

# ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL held 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
At Eckington Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors George Glaze (Chairman), Geoff Ransted, Mary Hughes, Nils Wilkes, Chris Yarnold, Chris Auty and Mike Wood.

**Also present:** County Councillor Adrian Hardman (arr. 8.20 pm), District Councillor Ron Davis and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Councillors D. Bainbridge (Vice Chairman) and C. Cameron

## Public Participation:

A resident in attendance requested a response to his letter of 4<sup>th</sup> February. The Chairman confirmed that all correspondence was to be looked at as part of the meeting agenda and formal responses agreed.

The resident also requested that the term 'built form' be removed from the Neighbourhood Plan. Could the PC also give priority for affordable homes to those who would be sending their children to Eckington Primary School as there appears to be no mention of this in the current Plan? The PC were also asked to secure a legal opinion regarding the overage payment. There was also a query raised regarding the information available at the recent Spitfire Homes event. The Chairman gave a verbal explanation regarding the use of the term 'built form' and the meeting noted the other queries raised regarding affordable homes and the Spitfire Homes event. The overage question would be looked at as part of the item on the agenda regarding correspondence.

**Declarations of Interest:** None.

ITEM:	MINUTE RECORDED:	ACTION AGREED:
115	<b>The Minutes of the Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b> were agreed and signed as a true record following the amendment regarding the application for North House listed status to be completed by Cllr Wilkes, not Cllr Glaze. Proposed Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Auty. All agreed.	
116	<b>District &amp; County Councillor Reports</b> District Councillor Davis reported on the following matters – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WDC 2019-20 budget will go to full Council on 20/2/19.</li><li>• Council tax has been frozen for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running.</li><li>• There is a 5-year financial plan in place and WDC finances are healthy.</li></ul> Cllr Ransted queried if WDC would be funding community transport and how much funding would be available to assist with rural transport. It was noted that although transport was a County responsibility, there would be £50K for each WDC area together with government funding available.	

	<p>Cllr Glaze asked for assistance to enforce double yellow lines in the village. It is a County responsibility but still requires District assistance to enforce locally.</p> <p>County Councillor Hardman reported on the following matters –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WCC budget to be agreed on 14<sup>th</sup> February – 3.9% Council Tax rise proposed.</li> <li>• County over spend and Government grants obtained.</li> <li>• 2020 review of Local Gov't finance.</li> <li>• Business Rates retention pilot to be launched to help fund Adult Social Care in Worcs.</li> <li>• PC decision regarding village gateways, planter and 'Dragons Teeth' noted – a contribution of £1500.00 is available for the gateways.</li> <li>• A query was raised regarding 30mph speed limit in Nafford Rd is to be discussed and it was noted that the speed limit can't be moved without County Cllr support. Cllr Hughes explained the history of the request and why it was again being discussed. Cllr Hughes also pointed out the DoT guidance from Jan 2013 for deciding speed limits. County Cllr Hardman agreed to speak with County and seek advice for the PC.</li> </ul>	<p>D. Councillor Davis agreed to speak with WDC and report back to Cllr Glaze.</p> <p>Cty Cllr Hardman to speak with County regarding Nafford Road speed limit request.</p>
117	<p><b>Reports:</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b> – an update was given regarding the Police stats, a Planning Enforcement Summit to be held and a WDC funding application by the Scouts to renew lighting at the Scout Hut. It was agreed that the PC write a letter of support to the Scouts for their funding application.</p> <p><b>Village Hall</b> (Cllrs Bainbridge &amp; Auty) – no meeting had been held.</p> <p><b>Recreation Committee</b> (Cllr Wood) – Cllr Auty had circulated the recent Committee minutes. Cllr Wood reported the trees shading the allotments by the side of the railway and asked if they could cut back? Cllr Wilkes clarified the situation regarding Network Rail and that they should be the first point of contact. The idea regarding the all surface play area and the NHB funding of £24K had been discussed but it was felt that the area would not be big enough. Cllr Hughes clarified that the £24K NHB funding would be a contribution, not the final amount required – it needs confirmation of need and additional funding options going forward. £24K would only 'kick start' the project. It was agreed that further discussion would be needed.</p> <p><b>Footpaths</b> (Cllr Wilkes) – the WDC report on flooding had been circulated regarding Hammock Ditch and it was agreed to place the matter on the next agenda to discuss options.</p> <p><b>Tree Warden</b> (Cllr Wood) – No report.</p>	<p>Clerk to write a letter for the Scouts as agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Wood to inform the Rec. Cttee of discussions.</p> <p>Clerk to place Hammock Ditch on next agenda.</p>

