

ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held Tuesday 11th June 2019
At Eckington Village Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30 pm

Present:

Councillors G. Glaze (Chairman), G. Ransted (V/Chairman), M. Hughes, C. Yarnold, J. Wiffen and T. Knight.

21. Apologies accepted: District Cllr R. Davis, Cllr M. Wood.

22. Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interests: Cllr Hughes – Clennage, Nafford Road, Eckington - planning application 19/01137/FUL.

23. Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 14th May 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Hughes. All agreed.

24. County & District Councillor Reports: There were no reports made to the meeting. A report had been circulated from DCllr Davis.

25. Progress Reports:

- i. Clerk – reports had been circulated from the Police and Worcs CC regarding a parking consultation for Church Street.
- ii. Village Hall – Cllr Ransted reported on recent and planned activities.
- iii. Recreation Centre – Cllr Yarnold reported regarding New Homes Bonus spending options, Allotments and concerns regarding rodents.
- iv. Wychavon CALC – Cllr Ransted reported on the AGM held on 6th June, including the election of Chairman, and plans for the next meeting on 4th September.
- v. Cemetery & Churchyard – Cllr Yarnold reported on STW works required, repairs undertaken to graves and other maintenance works planned.
- vi. Allotments – Cllr Wiffen reported on recent earthworks on plot 2 and concerns about rodents.
- vii. Community Engagement – Cllr Yarnold reported on social media activities. Cllr Glaze reported on the recent Councillor Surgery held.
- viii. Rural Communities Programme – Cllr Hughes reported on recent activities from the Steering Group and their future plans. It was noted that the application to become a Dementia Friendly Village was still on-going.
- ix. Neighbourhood Watch & Community Speed Watch – Cllr Ransted reported on the NW presentation planned for August. CSW has an additional Volunteer and training is being planned.

26. Planning Matters:

26.1 Applications for consideration: The Planning Committee had circulated a report to the meeting regarding proposed responses. See appendix 1.

- 19/00963/HP – Mr & Mrs Molyneux, Midsummer House, Station Rd, Eckington WR10 3BB – two storey rear extension. No objection – proposed Cllr Yarnold, seconded Cllr Wiffen. All agreed. (see appendix 1)
(Cllr Hughes left the meeting)
- 19/01137/FUL – Mr Ian Hughes, Clennage, Nafford Rd, Eckington WR10 3DH – demolition of existing house and construction of new six-bedroom property with

separate triple garage building and detached gym with roof balcony – variation of cond. 9 of permission W/12/02383/PN to allow the triple garage to be used as ancillary accommodation. Objection – proposed Cllr Yarnold, seconded Cllr Wiffen. All agreed. (see appendix 1)

(Cllr Hughes returned to the meeting)

- 19/01247/HP – Mr S Trowbridge, 2 Westgate Villas, Church Street, Eckington WR10 3AN – proposed single and two storey side and rear extension. Proposed Cllr Knight, seconded Cllr Wiffen - No objection in principal so long as parking spaces are maintained in line with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan – 3 spaces within the curtilage of a 3 bed. property. A condition was also proposed that contractor vehicles should not be allowed to park where it will obstruct the junction visibility for drivers. All agreed.
- 19/00987/LB – Mr Stephen Pagett, Little Thatch, New Rd, Eckington WR10 3AZ – to replace 4 oversized off arched windows with 6 smaller off arched windows in the same style. Proposed Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Hughes – no objection. All agreed.

26.2 Notifications:

- 19/00830/HP – Donnington, Manor Rd, Eckington WR10 3BH – approval of single storey extension and assoc. drainage works.

26.3 Responses submitted before the meeting:

- 19/00940/FUL – Drakes Bridge, Drakes Bridge Rd, Eckington WR10 3BN – objection submitted as agreed to demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a detached dwelling.
- 19/00968/FUL - Land rear of Roman Way And east of Pershore Road Pershore Road Eckington – comment submitted in support of the erection of 38 dwellings and associated infrastructure.

26.4 Planning Committee Terms of Reference: It was proposed by Cllr Wiffen, seconded Cllr Yarnold, that the Committee should be made up of 4 Councillors instead of the current 3. This would enable a min. of three Cllrs to consider an application, should one person not be present. All agreed. It was further agreed that the additional person should be appointed once future co-options had been made to the Council.

