

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Four residents attended the Open Public Forum. The following concerns were raised:

1. The inadequacy of the current bus service – Issues raised included:
  - An additional bus service returning from Pershore before 3.00pm is required; the three hour wait in Pershore is not practical for most people.
  - The lack of a Saturday service.

Residents sought an update in relation to the transport meeting which had recently taken place in Pershore. The PC confirmed that both of these issues have been raised and are being pursued with the Transport Group. The PC also urged as many residents as possible, from Eckington, to attend the forthcoming open transport meeting (to be held at Pershore Town Hall at 7.00pm on 13/10), where these concerns can again be raised.

It was also queried whether a WCC subsidised service could be a possibility – Councillors thought this unlikely, but agreed to make enquiries

One resident informed the PC that the matter had been raised with the Travel Commissioner, however, as yet, no response had been received.

2. Road surface repairs required on footpath at New Road – Clerk agreed to report to WCC.

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

144/16 Present – Cllrs. Brown, Palmer, Bainbridge, Wilkes, Wood, Ransted and Bogaard

145/16 Apologies – Apologies received from Cllrs Glaze and Cameron. These were unanimously accepted.

146/16 Declarations of Interest – None received.

147/16 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016

The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July were a true and accurate record. Therefore a proposal to accept the Minutes was made by Cllr Wilkes and seconded by Cllr Bogaard. All present were unanimous in their agreement and the Minutes were duly signed.

148/16 District & County Councillor Reports – No reports received.

149/16 Progress Reports –

Clerk – The following was reported:

- VAS speed sign – battery charge is still being monitored; once this has been completed a decision can be made regarding whether any replacement batteries will be required.
- Village planters – no new planting will be undertaken at present.
- Spigot mortar (Wharf) – a report of criminal damage had been made by a resident, and subsequently reported to the Police. The matter has been investigated, whereupon it was found that the grass cutting contractors had inadvertently scraped the surface with a mower. It had therefore been requested that the lengthsman cut back the grass surrounding the spigot, in order that no further damage is sustained.
- Police Report - It was reported that during the last two months, four burglaries have taken place in Eckington. These were carried out at: Hollands Road (between 16/07 & 30/07), Upper End and Pass Street (both on 16/08) and The Close (12/09). Reports of criminal damage to the Scout Hut door had also been received.

Village Hall – The following was reported:

- A quote of £2291 (for stage curtains) had now been received. A decision has yet to be made regarding whether these should be purchased. It has, however, been agreed that Hall curtains will be purchased.
- A new Village Hall secretary and committee members are still being sought.
- Village Hall funds are in the region of £40,000

Footpaths – Modification Orders (Hammock Lane and Piecing) – The Meeting considered and discussed the three letters sent to the Parish Council from a resident. The letters highlighted the slow progress which is being made by WCC with regard to the re-opening of the footpaths. The PC was also notified that a Notice regarding the electric fences has now been served on the landowner. Following a discussion it was agreed that the PC would write to WCC querying why tasks are not being carried out simultaneously, thus avoiding further unnecessary delay. It was also agreed that a timetable of the works should be requested, which should include a date that the public can expect to be permitted to use the footpaths again.

Trees – It was reported that upon further consideration, Western Power had decided that only two of the four poplar trees (at the Rec. Grounds) would need to be felled (this being due to potential safety issues).

BHCCG – It was reported that the Group intend to oppose a potential caravan & camping site proposed at Ashton Under Hill.

150/16 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 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016:

**Approvals:**

W/16/01779/PP 7 Russell Drive – Single storey rear extension and render finish to exterior.

W/15/03029 Land rear of Roman Meadow – New residential development of 25 dwellings including 10 affordable dwellings with associated landscaping and infrastructure.

**Applications Discussed:**

W/16/01834/LB Piecing Cottage, Boon Street – Replacement of flat roof to incorporate glazed roof lantern. Enlargement of window to east elevation and internal alterations – No objections.

It was reported that (following refusal by WDC) planning application 15/01013 (Field SO9239, Eckington Road) will now go to appeal.