	<p><b>Bredon Hill Conservation Group</b> (Cllr Ransted) – No report.  <b>Church &amp; Bridge Trust</b> (Cllrs Wilkes &amp; Cameron) – No report.  <b>Wychavon CALC</b> (Cllrs Glaze &amp; Ransted) – No report.  <b>Partnership</b> (Cllr Ransted) – No report.  <b>Cemetery &amp; Churchyard</b> (Cllrs Wilkes &amp; Yarnold) – work outstanding to clear ivy etc – Clerk to follow up contractor.  <b>Allotments</b> (Cllr Wilkes) – No report.  <b>Community Engagement</b> (Cllrs Auty &amp; Yarnold) – the survey is now live on Facebook and hard copies available locally – thanks to all involved in achieving this. A small number of surveys have been returned so far but it will continue to be promoted. Analysis to be presented to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk to follow up on C&amp;C works.</p> <p>Survey analysis on next agenda – Cllrs Auty &amp; Yarnold.</p>
118	<p><b>Planning Matters</b>  The following matters were discussed –  <b>19/00002/HP</b> – Orchard Cottage, Church Street, Eckington  Replacement of single glazed windows with new double-glazed units. Conversion of garage to bedroom with en-suite facilities. Erection of garden workshop and storage facility.  <b>Objection submitted:</b> Eckington Parish Council shares the concerns of the Conservation Officer in relation to the replacement windows and would ask that the area of hard standing behind Orchard Cottage is retained for off-street parking.</p> <p><b>19/00217/S106</b> – Toad Hall, Upper End, Eckington  Application to discharge a s.106 planning obligation dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1989 and Supplementary Agreement dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2003. It was agreed that Cllr Bainbridge should circulate a draft response for approval before deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p><b>19/00288/AGR</b> – Eckington Fields Farm, Hollands Road, Eckington. Notification for prior approval for the proposed construction of an agricultural building. Noted a response is due by 25<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p><b>NOTIFICATIONS:</b>  <b>19/00200/NMA</b> – Old Pike House, Pershore Road, Eckington.  Non-material amendment to approval W/15/00812/PN involving internal changes and changes to windows and doors and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor balcony. Information only as it has been approved.</p> <p><b>18/02569/HP</b> – Harrow Fields, Cotheridge Lane, Eckington  <b>Approval</b> for demolition of a pre-fab garage outbuilding and annexe outbuilding replacement.</p>	<p>Cllr Bainbridge to draft a response for approval and Clerk to submit by 27<sup>th</sup> Feb deadline.</p>

