

Tuesday 10th December 2013 – One resident attended the Open Public Forum.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th December 2013

163/13 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Wood, Smith, Bainbridge, Cameron, Ransted, Wilkes and Glaze.

164/13 Apologies – No apologies were received.

165/13 Declarations of Interest – No Declarations were received.

166/13 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2013 – Following two minor amendments, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th November were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Glaze, this was seconded by Cllr Wilkes. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

167/13 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis reported that:

- A reduction of services including, waste recycling, road sweeping and public toilet attendance will take place during the next 4 years, in an effort to further reduce costs;
- Health & Wellbeing Board – One of the changes currently being considered is whether there is a particular need for District Councillors to be included on the Board;
- NHB Funding – Cllr Davis confirmed his support for the recent applications for funding made by the PC to WDC. It was also confirmed that the Government have agreed that the funding will not be top-sliced (as previously considered) but will be passed in its entirety to the District Council.

168/13 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk -

- Planning enforcement issue (Clennage House, Nafford Road) – The Clerk confirmed that following a site visit by WDC to the property, the current building works taking place have been inspected and it has been concluded that no breach of planning has taken place;
- Lengthsman works – The Meeting discussed a request made by the Lengthsman to remove drain covers within the village in order to clear blockages which have occurred. It was agreed that this could present a health and safety issue and all future blockages should be reported to the Clerk, who would then inform Highways.

Village Hall –

- As requested, re-drawn plans regarding building works at the Village Hall, including only some of the proposals (carrying out the remainder of the works in a second phase, at a later date) had now been received from the architect. However due to pricing concerns, it was agreed that the decision whether to use the current architect would be considered at the next meeting;
- Additional funds have been raised from a recent jumble sale.

Footpaths –

Modification Order (Hammock Lane, The Piecing) – It was reported that although there is currently no change regarding this issue, it is anticipated that all the relevant information collated is due to be issued to the Inspector for consideration by the end of January (the Inspector will then

have 6 months in which to consider the matter). The Meeting requested that the Clerk contact Cllr Hardman for an update on this matter.

BHCG –

- It was reported that the Group had raised concern regarding silage dumping in the vicinity of Bredon Hill;
- Cllr Ransted confirmed the BHCG's objection to the planning application for 107 new houses in Bredon.

CALC – Cllr Cameron gave a brief summary of the latest meeting. Topics covered included the Health & Wellbeing Board and the likelihood of cuts to current grants for Market Town Partnerships.

The Meeting agreed that future CALC meetings would only be attended, if there were topics on the Agenda of particular interest to the Parish Council.

169/13 – **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 12th November 2013:

Applications Already Discussed:

W/13/02275/PN Eckington Fields Farm, Hollands Road – Erection of 2 semi detached dwellings and erection of garage block – amendment to scheme approved under application 12/02282 – No objection.

Applications to be Discussed:

W/13/02295/OU Clennage, Nafford Road – Outline application for 2 detached dwellings with associated access and gardens – It was agreed that a decision would not be made on the Application until Cllr Bainbridge had made a more detailed inspection of the plans. Following which, a collective decision would be made by the PC (via e-mail) in readiness to be sent to WDC.

170/13 **Precept 2014/2015**

The Meeting considered the draft budget for 2014/15. It was acknowledged that a final budget could not be agreed until WDC have confirmed the Tax Base for the next financial year. Therefore a proposal was made by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Ransted that the Meeting would accept the budget as a draft, until the tax base was received early next year.

171/13 – **Highway Matters** – The following issues were brought to the attention of the Meeting:

- B4080 (clearing of grips) – It was confirmed that the requested works have now taken place;
- Maintenance work on footpaths at Station Road and the addition of yellow lines at Post Office/War Memorial – The Clerk informed the Meeting that a request had been made to Cllr Hardman regarding an update in these matters;
- Build up of silt in drain at Manor Road – It was confirmed that the clearance works have now been carried out.
- Loose/sunken drain covers on B4080 (believed to be Severn Trent), causing loud noise when driven over – The matter has now been reported to Highways, who had confirmed an annual inspection of this area is due within the next two weeks, where any defects found will be reported. The Clerk will continue to pursue the matter.
- Drainage issue at Jarvis Street/Cherry Hey Cottage – The issue has been reported and is currently being investigated by Highways.

Matters to be reported for investigation:

- Church Street – Blocked gully;
- New Road/Pass Street – water leak.

172/13 – Section 106 Funding – It was reported that the Recreation Committee have now approved the amended drawings provided by Bellinger Design. It was anticipated that works would commence May/June 2014.

173/13 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – The Meeting was informed that the proposals for The Cricket Club and the purchase of a Village Defibrillator had now been received by WDC. Approval was still awaited.

174/13 – Bus Services Review 2013 – The PC discussed the proposal laid out in the Review, which would withdraw the current weekend evening service. It was agreed, that in light of the fact that a very small percentage of residents use the service, the PC would be unable to object to this proposal.

175/13 – Subscriptions 2014/15 – Following a discussion regarding the usefulness of current PC subscriptions, a proposal was made by Cllr Ransted and seconded by Cllr Glaze that subs for CPRE would be withdrawn. All other subscriptions would remain unchanged.

176/13 – Village Hall – The Meeting discussed the request made by the Village Hall for the Parish Council to become a trustee of the Hall. It was agreed that before this matter could be considered by the Parish Council, not only would legal advice have to be sought, but the Constitution would also need to be viewed. It was also agreed that a presentation by the Village Hall highlighting the reason for this request would be helpful.

177/13 – Finance – Cllr Cameron proposed and was seconded by Cllr Glaze that the following payments should be approved:

Payments already Made:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	£51.00
Simply Stone	£72.00

Payments to be Made:

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£41.62
Lengthsman salary	£170.10
Village hall hire	£64.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£906.00
Louise Gerber (reimbursement of BT phone bill)	£81.17
Sue Williamson (Chairman's allowance)	£26.45
Eckington Recreation Centre	£676.00

It was also agreed that all areas within the Churchyard in need of grass seed should be added to the maintenance works for New Farm Grounds Works. The works are due to be carried out next Spring.

178/13 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

179/13 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

- The Close – A request was made for the Parish Lengthsman to clear the leaves which had accumulated in this area.
- The Meeting was informed that Eckington won the Parish Games for 2013 for a second year running. The PC was grateful to Mr C. Chapman for his organization again in this matter and agreed that next year a donation from the Parish Council towards food costs incurred at the prize giving ceremony, would be considered.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th January 2014, in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.25pm.