

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 Three residents attended the Open Public Forum.

Matters raised:

- Query regarding maintenance work on New Road – It was confirmed that this is scheduled to take place within the next few weeks.
- Eckington bus service – Concerns raised:
  - (i) The current service does not have a quick enough turnaround – too many hours before the return bus;
  - (ii) As the bridge is now repaired – could the bus now go back to the original route?
  - (iii) Currently the bus is travelling down a road which is signposted ‘no lorries’. Is this therefore safe for a bus to be travelling on?

The Meeting was also informed that some villagers feel that the Parish Council are not being proactive enough regarding this issue.

The residents were informed that the Parish Council is extremely concerned about this issue and have attended numerous meetings with First and Pershore Public Transport Group. Further meetings have been arranged for January, where proposals for a change in the current timetable will be put forward. However, residents were reminded, that this is of course a commercial service which also needs to be viable for the bus company.

David Manning (WDC) also attended the meeting. He gave a short presentation on Wychavon’s Rural Communities Programme. This included the following information:

- The main aim is to identify vulnerable people in rural areas, with a view to providing some support where needed.
- The Programme works with Parish Councils, in order to gain local knowledge.
- Initially a door knock takes place, where a short survey is completed.
- Following consideration of the Survey, referrals can be made to other organisations, such as Age UK, Rooftop Housing, Citizens Advice etc.
- 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 has been earmarked as a provisional date for the door knock to take place. Advice would be sought from the PC as to which areas of the village would most benefit from this scheme.
- The Programme has already been successfully run in various other surrounding villages

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

01/17 Present – Cllrs. Bogaard, Glaze, Cameron, Brown, Bainbridge, Wilkes, Wood and Ransted.

02/17 Apologies – Apologies received from District Cllr Davis and County Cllr Hardman. These were unanimously accepted.

03/17 Declarations of Interest – No Declarations were received.

04/17 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Following one minor adjustment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December were a true and accurate record. Therefore a proposal to accept the Minutes was made by Cllr Wilkes and seconded by Cllr Ransted. All present were unanimous in their agreement and the Minutes were duly signed.

05/17 District & County Councillor Reports –

It was recommended that the PC should consider a response to the Local Transport Plan 4 (regarding rural bus transport) – Cllr Glaze agreed to make a response.

06/17 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk’s Report –

It was reported that Network Rail will carry out vegetation clearance between January and Summer 2017 (details included in e-mail sent to Cllrs.)

Village Hall –

- Due to insufficient funds, it has been agreed that the proposed building works will not take place, however repairs to the front gable wall and ancillary works will be carried out instead.
- A bid to Rooftop will be made to install wi-fi in the Village Hall.
- It is anticipated that all curtains in the Hall will be replaced.
- Further fund raising activities have been planned for 2017.

Partnership – Tourism is the planned topic of discussion for the next meeting.

07/17 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 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016:

W/16/02915/PO Manor Farm, Manor Road – No objection.

Enforcement No.IN/16/00660 – No breach of planning.

**Approvals:**

W/16/02308/PN Blue Gecko Plants, Tewkesbury Road – Erection of polytunnels.

AB/16/02948/AB Field No.1431, Tewkesbury Road – Steel portal framed extension to existing agricultural building for general purpose storage.

W/16/02462/PP 2 Hollowcombe Cottage, Hollands Road – Removal of existing rear and side extensions, and alterations associated with the erection of a new rear and side extension.

**Applications Discussed:**

DB/16/02991/DB Eckington Relay Room, Avon Drive – Application for prior notification of proposed demolition of Eckington Relay Room – No objection.

APP/H1840/W/16/3157521 Field SO9239, Eckington Road, Bredon's Norton - Change of use of land from waste ground to mixed use for stable and keeping of horses and caravan site for single gypsy family with associated – It was reported that there are numerous objections on the government website. It was confirmed that there will be Parish Council representation at the forthcoming Hearing.

08/17 Finance – Cllr Wilkes proposed and was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge that the following payments should be approved:

**Payments to be made:**

Clerk's salary	£414.37
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£31.14
P. Higgins (Lengthsman salary)	£150.60
Worcestershire CALC (training)	£10.00
Eckington Village Hall (hire)	£12.00
G. Glaze (reimbursement of salt purchase)	£48.00

Following receipt of the proposed tax base figure, the Meeting agreed the precept figure of £23,000. Once WDC have confirmed the figure, the precept request will be made.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Ransted and seconded by Cllr Cllr Wilkes.

09/17 Neighbourhood Plan –

It was reported that policy writing is now well underway, and good progress is being made. Following consideration of the minor amendments made to the VDS, a proposal was made by Cllr Bainbridge that the PC adopt the amended VDS. This was seconded by Cllr Bogaard and the document was formally adopted.

10/17 Highway Matters –

The Meeting discussed the state of the verges on Nafford Road. The Meeting acknowledged that buses travelling along the route have caused the road edges to deteriorate. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Highways asking for a request to be put to the Traffic Commissioner to revert to the original route along Hollands Road.

#### 11/17 New Homes Bonus –

The following was reported:

- Eckington Under Fives – Request for £20,000 to build the foundations of a new build at the First School. WDC have responded that this would not be funded by NHB (should be funded by LEA). Cllr Glaze agreed to speak to Under Fives regarding WDC's response.
- WDC have confirmed that NHB funding will be ceasing. Each Parish will be informed of how much funding they have left. Councillors were encouraged to consider whether there are any projects in the village which could be considered for the funding.

#### 12/17 Eckington Bus Service

(Please see Open Public Forum).

The Meeting discussed their frustration that the current bus service is not viable for many parishioners, however it was agreed that the PC would continue to vigorously pursue this matter, with a proposal being put to First, to include two journeys (in the middle of the day). This will be raised at the forthcoming transport meeting.

#### 13/17 Flooding Issues

It was agreed that Cllr Wilkes would continue to keep a record of all bridge closures. It was also suggested that it may be helpful to keep a record of when the signs are still in place, even though flooding has dissipated.

#### 14/17 Street Name Plates

The Meeting considered the report relating to repairs/replacement of name plates within the Parish. It was agreed that the report (including the recommendations) should be sent to WDC for their consideration.

#### 15/17 Correspondence for Information –

Correspondence circulated.

#### 16/17 Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

- Lorries in Boon Street – this continues to be an issue.
- Speed checks continue to take place in the village. Further training for additional volunteers will take place shortly.
- PC website proving to be of interest (166 hits in December).
- The two new dog bins have been installed and are being heavily used, (report made to WDC regarding Hammock Road bin not being emptied).
- Cllr Glaze will attend the budget consultation meeting at County Hall on 19/01.

The Meeting discussed the Rural Communities Programme. All were in agreement that the Programme should go ahead. Clerk will liaise with David Manning (WDC).

#### 17/17 Date of next meeting –

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm