

Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> December 2015 Eight residents attended the Open Public Forum.

The following issues regarding the Village Design Statement were raised:

- Mr Bateman read out a letter addressed to the Parish Council which highlighted concerns regarding the VDS. It was requested that during the meeting his queries and requests regarding “settlement boundaries” and “call for sites be addressed”.
- The Parish Council was asked whether the Neighbourhood Plan would be presented to the village, in order that changes/modifications can be made before the Plan is officially adopted – The Chair confirmed that this will be the case.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

194/15 Present – Cllrs. Glaze, Cameron, Bainbridge, Wood, Brown, Bogaard, Palmer and Ransted.

195/15 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Wilkes. These were unanimously accepted.

196/15 Declarations of Interest – Declarations were received from Cllr Bainbridge (Item 13, NHB) and Cllr Glaze (Item 8, NP).

Cllr Glaze informed the Meeting that due to comments made by Mr Bateman, inferring that proposals for modifications to the VDS had been handled by the Chair in an autocratic manner, it had been agreed that Cllr Glaze would leave the meeting during Item 8, at which point the Vice Chair would take over the proceedings.

197/15 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Following one minor amendment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November were a true and accurate record and a proposal to accept the Minutes was made by Cllr Cameron, this was seconded by Cllr Palmer. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

198/15 District & County Councillor Reports –

Cllr Davis reported that it has been agreed between WDC and Malvern Hills that both legal departments will now merge. It is expected that this will be officially agreed at the next meeting between the two District Councils. It is anticipated that in the future both Housing and Planning will also merge. In doing so, both Councils will make significant financial savings.

199/15 Progress Reports – The Following was reported:

Clerk: - Nothing to report.

Police Report: The following two incidents were reported:

- Drill stolen from a building site on Stoney Furlong Lane (left insecurely on site);
- Report of intruders at a property on Hollands Road. Officers attended the site, but no-one was found;
- Tools and a trailer stolen from a property on Tewkesbury Road

Village Hall – The following was reported:

- The wine tasting evening raised £450;
- The recent coffee morning also raised £450;
- In relation to the proposed building work, the Committee is still awaiting ball park figures from contractors, before the project can proceed any further.

BHCG – Planning app 15/01723 (Woollas Hall) – This will go to planning committee in January, representatives from both the PC and BHCG will attend.

Church & Bridge Trusts – It was reported that a meeting has been scheduled for the following week.

CALC – Noteworthy points from the recent meeting:

- The current “Quality Town/Parish Status” is set to change, however it appears that the award would mostly benefit larger Parish Councils.
- An increase in annual subs is expected, this is mainly due to a decrease in grants received.
- Current health service challenges were highlighted.
- Issues regarding planning, NP’s and finance were also reported.

Overall it was felt that the meeting was somewhat disappointing and not particularly beneficial to the Parish Council.

200/15 – 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> November 2015:

W/15/02605/PN Malham House, New Road –Erection of bungalow – No objections, comments sent.

W/15/02680/PP 6 Russell Drive – Erection of garden shed, fence & new drop kerb – Objection sent.

**Planning Application Discussed:**

W/15/02752/PN 2 Nafford Bank Farm, Nafford Road – Stables for 4 horses. New access to road – No objections, comments sent.

The Meeting noted planning application 15/03029/OU – land rear of Roman Meadow (recently received). Cllr Bainbridge agreed to consider the application, before arranging a meeting with the rest of the PC, where a collective response would be agreed.

202/15 – Finance – Cllr Bainbridge proposed and was seconded by Cllr Cameron that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk’s salary	£397.30
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£54.77
Lengthsman salary	£149.55
Village hall hire	£53.00
Foxley Tagg Planning Ltd	£767.17
N. Wilkes (NP printing costs)	£100.00
S. Blunsom (tree works)	£650.00
N. Wilkes (war memorial plants)	£29.94

The Meeting discussed and agreed a transfer of £3,000 from the PC current account to the savings account.

The Meeting received the finance report and agreed the suggested precept of £23,300 (subject to the tax base details being received from WDC). The precept will be formally agreed and accepted at the January meeting.

203/15 – Neighbourhood Plan –

Cllr Glaze left the room, following which Cllr Bainbridge took the Chair.

