

ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL held 12th December 2017

At Eckington Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Public Participation: There were no members of the public present.

As the Clerk to the Parish Council was unable to attend the meeting, Cllr Nils Wilkes was asked to record the minutes.

Present: Councillors George Glaze (Chairman), David Bainbridge (Vice Chairman), Cilla Cameron, Geoff Ransted, Mike Wood and Nils Wilkes.

Apologies: Councillor Sally Brown and District Councillor Ron Davies.

Declaration of Interests: None

ITEM:	MINUTE RECORDED:	ACTION AGREED:
179/17	The minutes of the meeting of 14th November were agreed but will need to be signed at the meeting of Tuesday 9 th January 2018. Prop. Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Wilkes.	MA to bring Agreed Minutes to next meeting for signing
180/17	District Councillor Report: There was no report submitted.	
181/17	<p>Progress Reports: Report of the Clerk - No report submitted</p> <p>Village Hall – Cllr Bainbridge reported that the building works were now complete. There had been no VH committee meetings in the last month to report back on.</p> <p>Recreation Centre – Cllr Wood had nothing to report</p> <p>Footpaths – Cllr Wilkes informed the meeting that metal footpath direction signs had been installed where the footpaths leave the highway at both Piecing and Hammock.</p> <p>Trees – Cllr Wood had nothing to report</p> <p>Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr Ransted that two large scale planning applications (caravan site at Great Comberton and Care Home at Beckford) had both been refused.</p> <p>Church and Bridge Trust – Cllr Wilkes and Cllr Cameron - no meetings have been held.</p> <p>Wychavon CALC – Cllrs Glaze and Wilkes attended the meeting of 7th Dec. Main topics discussed were the Data Protection Bill which is to come into force in May 2018 (Clerk is collating information) and Recording/Filming of Council Meetings.</p>	

	<p>Cemetery – Cllr Wilkes reported that the weight of recent heavy snow has caused several Cedar boughs to snap and fall to the ground in the Churchyard. These are to be removed by a resident. There is similar damage to some conifers in the Cemetery and the owner of the trees needs to be contacted.</p>	<p>Cllr GG to contact the landowner.</p>
182/17	<p>Planning</p> <p>There were no applications for consideration.</p> <p>Cllr Bainbridge expressed concern over the application for a wooden close boarded fence at The Orchard (17/02182/HP) where the Conservation Officer stated that the fence would not be detrimental to the Street Scene.</p> <p>APPROVED - Planning Ref: 17/01176/HP Coach House, Woollas Hill, Eckington Permission granted for replacement oil tank from Clock House to area closer to driveway.</p> <p>APPROVED – Planning Ref: 17/0913 HP Celadine Cottage, Cotheridge Lane, Eckington Permission granted for insertion of new door, replacement windows and velux window.</p>	
183/17	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>The accounts presented were approved for payment – proposed Cllr Cameron, seconded Cllr Ransted. All agreed</p> <p>Payments to be made:</p> <p>Clerk’s salary £251.30(net) Clerk’s expenses (mileage and stationery) £29.08 Clerk’s Home/Office allowance 2017/18 £166.67 (pro rata) P.Higgins Lengthsman Salary (net) £150.60 HMRC PAYE (quarter 3) £572.00 New Farm Grounds Maintenance £187.20 Eckington Village Hall (doors) £635.00 G. Glaze (Chairmans allowance) £16.00</p> <p>Income received:</p> <p>Memory Lane Memorials £105.00 Worcs CC (Lengthsman) £324.00</p> <p>Balances:</p> <p>Current Acc. £26,975.89 Deposit Acc. £13,896.54</p> <p>Precept and Budget Forecast</p> <p>The budget forecast had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the PC meeting and the proposed Precept of £24,000 for the year 2018/19 was agreed. Proposed Cllr Cameron, seconded Cllr Ransted. The increase of £1000 from the 2017/18 precept was in order to replenish the PC reserves.</p>	
184/17	<p>County Councillor Alan Hardman entered the meeting at this point and gave his report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The County Council are to increase their precept by totally 4.9% (including social care) ● Concerns about liability for people or bodies carrying out snow clearing on the highway have no foundation, as long 	

	<p>as the intent is to improve conditions rather than make them worse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Matt Maginnis (WCC Flooding Schemes) is on long term sick and is the reason we could not contact him. ● WCC do not have the capacity to address Eckington Bridge flooding. Cllr Hardman is to set up a meeting with the PC and Gerry Brienza(WCC) to discuss the matter further. ● The matter of large HGV's accessing Ready Hedge and overhanging vegetation is causing concern once again. 	<p>County Cllr Hardman to set up meeting re flood issues.</p> <p>County Cllr Hardman to visit Readyhedge for a discussion.</p>
183/17	<p>Return to Financial Matters</p> <p>Grass Cutting Contract Two amendments to be made to the contract document before inviting tenders. Proposed Cllr Cameron, seconded Cllr Bainbridge</p> <p>Burial Fees An increase of 5% for all current burial fees (Set in Nov.2016) was proposed. All agreed. Prop.Cllr Ransted, Seconded Cllr Cameron</p> <p>War Memorial The Clerk has now been on a training session in how to deal with the maintenance of War Memorials. A Pre-application form is to be requested from the War Memorial Trust in order that the PC can apply for a grant towards the cost of any maintenance works that may be required. An initial assessment of the condition of the memorial is to be carried out by the Clerk. Professional advice will be forthcoming during the process.</p> <p>Mole Clearance in the Cemetery A quotation from "Perdix" of £250 plus VAT for the removal of moles in the cemetery has been accepted.</p>	<p>Cllr Wilkes to make changes and forward to the Clerk for tendering process.</p> <p>Clerk to produce revised charges and place copy in Lych- Gate</p> <p>Clerk to request Pre-App form and carry out condition survey</p>
185/17	<p>Co-option of Parish Councillor An application from Mrs Mary Hughes for a vacant position of Parish Councillor was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Ransted and Seconded by Cllr Bainbridge that Mrs Hughes should fill the vacant post. Agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>Clerk to write to Mrs Hughes</p>
186/17	<p>The Transparency Code It was proposed by Cllr Bainbridge and seconded by Cllr Cameron that the PC should adopt the "Transparency Code for smaller authorities". All agreed. In order to demonstrate the PC's transparency it was also agreed that the PC should place their information on the Worcestershire County Council's site - <i>e.services.worcestershire.gov.uk</i></p>	<p>Clerk to arrange</p>
187/17	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Glaze informed councillors that a further small grant would be forthcoming from Locality to assist with Reg 14 and there would also be some free technical support from them. Members of the PC not on the NP Steering Group were to be provided with copies of the Draft NP but were to understand the confidential nature of the process at this stage.</p>	<p>Cllr Glaze to circulate Draft NP</p>

188/17	Highway Matters None submitted	
189/17	New Homes Bonus The new play equipment for the Recreation Centre; Wychavon DC are in the process of making a BACS payment to the PC. The PC are awaiting communication from the treasurer of the Recreation Centre with regard to how the payments will be processed.	
190/17	Bus Service Cllr Glaze informed councillors that the issues raised by members of the public at the previous PC meeting were conveyed to Nigel Eggleton (Managing Director, First Midlands) at a meeting on November 22 nd . A further meeting planned for Thursday 14 th December was cancelled to be rearranged for early next year. The two main issues are: X50 service connections in Pershore with 11.10 and 13.10 53 service from Eckington together with the loss of a late return bus from Pershore to Eckington on non-school days.	
191/17	Rural Communities Programme Cllr Brown is still to arrange the first meeting of this group	Cllr Brown to arrange
192/17	Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch Cllr Ransted reported that six people had shown an interest in forming a Neighbourhood Watch group and once Gary Shepard of West Mercia Constabulary had been contacted, a meeting would be held in January 2018. Cllr Ransted also reported that more speed checks have been carried out recently by the enlarged Speed Watch group	Cllr Ransted to arrange meeting
193/17	Correspondence for Information None submitted	
194/17	Councillor Reports and Items for future Agendas None forthcoming	
195/17	Annual Parish Meeting It was proposed that Tuesday April 17 th should be the date of the Annual Parish Meeting. Proposed Cllr Cameron, Seconded by Cllr Ransted.	
196/17	Date of next meeting Next meeting to be held Tuesday 9th January 2018 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm	