

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – 5 residents attended the Open Public Forum.

Mrs P Rudd informed the Meeting that (as the applicant in the application to add footpaths EK-522 & EK-523, Hammock Lane/The Piecing) she had received correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate requesting her opinion on whether the opposed Order should be considered by written representation, rather than at a public enquiry. Mrs Rudd felt that as the application had been made on behalf of the village, she should seek the advice of the Parish Council.

Mr Langdon also spoke of his frustration that other residents who had also been involved in this matter had not been consulted. He also raised concern regarding transparency and the way in which this matter had been handled by WCC.

Cllr Glaze informed the residents that these were two separate matters and encouraged Mr Langdon, along with Mr Clayton (who was also in agreement), to collate their concerns and pass them on to the Parish Council (if they wished the PC to write to WCC on behalf of the residents).

Mrs Rudd was concerned that if a public enquiry were to take place, the matter may become more protracted and was therefore inclined to agree to a written representation.

Mr Martin informed the Parish Council that he had been pleased to note that further comments from the PC had been made to WDC in relation to planning applications 14/01617 & 01794, Manor Farm (as a result of discussions at the last PC meeting). Mr Martin was, however, still extremely concerned about this application and raised the following points:

- Why had WDC not been in contact with the PC in relation to the concerns raised in their letter?
- What further steps does the PC intend to take with WDC in relation to this issue?
- In his view, the application is flawed as there is vital missing information required in order to make a fully informed decision regarding the application.

The PC was also informed that although a meeting to discuss this application with WDC had been requested by the residents, WDC had declined.

Cllr Glaze informed Mr Martin that the matter would be fully discussed during the Parish Council meeting, following which the minutes would be available to view via the Parish Council notice board.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

162/14 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Wood, Bainbridge, Smith, Forrest, Glaze, Wilkes and Ransted.

163/14 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Cameron. The Meeting unanimously accepted the apologies.

164/14 Declarations of Interest – None received.

165/14 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Wilkes, this was seconded by Cllr Williamson. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

166/14 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis briefly discuss the Manor Farm/Cookery School application, but said that WDC were still awaiting Highways report and that no decision regarding whether the matter would go to planning had yet been made.

The following matters were reported:

- WDC's budget has included a 2% staff increase (as no increase has been made in recent years);
- All the recent cuts which have been made at WDC are now beginning to create a reserve;
- The planning application for a solar farm at Defford has now been approved.

Cllr Davis informed the meeting that as yet, no formal site meeting had taken place at the proposed Cala Homes site (rear of Roman Meadow).

167/14 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk: The following was reported:

- Second speed survey – it was reported that although a second survey had been carried out in October, a fault had occurred resulting in inaccurate readings. A third survey would therefore be carried out, following which a decision will be made regarding whether enforcement will continue or whether a community speed watch program could be considered.
- A request had been received for planning applications and decisions of applications to be left on the notice board for a longer period of time. It was agreed that, if space allows, the applications will be left on the board for a couple of extra weeks.

Police Report:

- Two crimes were reported; 8/10 - damage to phone lines and 22/10 theft from a caravan.

Village Hall: It was reported that:

- A new secretary has now been appointed;
- Repairs to the roof have recently been completed;
- Recent jumble sale has again produced good funds;
- The planning application in respect of alterations has now been made to WDC;
- A new baby changing station has been bought. It was queried whether the Village Hall could be reimbursed with money from NHB funding. It was agreed that this would not be possible as the funding could only be used for items not yet purchased.

BHCG – It was reported that in relation to SWDP, the housing bank for Worcestershire is now sufficient for the requirements.

168/14 – 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 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014:

W/14/01862 Church Cottages, Church Street – New 3 bed house. Alterations to annex to provide guest accommodation. Changes to front of property and to access and parking – initial objections sent, following requested changes – no objection.

W/14/02130/OU The Cottage, Upper End – Outline application for a new timber framed dwelling & reform existing driveway – no objection.

W/14/01617/CU & W/14/01794/LB Manor Farm & Lower End House, Manor Rd – Change of use of Eckington Manor to host wedding receptions/other functions – Objections sent.

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

W/14/02281/PP Fernbank, Station Road – Single storey rear extension – No objection.

W/14/02130/OU The Cottage, Upper End – Outline application for a new timber framed dwelling & reform existing driveway (further information received) – No objection.