27. Financial & Governance Matters:

27.1 Payments – accounts were proposed for payment by Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Hughes. All agreed.

£399.45	Clerk salary
£15.66	Clerk expenses (phone / internet)
£177.30	Lengthsman salary
£40.00	Information Commissioners Office - Registration renewal fee
£510.84	New Farm Grounds Maintenance grass cutting (May)
£360.00	Memory Lane Memorials – cemetery repair work
£45.80	N. Wilkes – war memorial flower beds (retrospective pd bacs)
£104.75	Eckington Village Hall – hire fees (March – May)

Account balances noted:

£11,289	Treasurers account
£25,913	Business account

27.2 Bank Mandate: The Clerk is aiming to get the mandate amended before the role passes to the new Clerk, however it is taking some time to obtain the forms from the bank. It was agreed that new signatures will be Cllrs Glaze, Ransted, Knight and the new Clerk once appointed.

27.3 2018-19 Audit: It was noted that the Internal Audit has been successfully completed.

27.3.1 Annual Governance Statement: The Annual Governance Statement had been circulated prior to the meeting and was read out to those present. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Ransted, that the statement be approved and signed. All agreed. (Cllrs Knight & Wiffen abstained as they had not been Councillors during 2018-19).

27.3.2 Annual Accounting Statement: The Accounting Statement had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Yarnold, seconded Cllr Hughes that it be approved and signed. All agreed. (Cllrs Knight & Wiffen abstained as they had not been Councillors during 2018-19).

27.4 Councillor 'Wards': Cllr Hughes explained the idea of Wards and proposed to divide the parish in to 9 areas. Copies of the map were distributed to the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Hughes should draw up a final plan with numbered areas to mark up allocations. This is to be distributed via the Clerk.

27.5 Recruitment of a Clerk: Cllr Glaze updated the meeting regarding applications received. Interviews are to be held on 19th June and conducted by the Staffing Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Wiffen, seconded by Cllr Ransted, that the Staffing Committee be delegated authority to appoint a new Clerk following the interview process. All agreed. The Clerk agreed to prepare draft questions for the interview panel.

27.6 GDPR Updates: None, but it was noted that WDC continue to send out emails to all without using the bcc facility.

27.7 Insurance Policy: It was noted that the Finance Committee is to review the policy before the renewal date in August 2019. Risk Assessments are also to be reviewed.

28. Councillor Co-options: There are currently two vacancies. Three applications had been received via the Clerk for consideration. Following consideration of the applications received, a vote was taken; J. Bees and G. Goodlad were duly co-opted. The Clerk will notify all applicants of the result and arrange for Declarations of Office to be signed asap. WDC also to be informed once signed.

29. Neighbourhood Plan: An update regarding Reg. 16 was read out to the meeting from the Chair of the Steering Group. Cllr Glaze also updated the meeting regarding WDC and the Independent Examination.

30. New Homes Bonus: Cllr Yarnold updated the meeting regarding options being explored for adult exercise equipment. Cllr Glaze confirmed the funding process and the required criteria. It was noted that there may also be similar equipment at the school and Cllr Yarnold agreed to check this and whether it was available for public use. Cllr Hughes reminded the Council that match-funding would also be required as part of NHB criteria. Cllr Knight asked the Council to also consider accessible equipment and it was agreed that the community should be consulted by the Recreation Committee regarding this option.

31 Parish Matters:

- i. Buses – Cllr Ransted updated the Council following a recent Transport Group meeting. Astons have been asked to trial a different route for the Hopper. It was noted that First are currently for sale. The Clerk was asked to check with County Cllr Hardman regarding the bus consultation undertaken.
- ii. Smartwater – Cllr Ransted updated the meeting regarding Smartwater registrations, which have achieved the required number to proceed with the scheme. Distribution dates will be circulated via the Clerk. Cllr Ransted will also circulate details of the Neighbourhood Watch presentation to the PC.

32 Correspondence: Cllr Glaze updated the meeting regarding correspondence received about Eckington Bank and land purchase. A response has been drafted, noting that the land is not currently in PC ownership. Clerk to respond.

33. Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Cllr Hughes suggested the PC consider a logo for future community engagement use. Cllr Yarnold suggested expanding village recycling options and will check with WDC about what is available. Cllr Knight gave apologies for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm