

Tuesday 13th November 2012 – There was no attendance at the Open Public Forum.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th November 2012

159/12 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Glaze, Wood, Smith, Forrest, Bainbridge and Wilkes.

160/12 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Ransted and Cameron. They were duly accepted by the Meeting.

161/12 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Glaze declared an interest in the Village Hall.

The Councillors were informed of their need to fill in ‘Dispensation Forms’ (necessary due to changes in the Code of Conduct), before discussing the Budget and Precept for 2013/14.

162/12 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 09th October 2012 – Following two minor amendments, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 09th October were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Glaze, this was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

163/12 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis reported the following:

- WDC aim to make more savings to their budget over the next 2 years;
- Council tax has again been frozen by the Government;
- Health plans for the County are still currently under review;
- The new Police Crime Panel is due to be finalized next April.

Cllr Hardman was unable to attend the Meeting but sent a report. The following were the main items covered in the report:

- School funding – Cllr Hardman wished to clarify this matter, as there has recently been considerable press coverage regarding this issue. No School will lose more than 1.4% of its current budget or will gain more than 0.7%. The Government have promised a review of this matter in early 2013;
- Learning Disability Reform – Due to this matter being mis-reported in the local press, Councillor Hardman wished to inform the Meeting that the current cost of learning disabilities is not £11million but is actually £34million, and has risen by £11million over the past 4 years. Worcestershire CC is currently investing in some very high care costs packages to support people in their own homes;
- Maintenance works have begun at the Eckington Bridge picnic site and car park. It is not anticipated that further works to the bridge will take during next summer;
- County Council Budget – This remains challenging, however is currently on track.

164/12 Progress Reports – Clerk:

- It was confirmed that the specific drainage works at Nafford Road (required by WDC), have now been carried out to a satisfactory standard;
- The Meeting discussed whether an extra cut at the Cemetery and Graveyard would be required. It was agreed that Cllr Wilkes would investigate the matter and report back to the Clerk. A proposal was therefore made by Cllr Glaze and seconded by Cllr Smith that an extra cut be undertaken, should there be a need for it;
- It was reported that the road mirror requested for Hacketts Lane had now been purchased and installed by the PC;

- The Meeting was informed that the Clerk had instructed the contractor with the lowest quote to undertake the Cemetery maintenance work (re-siting of two headstones), and that the work had now been satisfactorily carried out.

Village Hall – Cllr Bainbridge reported the following:

- Quotes are now being received for external wall insulation;
- The new staging has been delivered and will shortly be installed;
- It has been agreed that a commemorative plaque relating to casualties from both World Wars, will be erected;
- Decoration of the hall is planned for December;

The anticipated rise in ‘performing nights’ fee’ was discussed. Further clarification on this matter would be sought.

It was also reported that the Village hall Committee wish to discuss anticipated funding from the New Homes Bonus Monies, with the PC representatives. Cllr Glaze agreed to pursue this.

Recreation Hall – Cllr Wood attended the recent meeting. It was reported that the meeting discussed the proposal to enlarge the current paving area and, although various suggestions had been put forward, the matter was yet to be decided upon.

Footpaths – The Meeting was informed that the issue concerning the field at Oatsley Lane (which had been recently ploughed, but no through path reinstated) was still ongoing. It was reported, however, that the farm manager had now agreed to reinstate the path.

The Meeting requested that the Clerk chase a response to comments sent by the PC to WCC, relating to the application to add footpaths to the definitive map and statement in the Parish of Eckington.

165/12 – 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 09th October 2012:

Planning Approvals

W/12/01896/PP 2 Jasmine Cottage, Station Road – Single storey extension to the rear/side of the property forming a new utility room and wc. New windows to the side of the existing property.

W/12/01812/PN & 01813/LB White House, Church Street – Change of use of stables to one dwelling, including two storey rear extension and resiting of garage to the stables. Inclusion of additional land. Revision to applications ref: W/10/02313/PN & 02314/LB.

Planning Applications to be discussed:

W/12/02083/PP Riverdene, Pershore Road – Two storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling to form annexe. – objection.