	<p><b>18/02103/LB</b> – Coach House, Woollas Hill. Eckington <b>LBC</b> for installation of flue for wood burner; removal of non-conservation velux window to rear of potting shed roof and replace with 2 conservation velux windows.</p> <p><b>18/02029/FUL</b> – Drakes Bridge, Drakes Bridge Road, Eckington <b>Application withdrawn</b> for demolition of existing property and construction of 4 no. houses.</p>																			
119	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Wilkes, seconded by Cllr Ransted that the following payments be made –</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>£341.47</td> <td>Clerks salary (net)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£46.05</td> <td>Clerks expenses – phone &amp; internet £16.35 / mileage £20.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£329.55</td> <td>Lengthsman salary Oct – Jan + training attended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£961.08</td> <td>Foxley Tagg NP professional fees</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£57.00</td> <td>Eckington Village Hall hire fees Nov – Jan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£224.72</td> <td>Paul Stanley Fencing – footpath gate post repairs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£384.00</td> <td>Memory Lane Memorials cemetery &amp; churchyard works</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£55.00</td> <td>Pace Print &amp; Design Ltd community engagement surveys</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£47.00</td> <td>WDC garden waste bin annual charge (DD payment)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Account balances noted: £11,433 - Treasurers Account £25,909 - Business account</p> <p>Tewkesbury Road (Hanford Dv) speed enforcement - 'Village Gateways' – a quote had been received from Paul Stanley Fencing of £1258.70 + vat to provide and install a pair of 'white gates' plus a new planter. 'Dragons Teeth' road markings will cost approx. £1000.00 via County Highways. Both options had been previously discussed and approved by Highways. It was proposed by Cllr Ransted that the PC go ahead with the village gateways, planter and road markings as quoted. Also, that the planter be painted in a reflective paint (quote to follow). Seconded Cllr Yarnold. All agreed.</p> <p>Weed treatment at the War Memorial – a quote had been received from New Farm Grounds Maintenance of £567.00 + vat. It was proposed by Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Wilkes to go ahead with the works as quoted. All agreed.</p>	£341.47	Clerks salary (net)	£46.05	Clerks expenses – phone & internet £16.35 / mileage £20.70	£329.55	Lengthsman salary Oct – Jan + training attended	£961.08	Foxley Tagg NP professional fees	£57.00	Eckington Village Hall hire fees Nov – Jan	£224.72	Paul Stanley Fencing – footpath gate post repairs	£384.00	Memory Lane Memorials cemetery & churchyard works	£55.00	Pace Print & Design Ltd community engagement surveys	£47.00	WDC garden waste bin annual charge (DD payment)	<p>Clerk to pay accounts as listed.</p> <p>Clerk to place orders as agreed.</p> <p>Clerk to place order as agreed.</p>
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<p>120</p>	<p><b>Correspondence Received:</b></p> <p>Four items of correspondence had been received as listed on the agenda and had also been discussed during Public Session at this meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that all responses should be individually and not combined in to a single response.</p> <p>RB2 (9/1/19) – Draft response as circulated. Agreed.</p> <p>RB3 (16/1/19) – Draft response as circulated. Agreed – para. 3 wording to be inserted re legal advice following tonight’s decision as below.</p> <p>The matter of seeking legal opinion regarding the Pershore Road overage payment was discussed and Cllr Glaze clarified matters regarding the document and the agreement therein. It was noted that it is dependent on the increase of the market value of the land and the planning application being in place. There needs to be a ‘commercial’ increase in value. It was also noted that any future PC can always consult with residents on future plans and usage of the land.</p> <p>Cllr Hughes raised the question of professional legal advice on the whole matter to give future clarity and comfort. Cllr Glaze stated that it would need very specific advice on very specific matters, therefore the PC would need to know what is to happen to the land and any future PC needs to be certain of any implications. There is a need to consider the financial impact on the PC versus any benefit to the village. There is a question as to whether the land would ever be used in such a way as to incur overage? The PC do know that a car park and cemetery extension are needed – should we ask advice on those things? It was noted that any decision on this should try not to affect the Neighbourhood Plan timeframe and Reg. 16. WDC can’t consider a planning application until the referendum is though.</p> <p>The matter was discussed of approaching a Solicitor for preliminary advice based on current information, and it was agreed that Cllr Hughes should approach some Solicitors on that basis and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>RB4 (4/2/19) – no draft response as yet and it was noted that it was mostly repetitive questions. The answer to the final question was made available to residents in the NP consultation (Reg.14). It was agreed that there should be a general response to say that these queries had already been addressed. Reg.14 was the opportunity to comment and Reg.16 is the next opportunity. The Neighbourhood Plan is not the PC’s responsibility so the final question cannot be fully answered. Reg. 16 becomes available when the plan is with WDC and will include a consultation report, Reg. 14 responses and any agreed changes made. The Plan is a ‘living’ document and</p>	<p>Cllr Hughes to seek preliminary legal advice as agreed. Next agenda – report.</p>
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	<p>changes are made following stakeholder responses – there will be a comparison to be made between Reg. 14 and 16.</p> <p>The queries regarding the allocation of affordable homes and the parish boundary were discussed and Cllr Hughes suggested that both need to be made clear in response to RB4.</p> <p>It was agreed by all that Cllr Glaze should draft a response to RB4 and circulate for approval so it could be sent between meetings.</p>	<p>Cllr Glaze to draft a response to RB4 and circ. for approval.</p>
121	<p><b>Lengthsman Scheme</b></p> <p>It was noted that so far, the work was going well, and improvements were being noticed around the parish.</p> <p>Some letters had been sent out by the Clerk asking for hedge cutting to take place before birds nesting season.</p> <p>The corner of New Road needs cutting back due to Mistletoe and Conifer – Clerk to report.</p>	<p>Clerk to notify L'man of tasks.</p>
122	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>Cllr Glaze reported that work continues to consider Reg. 14 responses made. This includes Steering Group meetings, discussions with WDC and with the Planning Consultant. The Steering Group intend to submit the plan for Reg. 16 consultation by the end of the month. Thereafter the timetable is governed by legislative milestones, but it is anticipated that if recommended by the independent examiner, that the referendum will take place in June/July 2019.</p>	
123	<p><b>New Homes Bonus</b></p> <p>Cllr Glaze has updated WDC with potential projects (Jarvis St land and Village Hall roof) following receipt of the WDC letter of 4/1/19 concerning uncommitted NHB funds. No formal applications for funds received for consideration. (Village Hall minute reference to the water fountain noted.) Available Eckington funds remain at £24633.00 and funds earmarked re potential projects.</p>	
124	<p><b>Highways Matters</b></p> <p>Hanford Drive/ Tewkesbury Rd speed concerns – see minute ref. 119 re decision made.</p> <p>Glenmoor footway weed concerns – a meeting with Highways has confirmed that this will be placed on the weed spraying programme or the Lengthsman can do it if trained and equipment provided. It was agreed that Lengthsman options should be costed up via Highways.</p> <p>Nafford Rd 30mph limit – see minute ref. 117 re decision made.</p>	<p>Clerk to cost up L'man options.</p>