151/16 Finance – Cllr Wilkes proposed and was seconded by Cllr Ransted that the following payments should be approved:

**Payments made between meetings:**

Clerk's salary	£414.37
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£18.09
L. Gerber (reimbursement purchase of defib. replacement pads)	£118.56
P. Higgins Lengthsman salary	£150.40
Wychavon Sport (Parish Games)	£69.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance – Rec. cut	£340.80
New Farm Grounds Maintenance - PC	£374.40
HMRC – PAYE	£62.40

**(Payments made after May Meeting – approval required)**

J. Smith (reimbursement Section 106 funding)	£3390.00
P. Higgins (lengthsman salary)	£149.55
New Farm Grounds Maintenance – PC	£374.40
New Farm Grounds Maintenance – Rec	£340.80
HMRC – PAYE	£51.60

**Payments to be made:**

Clerk's salary	£414.37
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£22.72
L. Gerber (reimbursement BT invoice)	£80.24
P. Higgins (Lengthsman salary)	£169.60
CLPG (Subs)	£10.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance – Rec. cut	£511.20
New Farm Grounds Maintenance - PC	£645.60
Eckington Village Hall (hire)	£12.00

#### 152/16 Neighbourhood Plan –

The Meeting was informed that the NP is taking longer and proving more costly than originally envisaged. The Steering Group have agreed that there is now a need for legal advice and more consultant assistance to ensure that the projects and developments are safely delivered. The Group have therefore requested a sum of £10,000, from the Parish Council, to meet these costs (£6,000 of this may be recoverable, but this is not certain at this preliminary stage).

It was agreed that due to the large sum of money being requested from the PC, it would be prudent for the Parish Council to include this request specifically on the Agenda for October, following which a decision regarding the funding would be made.

#### 153/16 Highway Matters –

Issues reported:

- Jarvis Street – deterioration of road surface.
- Mill Lane – missing vergemaster posts.
- Nafford Road – gully clearance

It was also reported that a recent meeting had taken place between a Parish Councillor and Highways to discuss/assess the water run-off from Greyfriars, Pass Street. WCC have agreed to monitor the situation.

Issues to report:

- Stoney Furlong (junction of Upper End/Hacketts Lane) – broken road surface (caused by recent building contractors).
- New Road – road surface repair.

#### 154/16 New Homes Bonus –

The following was reported:

- The Cricket Club's application for new nets has now been approved by WDC.
- Eckington Under Fives – Request for £20,000 to build the foundations of a new build at the First School. It is proposed that the Under Fives will relocate to the school site. The Meeting considered the request but agreed that further information from both WDC and the Under Fives Group should be sought before a decision to proceed could be made. On receipt of this information, it was also agreed that the NHB sub-committee would meet (before the next PC meeting) in order to further discuss and present at the October PC meeting.

#### 155/16 Raising the On-line Profile of the Parish Council

It was reported that the PC website continues to be developed. Cllr Bainbridge requested suggestions from Councillors regarding any additional information they would like to see on the site. Once the additions have been made, a request will be made to CALC to check the information provided is of suitable content. The Meeting thanked Cllr Bainbridge for the work undertaken so far.

#### 156/16 Flooding Issues

It was reported that:

- WCC still await the bridge modelling report, once received viability of the scheme can be considered.
- Depth gauge – WCC are attempting to engage with the Environment Agency to ascertain their thoughts on this proposal.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WCC again for a further update regarding these matters.

#### 157/16 Cemetery Policy

The Meeting noted and agreed the updated Policy (which includes an additional policy relating to adding further benches in the cemetery).

A proposal was made by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Bogaard to formally adopt the Cemetery Policy.

158/16 Correspondence for Information –  
Noted.

159/16 Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

It was reported that:

- The recent Rooftop walkabout (which had been accompanied by two Parish Councillors) had proved to be informative and worthwhile. Use of Rooftop owned garages within the village was queried. No major defects were reported.
- A further request for Speedwatch volunteers was made. It was agreed that the Clerk would make the request via the Parish Magazine.

143/16 Date of next meeting –

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Meeting closed at 9.32pm

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