Cllr Bainbridge informed the meeting that the correspondence raised by a local resident during the open public forum would need to be considered.

Cllr Bainbridge highlighted the following:

- Following support from the village, the Parish Council had embarked on a Neighbourhood Plan in order that residents would have more control over future development in the village.
- A steering group responsible for both the NP and VDS had been set up; the group was formed by the PC and consists of both Parish Councillors and residents.
- The Services of a planning consultancy were accepted and have proved invaluable.
- The VDS has now been accepted by Wychavon District Council.
- A public consultation event is due to take place in the village shortly.

Some concern was raised regarding the following:

- (i) a lack of up to date information being available to the Parish Council as a whole;
- (ii) the decision made regarding a call for sites;
- (iii) the unresolved issue of settlement and development boundaries.

It was explained that a call for sites is a part of the Neighbourhood Plan process and, although not compulsory, had been recommended by the planning consultants, thus putting the village in control, rather than any outside developers.

Some changes regarding settlement and development boundaries had now been agreed by the Steering Group, following which modifications to the VDS had been made.

The Meeting were in agreement that those working on the NP have put in many hours and have the best interests of the village at heart.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr Cameron:

The Parish Council fully support Cllr Glaze as Chairman and as a member of the Steering Group.

This was seconded by Cllr Brown.

There being no objections, the resolution was accepted and Cllr Glaze invited back to the meeting.

Cllr Glaze entered the room and resumed the Chair.

204/15 – Highways –

It was reported that Highways have agreed to meet with Cllrs Glaze and Wilkes in order to discuss all outstanding issues. The Clerk agreed to send Cllr Glaze the relevant paperwork.

Maintenance requests:

- Stoney Furlong Lane – repeat request for maintenance to be carried out on broken road surface.

205/15 – Cemetery – The Meeting considered the proposal to change the Cemetery Policy to include both flat and upright stones to be incorporated in the Garden of Remembrance. It was agreed that as both already exist in the cemetery, the relevant modification should be made to the document. A proposal for the change was made by Cllr Bainbridge and seconded by Cllr Palmer.

The Meeting noted correspondence from CWGC informing the PC that due to financial constraints, the current long standing maintenance agreement (in relation to war graves) will now cease.

206/15 – Eckington Bus Service – The Clerk reported that further complaints regarding the bus service had been received, the main issue being the lack of a one hour service. It was reported that a response to queries made to WCC has not been forthcoming, the only progress which had been made was the availability of a flood timetable.

Cllr Ransted reported that Pershore Volunteer would be happy to coordinate drivers and manage a community service for Eckington. It was agreed that this could be beneficial and further information on how this would work in practice should be sought, however it was agreed that the main issue remained the same; a useful and reliable bus service must be maintained for the village.

It was therefore agreed that Cllr Glaze would now raise the queries relating to the bus service (previously raised with WCC) directly with County Councillor Hardman.

Cllr Ransted agreed to further liaise with Pershore Volunteer Centre.

207/15 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing to report.

208/15 – New Homes Bonus – The following was reported:

- The NHB Committee recommended that the application from the Scouts & Guides for the sum of £1250 for facias and guttering should be supported. All were in favour of the proposal.
- Cricket Club request – ongoing, further information is awaited.
- WI request for Mac adapter cable and loudspeaker system – further information required, before the request can be considered.
- Babes & Toddlers application has now been approved by WDC.

209/15 – Smartwater – The Meeting discussed the Smartwater initiative currently offered to Parish Councils by Wychavon District Council. It was agreed that the property marking kit could be extremely beneficial and that public interest in the Scheme within the village should be sought. It was therefore agreed that a poster giving information about the Scheme would be displayed on both the Parish notice board and Parish magazine.

210/15 – Dog Waste Bin – The Meeting considered the request for a bin to be installed in Manor Road along with costings supplied by WDC. It was agreed that Cllr Bogaard would investigate/consider the need for a bin in Manor Road, and report back to the next meeting.

211/15 – Correspondence for Information – Correspondence circulated.

212/15 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

- Phone Box book exchange – the purchase of additional shelving was requested. The Meeting agreed that Cllr Ransted should buy the materials required.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.45pm.

