/00618/PP The Old Granary, Nafford Bank Farm, Nafford Road – Erection of detached garage with first floor bedsit/office – No objection.

It was reported that the recent planning appeal in relation to Clennage, Nafford Road, has now been dropped and a second planning application withdrawn.

64/15 – Finance – Cllr Williamson proposed and was seconded by Cllr Wilkes that the following payments should be approved:

**Payments already made:**

Jenny Doyle (NHB refund)	£15.59
Data Orchard (NP)	£496.00

**Payments to be made:**

Clerk's salary	£397.30
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£53.62
PAYE	£71.20
Lengthsman salary	£137.90
Village hall hire	£15.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£187.20
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£360.00
Foxley Tagg Planning Ltd (NP)	£2349.73
WCC (play equipment NHB funds)	£40.00
Worcs CALC	£589.57
HM Revenue & Customs (overpayment VAT)	£555.40

65/15 – Neighbourhood Plan – It was reported that the recent housing needs survey information has now been sent to the Consultant, in order that policies can be prepared in readiness to be presented to the Village on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

66/15 – Highways –

- Nafford Road (request to cut back overgrown hedges) – It was reported that on investigation it was not deemed an immediate safety issue by Highways. The situation will be monitored via the routine inspections.

67/15 – Recreation Ground – Following the issues with rabbits entering the recreation and allotment area, it was reported that rabbit holes have now been blocked and the situation has now improved. It was agreed, however, that a letter should be sent to Network Rail highlighting the issue and requesting again that responsibility be taken for replacing their current fencing along the railway line with rabbit proof fencing.

68/15 – Community Speedwatch – The Meeting was informed that the required six volunteers for the Scheme had now come forward. Police vetting forms had been sent out to the volunteers and a training session will shortly be organised in the Village Hall.

Cllr Williamson requested that the volunteers of the Scheme undertake the responsibility for VAS sign (alongside their speedwatch duties). The Clerk agreed to raise the matter with the volunteers.

69/15 – Lengthsman – The Meeting noted the annual lengthsman grant issued by WCC for 2015/16. The Clerk and the Chair agreed to carry out the annual appraisal. The PC had no issues to raise.

70/15 – Clerk's Appraisal – The Clerk's Appraisal (undertaken by the Chair), was discussed and agreed.

71/15 – Section 106 Funding – The Meeting was informed that the PC had now been reimbursed for the invoice overpayment. The remainder of the funds will be spent throughout the summer, on further enhancements to the recreation area.

72/15 – New Homes Bonus - It was reported that the process has been paused at present (this being due to the forthcoming Elections).

73/15 - Cala Homes – It was reported that WDC have requested an update from Cala Homes in relation to their intentions for the site.

74/15 – Correspondence for Information – Correspondence circulated.

75/15 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

Reports:

- Parish Council Website – Cllr Bainbridge has now purchased a domain name, which he will set up. The matter will be further discussed at the next meeting.
- Phone box – It was reported that the phone box will be re-painted in readiness for the annual flower festival.

Requests:

- Dog waste bin at the Wharf.
- Dog waste bin at Boon Street – to be considered at the next meeting.

The Chair publically thanked all Councillors for their efforts and commitment over the past four years.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting. This will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.35pm.