W/12/02282/PN Eckington Fields Farm, Hollands Road – Demolition of existing agricultural cottages and replacement with 2 semi detached residential dwellings – comments sent.

Cllr Williamson gave a brief report on the meeting held at WDC with the planning department. The main topics discussed were; how planning decisions are made, who makes them and when applications go to delegated powers.

Points to note:

- A re-submitted planning application should always be treated as a new application, it may therefore be the case that comments already made will need to be repeated;
- Seek advice from WDC on any controversial or different applications, as a site meeting with planners may be required before the deadline for comments, ensuring that more informed and detailed comments can be sent.

It was therefore agreed that all Cllr Bainbridge should look at plans before the PC Meeting to ensure that the Meeting clearly understands the application and are better prepared to discuss during the Meeting. This will be reviewed early next year.

166/12 – Highway Matters –

The Clerk reported the following drainage matters:

Nafford Road – matter ongoing. Clerk to speak with Highways again;

Hacketts Lane – matter ongoing. Clerk to speak with Highways again;

Jarvis Street – new gully and some carriage way re-shaping required, scheduled for late January 2013;

Mill Lane – matter passed to Land Drainage Officer to enforce clearance of ditch with landowner.

Grass verge cutting – Following information from Cllr Hardman regarding verge cutting within the village, it was agreed that the Clerk would speak to the Contractors in order to obtain a list of the verges cut and the costings, should the PC require an extra cut throughout the year.

Speeding issues – It was reported that Highways advise that the use of rumble strips along Pershore Road would not be suitable. Rumble strips are used on roads where high speeds can be reached before a specific location (e.g long straight roads), this is not the case on Pershore Road. Also noise emanating from the strips is significant and would cause concern to local residents.

The Meeting discussed and agreed the offer from Highways to undertake a second speed survey within the village, which would show what effect the vehicle activated speed sign may have had during the last 6 months. Following this, additional suitable measures to curb speed can be discussed.

Grit bin – The Meeting discussed and agreed to purchase an additional grit bin to be situated on Hammock Road. This was proposed by Cllr Wilkes and seconded by Cllr Wood. It was also agreed grit supplies in the village should be checked.

The Meeting agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Worcestershire Highways for their prompt response in repairing broken paving at the War Memorial.

167/12 – Burial Fees – The Meeting discussed and agreed the proposed increase in burial fees. A proposal was therefore made by Cllr Bainbridge and seconded by Cllr Smith. The new fees will come into effect from January 2013.

168/12 – Cala Homes & Section 106 Funding - The Meeting was informed that the site meeting planned between Wychavon DC and the Section 106 Funding Committee (in order to discuss a recent proposal), had been cancelled due to illness. The Meeting was informed that the site meeting would be re-scheduled.

169/12 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – The Meeting was informed that some of the money requested from local groups had now been distributed. It was anticipated that the remainder of the funds will be paid to the groups allocated within the next few weeks.

170/12 – Finance – Cllr Forrest proposed and was seconded by Cllr Wilkes that the following payments should be approved:

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| Clerk's salary | £318.46 |
| Admin expenses & mileage | £30.01 |
| Lengthsman salary | £167.80 |
| Andrew Binns (fencing, allotments) | £48.00 |
| Simply Stone | £144.00 |
| Village hall hire | £24.00 |

Payments Already Made:

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| New Farm Grounds Maintenance | £359.64 |
| Wychavon Sport | £69.00 |
| L. Gerber (reimbursement of safety mirror purchase) | £115.20 |
| Eckington Junior Football Club | £2500.00 |

172/12 – Correspondence for Information – The Meeting noted the file of correspondence available for inspection.

173/12 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

- The Meeting agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr C Chapman for arranging the Parish Games this year;
- A request was made to for the Clerk to speak with CALC to arrange whole Parish Council training, covering specific topics request by the PC;
- The Meeting agreed that the Clerk would check availability at the Recreation Centre for the next meeting (this being due to lack of space because of new staging in the committee room).

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11th December 2012.

The meeting was closed at 09.35pm.