	Hacketts Lane speed concerns – a letter from a resident had been received. Highways have agreed to look at options for road markings and will repair the sign.	
125	<p><b>Parish Matters</b></p> <p><b>Bus services</b> – Cllr Ransted had circulated a report to say the subject is to be discussed by WCC at the Cabinet budget debate on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The Hopper is likely to be funded in its current format for another 6 months until the future is decided by WCC. Further routes cannot be discussed with the Vale Transport Group by WCC currently, but the group are chasing up the Hopper route to replace the existing one. First have not been asked to bid for any Hopper routes currently and the 54 is not being very well used in terms of running costs incurred.</p> <p><b>Rural Communities Programme</b> – Cllr Hughes had circulated a group progress report and it was noted that the next meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Watch &amp; Community Speed Watch</b> – Cllr Ransted had circulated a report. The NW street signs are now available – to be acquired at a cost to the PC and may also need Smartwater as well.</p> <p>CSW participated in the Police National Speed Watch Campaign between 14/1 – 27/1 and some drivers reported. Membership numbers are still a concern and recruitment needed urgently.</p> <p><b>First Aid / Defibrillator training</b> – Clerk to circulate options and costs for both.</p>	<p>Cllr Ransted to send CSW info to the Clerk for Facebook recruitment.</p> <p>Clerk to circ First Aid / Defib. training options.</p>
126	<p><b>Councillor Reports &amp; Items for Future Agendas</b></p> <p>Cllr Wilkes – North House listed building application has been submitted – an assessment and report will follow. Not a fast track application.</p>	
127	<p><b>Correspondence for Circulation</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
	<p><b>There being no further business the meeting closed at 10 pm</b></p> <p><b>Date of next meeting – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall</b></p>	