

Tuesday 01st April 2014 – There was no attendance at the Open Public Forum.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 01<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

46/14 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Glaze, Cameron, Forrest, Wood, Bainbridge, Cameron, Ransted and Wilkes.

47/14 Apologies – Apologies were received from District Cllr Davies.

48/14 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Bainbridge declared an interest in Item 11 of the Agenda.

49/14 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Ransted, this was seconded by Cllr Wilkes. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

50/14 District & County Councillor Reports –

Cllr Davis sent a short report which included the following:

WDC have provided the following services/benefits to Eckington: Awarded community grants; allocated NHB money over six years; supported the delivery of affordable homes; carried out safety visits; supported art workshops with Eckington First School and supported shindig rural arts performances.

51/14 Progress Reports – The Clerk reported the following:

- The Meeting discussed the request made by a resident for two dog waste bins to be provided at the Wharf car park and Strensham Locke. The Meeting agreed that the Clerk would investigate the matter further.
- The Meeting noted the invitation to the local health and social care debate event.
- The Meeting discussed the report received from The Safer Roads Partnership regarding data collected over 6 months. It was agreed that the use of speed enforcement has been effective and the additional speed survey planned for the Summer, was fully supported by the PC.

Village Hall – It was reported that the Committee is currently looking for a new Secretary and possibly a new Chair. A short discussion took place regarding the need for younger members of the community to join the committee, ensuring that the Village Hall continues to be an important communal area for the village in future years.

Recreation Centre – The Meeting was informed that following the receipt of four tender applications, a contractor had now been appointed for the works. It was confirmed that the equipment has been ordered and works are due to start during the next couple of weeks.

Footpaths – The Meeting discussed the missing gates along the riverside walk. It was reported that (due to the fact that there is no cattle in the fields), Public Rights of Way agreed that replacement of gates is not necessary at present.

BHCG – The Meeting noted the possible development of 104 care homes/apartments in Beckford.

PACT – Nothing to report (due to the last meeting being postponed).

52/14 – 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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014:

### **Applications to be Discussed:**

W/14/00602/ St Catherines Farm, Woollas Hill – 3 car garage (stone/tiled roof & single storey) on site of old barn – No Objection - comments sent.

**Approvals:**

W/14/00104CU Nafford Bank Farm, Nafford Road – Conversion of barns to form 1 dwelling unit, stables & office accommodation (amendment).

The Meeting noted the comments sent (in a recent letter to the PC), received from the new Planning Compliance Officer at WDC.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cala Homes requesting an update in relation to their proposed planning application within the village.

The Meeting discussed the importance of ensuring comments relating to highway issues are taken into account when planning applications are considered. It was therefore agreed that, in the future, any comments relating to highways would be forwarded directly to Worcestershire Highways Department. It was also agreed that Cllr Wilkes would draft a letter to WDC regarding this issue.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to WDC requesting information in relation to the decision making process of planning applications (in particular the reasons for applications going to Committee).

53/14 – Highway Matters – Cllr Wilkes informed the Meeting that the following matters had been raised with Highways during their recent site visit:

- Flooding in Jarvis Street;
- Completion of drainage works on Nafford Road;
- Over-running of verges on flood diversion route;
- Overhanging vegetation in Boon Street;
- Marker posts in Mill Lane;
- Station Road footway resurfacing;
- Double yellow lines at The Cross;
- Kerbing at The Lenches;
- Drainage in Hacketts Lane.

It was agreed that the Clerk should continue to pursue the above matters with the Highway Department.

The Meeting requested that the Clerk report potholes on Jarvis Street and Pershore Road (at the bridge).

The Meeting was informed that fly tipping at the Wharf has been reported to WCC.

54/14 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing to report.

55/14 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – Nothing to report.

56/14 – Cemetery – The Meeting discussed and agreed to the request by R. Hill Funeral Directors for a meeting to consider updating the Cemetery plans. Clerk to arrange the meeting.

57/14 – Recreation Ground – The Meeting considered the letter received from Eckington Cricket Club requesting copies of legal documents relating to the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the Clerk would send copies of relevant documents to the Cricket Club.

58/14 – SWDP – The Meeting discussed whether the Parish Council should respond to the SWDP’s ‘call for sites for housing’. It was agreed that, due to the fact that Councillors were not aware of any suitable sites within the village, a response would not be made.

59/14 – Parish Council Electronic Payments – The Meeting discussed whether it would be beneficial to take advantage of the recent changes issued regarding the use of electronic payments. It was agreed, however, that the current banking arrangements remained suitable for the Parish Council’s needs.

60/14 – Parish Lengthsman – The Meeting discussed the annual appraisal to be undertaken by the Chair and Clerk. A proposal was made by Cllr Bainbridge and seconded by Cllr Wilkes that an increase in the hourly rate would be awarded.

61/14 – Cala Homes – Nothing to report.

62/14 – Finance – Cllr Forrest proposed and was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk’s salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£23.77
Lengthsman salary	£148.00
PAYE	£51.00
Adrian Ball (reimbursement for NHB monies cricket equipment)	£761.15
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£507.12
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£140.40
WDC (Rural Rate Relief)	£123.51

The Meeting discussed the application received from Mr John Boughton for Rural Rate Relief (relating to the village store). It was agreed that the business is of benefit to the local community and it is reasonable for the parish to support it financially. A proposal was therefore made by Cllr Cameron and was seconded by Cllr Forrest.

63/14 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

64/14 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

Cllrs Glaze and Smith attended the recent Localism Event held at WDC, the main points were as follows:

- Up to date NHB information was given, currently they are awaiting the new protocol (this will be circulated to Parishes, when available).  
Parishes were informed that, in some circumstances, there may be an opportunity to borrow money against future years’ money allocations (if there is a specific project in mind);
- A reminder was issued to Parishes to register any community assets, should a PC wish to purchase them;
- The event also reported on the changing role of Parish Councillors and the importance of encouraging local people to stand for election. It was agreed this would be further discussed in the Autumn.

The Meeting also discussed whether there was a need for another housing survey to be undertaken within the locality. It was agreed this would be added to the June Agenda for discussion.

Cllr Ransted informed the Meeting he would pass on information to the Church regarding the District Youth Bus.

The Meeting was informed that the war memorial plaque has now been erected at the entrance to the Cemetery.

The Meeting briefly discussed and agreed that more information should be sought regarding the new lengthsman initiative (to be operated by Worcestershire County Council). It was agreed that the Clerk would further investigate the matter.

It was agreed that an advert would be placed in the Parish Magazine, notice board and village shop advertising the one and a half allotment plots currently available.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting. This will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.35pm.