The Meeting discussed the points raised in the Open Public Forum regarding planning applications 01617 & 01794 and the recent site visit carried out by some members of the PC. It was agreed that:

- When the Parish Council raise objections to planning applications, it is not normal practice for WDC to reply by letter to the Parish Council. The planning portal is merely a means by which any interested party can send in objections/approvals regarding a particular application.
- The Meeting was in agreement that the application does lack detail and misses important information, particularly regarding the issue of the provision of car parking spaces. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would seek to arrange a meeting with the Planning Officer, in order to discuss the concerns regarding this application.

169/14 – Highways – The following was reported

- Loose BT cover on New Road/Jarvis Street – now rectified;
- Re-surfacing of Station Road (footways) – The Meeting discussed this on-going matter and agreed that further attempts should be made to request that WCC carry out the necessary maintenance work (before the on-set of worsening weather conditions). It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the matter again with County Councillor Hardman and also report the issue to Highways.

170/14 – Neighbourhood Plan – Ongoing, nothing to report.

171/14 – Grass Cutting – It was reported that WCC had still not produced an area plan or Parish Council funding rate, due to the fact that they were awaiting information from other PC's. It was agreed that the area plan was necessary in order that the PC can proceed in obtaining quotes for grass cutting during the next season. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would make a further request to obtain the plan, in particular, at this stage.

The Meeting also discussed the contract for grass cutting at the Cemetery and Churchyard, as the three year contract will cease in February. Cllr Wilkes agreed to prepare the contract and documents required for the tender process.

172/14 – Section 106 Funding – Ongoing.

173/14 – New Homes Bonus - It was reported that the Localism Panel are due to meet at the end of the month, when it is hoped further information regarding the Village Hall application will be available.

174/14 – Cala Homes – A report was received regarding the recent site visit with Cala Homes.

Main topics discussed were as follows:

- Density – PC sought to reduce the planned 26 dwellings, particularly along the western boundary. The principal was widely resisted by Cala, however they undertook to consider removing 1 dwelling;
- Public Open Space – PC were concerned about designating the SUDS pond area as open public space. A request was made to create a pathway to the recreation ground. Cala agreed to consider the request;
- Parking – Cala claimed that the parking provision was almost twice that of Hanford Drive, after additional visitor parking spaces have been provided. As further provision would be at the cost of green space, it was agreed that the revisions had produced the best overall solution;

- Design Criteria – The PC stressed the importance of creating a rural feel to the development. Cala advised the various changes already made which incorporated various village design features. One, quality brick would be used throughout the development, rendering then painting could also be incorporated.

Cala emphasised that the above were merely proposals and subject to confirmation after discussion with their sales team and the land owner. A further planning application will be made in due course.

175/14 – Cemetery – It was reported that a request had been made to the contractor to reduce the quote received regarding clearance work along the left hand side of the Cemetery. Upon further consideration, however, it was agreed that the quote was reasonable and that once the Clerk had heard back from the contractor, the original quote (or cheaper quote if possible) should be accepted. This notion was proposed by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Bainbridge.

176/14 – Telephone Box – It was reported that the contract had now been signed with BT, and that the PC were now the legal owners of the telephone box.

As no suggestions for its use had been received from residents, it was agreed that (for the time being), it would be used as a notice board for all information/updates in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan.

177/14 – Burial Fees – The Meeting considered the proposed increase in burial fees and also compared them with fees in other local Parishes. The Meeting agreed that they were happy with the proposals and therefore a proposal to accept the increase was made by Cllr Bainbridge, and seconded Cllr Williamson.

Cllr Wilkes informed the Meeting that the Cemetery Survey was now complete and an updated file would shortly be available for use by the Clerk and the funeral directors.

178/14 – Finance – Cllr Forrest proposed and was seconded by Cllr Ransted that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£26.08
Lengthsman salary	£154.10
Village hall hire	£30.00
R. Hartland (hedgetrimming)	£120.00
RBL Poppy Appeal (wreath)	£30.00
Greenfields Garden Services Ltd (Sec.106)	£3332.38
D. Saunders (cemetery survey)	£600.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£324.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£179.82

179/14 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

180/14 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

- Request to Police & WCC enforcement regarding dangerous parking on yellow lines on Tewkesbury Road/Station Road – creating poor visibility when exiting Station Road.
- Cllr Glaze reported that he had attended the recent Parish Conference. Points of particular interest:

- (i) Quality Council Scheme is to be re-launched – CALC are keen for as many Parishes to join as possible;
- (ii) Local works gang – This could possibly be of use to the PC, in carrying out jobs not suitable for the Parish Lengthsman.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> December 2014, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 10.05pm.