

Tuesday 3rd December 2014 – There were no residents in attendance at the Open Public Forum.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th December 2014**

181/14 Present – Cllrs. Cameron, Wood, Smith, Forrest, Glaze, Wilkes and Ransted.

182/14 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Williamson and Bainbridge. The Meeting unanimously accepted the apologies.

183/14 Declarations of Interest – None received.

184/14 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Smith, this was seconded by Cllr Wilkes. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

185/14 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis sent the following short report:

- WDC budget strategy is now underway;
- Cllr Davis confirmed his support for the two recent NHB applications made by the Parish Council;
- Wychavon has recently been awarded 9 platinum awards for public toilets and an award for leisure parks and landscaping.

186/14 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Village Hall: It was reported that the NHB application made in relation to the village hall improvements, has now been approved by WDC.

Church & Bridge Trusts – A short discussion took place regarding the PC's involvement in the Trust. Cllr Wilkes gave a brief history of the Trust and the reason why it had been set up, and therefore the need for the PC to remain as a trustee.

CALC – The following was discussed at the recent AGM:

- A significant increase in subs will be required in 2015/16, due to the loss of the local authority grant;
- Changes to the forthcoming election were highlighted;
- Presentation made regarding flood alleviation. The Environmental Agency agreed to the request to investigate/give advice regarding a flood defence for the river bridge in Eckington.

187/14 – 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> November 2014:

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

W/14/02632/PN Land rear of Harvest House & adjacent to, Hawthorn House, Stony Furlong Lane – Construction of a new 5 bedroom property – Site meeting was agreed.

#### **Approvals:**

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

W/14/02152 Eckington Village Hall, School Lane – Demolition of existing element of building comprising stepped external and internal access – lobby & toilet accommodation. Construction of new level access entrance – lobby & toilet accommodation.

Application 01617 & 01794 (Manor Farm, Manor Road) – The Meeting was informed that following several discussions with WDC regarding a request to meet with the planning officer to discuss concerns regarding this application, WDC had declined (this would not be normal practice for them to discuss the matter with the Parish Council, whilst the outcome to the application was still pending). The Parish Council agreed, however, that they would still welcome the opportunity to meet with WDC in the near future to discuss this application, particularly the lack of vital information concerning this matter.

188/14 – Highways – The following was reported

- Tewkesbury Road, uneven surfaces (footways) – Matter reported to WCC, although no specific issues found – route is inspected on a monthly basis, any defects identified and addressed;
- Nafford Road – overgrown hedges and ditches in need of clearing – reported to WCC;
- Re-surfacing of Station Road (footways) – Cllr Hardman informed the Clerk that the resurfacing is not due to take place in the immediate future, although another inspection would be made, following which patching may be undertaken.
- 30mph speed sign, Pershore Road – Cllr Hardman confirmed that this could not be moved further into the village due to lack of density of housing along this stretch. It was agreed that the Clerk would again speak to Safer Roads Partnership regarding speeding data obtained and therefore the next step to take in order to pursue this matter;
- Maintenance work undertaken at New Road – Clerk to speak with Highways to request further maintenance, in order to complete the work;
- Jarvis Street/School Road (cones) – It was agreed that Cllr Ransted would speak to the Police regarding the long term plan for this area;
- Road markings within the village – It was agreed that an inspection would be made in the Spring to see whether any road markings would need to be carried out.

189/14 – Neighbourhood Plan – It was reported that the initial consultation period had now ended. WDC had received 5 non-contentious responses. WDC will prepare a report for the January or February Planning Committee meeting.

190/14 – Grass Cutting – It was reported that a grass cutting plan had now been received from WDC. Cllr Wilkes informed the Meeting that he would consider the maps/areas designated, in readiness for when a rate is received from WDC. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Bredon Parish regarding their grass cutting contract, with a view to adapting this for Eckington's use.

191/14 – Section 106 Funding – Ongoing.

192/14 – New Homes Bonus - It was reported that the Village Hall application has now been approved, although funding will not be available until April.

The Eckington Under Fives application for Forest School equipment has now been submitted to WDC.

193/14 – Cala Homes – It was reported that WDC have now granted an extension of time in relation to the application (land rear of Roman Meadow).

194/14 – Cemetery – The Clerk confirmed that the updated cemetery plan/records had now been received. It was also confirmed that the required maintenance work (along the left hand side of the cemetery), will now be carried out in January, at an agreed reduced price

195/14 – Finance – Cllr Cameron proposed and was seconded by Cllr Forrest that the following payments should be approved:

**Payments already made:**

Hughes & Co.	£10.00
The Bell	£100.00
L. Gerber (BT reimbursement)	£56.82

**Payments to be made:**

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£40.63
Lengthsman salary	£154.10
Village hall hire	£36.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£162.00
Nils Wilkes (cemetery plans printing costs)	£28.80

The Meeting considered the draft budget for 2015/16 and agreed that some increase in the precept would be necessary (due primarily to the production of the Neighbourhood Plan and expected election costs). It was agreed, however, that a final decision could not be made until the new tax base had been received from WDC. Following the receipt of the tax base, Cllr Glaze agreed that he would circulate the proposed figures, prior to the January meeting.

196/14 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

197/14 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

It was reported that problems had been encountered by several residents relating to bus waiting/journey times. It was agreed that passengers should be encouraged to write individually to the bus company, in order that they are made aware of these issues.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.