

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 – County Councillor Hardman and Mr John Frasier from Worcestershire Highways attended the Parish Council Meeting, in order to discuss data recorded from the recent speed survey undertaken in the village, and to propose any possible extra measures which may be put in place in an attempt to alleviate the speeding issue within the village.

Several options were discussed, many of which would not be permissible in Eckington due to the lack of street lighting. It was, however, agreed that Highways would undertake an assessment along the main road, which would then be reported back to the Parish Council with any recommendations of measures which could potentially be put in place.

It was also agreed that a request for speed enforcement through the village would be raised at the next PACT meeting.

Mr C Reynard from Birlingham Parish Council also attended the Meeting, as he wished to listen to any issues which Eckington have in relation to speeding within the village.

The Meeting also discussed adding a further location to the VAS sign. This would be further investigated.

A request was made for Highways to replace the sunken iron covers along the B4080. It was agreed this would be undertaken.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

82/13 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Forrest, Wood, Smith and Glaze. The Meeting discussed whether they had a quorum. It was agreed that the Meeting was quorate, as this should be one third of the whole Parish Council.

83/13 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Bainbridge, Wilkes and Cameron. The Apologies were duly accepted by the Meeting. (Apologies also received from Cllr Ransted).

84/13 Declarations of Interest – No declarations were received.

85/13 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Glaze, this was seconded by Cllr Smith. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

86/13 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis reported on the following issues:

- The Meeting was informed that Mr Gary O'Donnell has been appointed as the new WDC Chairman;
- Funding is currently available for sport activation projects within the District. Cllr Davis requested that the PC pass this information on to any parties within the village, who may be interested;
- WDC budget decreasing each year. Currently under discussion – whether Revenue & Benefits should be outsourced, thus saving a large amount of revenue each year.

87/13 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk – Confirmation received that one of the current drainage issues at Mill Lane, has now been successfully resolved.

Village Hall – It was reported that following a first attempt at completing the documentation required for the Big Lottery Fund, a second more detailed one was now being carried out. It is anticipated it will be at least 12 months before any funding will be received.

PACT – It was agreed that speed enforcement within the village be requested.

CALC – In Cllr Cameron’s absence a report on the latest meeting was received by the Clerk, the following were the main points:

- The speaker was the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner – he went through the 11 priorities of the Police plan, includes improving Neighbourhood Watch and communication, intend to reduce to 11 hubs over 3 Counties. Also discussed was funding available for disaffected youth, vulnerable people etc.
- New Chair and Vice Chair elected. Appointments were also made to various bodies.
- New CALC website now live.

88/13 – 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 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013:

### **Planning Approvals**

W/13/00708/PP Laburnum Cottage, Station Road – A kitchen and conservatory to the side of the property.

W/13/00689/PN Holy Trinity Church, Church Street – New landscaping to the west end of the Church, to include new Yorkshire paving and steps, new tarmac path, new stone edging and blacksmith made archway, lantern and handrails.

W/13/00671/PP 6 Russell Drive – Single storey extensions to dwelling.

W/13/00368/PP 3 Ninesquares – First floor extension to front elevation.

W/1300658/AC Eckington Fields Farm, Hollands Road – New vehicular access route proposed to main Eckington Fields Farmhouse.

### **Planning Applications to be discussed:**

W/13/01021/PP The Levens, Drakesbridge Road – Garage conversion to provide hobbies room and loft conversion to provide bedroom and en suite – no objection.

The Meeting discussed the latest letter from WDC regarding application W/12/02083. It was agreed that although the response was still unsatisfactory, there seemed nothing further to be gained by further correspondence with the Planning Department.

89/13 – Highway Matters –

Grass verge cutting – Information regarding funding awarded to the PC for urban grass cutting - still awaited.

The Meeting noted grass cutting undertaken by WCC this week, in readiness for the Village Open Gardens. The Clerk to pass on thanks to Highways for their prompt response relating to this matter.

90/13 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing to report at present.

91/13 – New Homes Bonus Meeting - The following was reported to the Meeting:

- A request for suggestions for use of further funding has now been made in the Parish Magazine;
- More information now received regarding purchasing a Parish Defibrillator. It was therefore agreed that a new, more modern Defib. would be of greater benefit to the Parish

and that if the one previously owned by the PC was located by the VOECFR, the PC would look only at a re-sale value.

92/13 – Clerk’s Appraisal- The Clerk left the room while the Meeting discussed and agreed the recent review (carried out by the Chair and Vice Chair) and recommendation for salary scale increase.

Following investigation into the matter, holiday pay would now also be awarded to the Clerk and added to the monthly salary. Both would be backdated to April.

93/13 – Dispensation – The Meeting discussed whether a block Dispensation could be granted, which would enable the whole Parish Council to discuss all matters within PC meetings (dispensation now required by the new Code of Conduct). It was agreed the Clerk would seek advice from CALC and report back to the Meeting.

94/13 – Standing Orders – Due to the fact that updated Standing Orders were expected towards the end of the year, it was agreed that the PC would continue with the current SO’s until then, however the Code of Conduct in practice (issued by CALC) would be added.

95/13 – Rural Rate Relief – The Meeting discussed the application for rural rate relief, received from Eckington General Store. A proposal was made by Cllr Glaze and seconded by Cllr Wood that it would be reasonable to grant relief, in view of the fact that the business serves the local community. The Meeting was unanimous in its agreement.

96/13 – Finance – Cllr Forrest proposed and was seconded by Cllr Wood that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk’s salary	£372.20
Admin expenses & mileage	£30.97
Lengthsman salary	£148.00
Village hall hire	£15.00
L. Gerber (reimbursement BT phone line)	£74.68
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£359.64
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£367.20
WDC (Rural Rate Relief)	£120.69

The Meeting inspected and approved the accounts for year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. The Chair then signed the accounting statement in readiness for inspection by the external auditor.

97/13 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

98/13 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

- Cllr Smith reported on his meeting/walkabout with Rooftop and Glenmoor residents. The purpose was to raise and discuss any issues, following which a report would be made to residents indicating any maintenance measures to be carried out by Rooftop. It was requested that the Clerk speak with Rooftop, to ensure that a copy of the report is also sent to the PC.
- The Meeting agreed to a request by Mr D Godwin for two members of the Parish Council to meet with himself and Network Rail, in order to discuss the on-going issue of rubbish accumulating under the railway bridge. Cllrs. Glaze and Smith would attend.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> July 2013, in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 09.30pm.