

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 – One resident attended the Open Public Forum, accompanied by Mr R Shakespeare (BT Contract Manager).

Mr Shakespeare gave a brief update in relation to broadband within the village. The main points were as follows:

- Blocked ducts have prevented the connection of the exchange to the spine. Work is currently taking place to clear the blockages.
- There are 4 cabinets connected to the Eckington exchange. With the exception of 1 cabinet (for which an alternative power routing is necessary), it is anticipated go-live should take place mid February.
- As soon as the service goes live, residents must request the service upgrade from their current provider.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th January 2015**

01/15 Present – Cllrs. Cameron, Williamson, Smith, Forrest, Glaze, Wilkes and Ransted.

02/15 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Wood and Bainbridge. The Meeting unanimously accepted the apologies.

03/15 Declarations of Interest – Declarations relating to planning application W/1402786 were received from Cllrs Cameron and Wilkes

04/15 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – Following a minor amendment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 09<sup>th</sup> December 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.

05/15 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis gave the following report:

- It is anticipated that council tax increases for 2015/16 should not be higher than 2%;
- WDC are now operating under a joint Chief Executive (with Malvern District) and are currently in a strong financial position;
- Notification of current WDC community grants given;
- Meeting informed of forthcoming community walkabout with local MP Harriet Baldwin (31<sup>st</sup> January)

The PC requested an update regarding planning application W/14/01617&01794.

Cllr Davis highlighted the ongoing issues (licensing of premises and Highways concerns), then informed the PC that a decision is expected by the end of the week.

It was queried why the decision would not be made at planning committee (as had been requested by some local residents). Cllr Davis noted public concern in relation to this matter, however, in his opinion, saw no reason for the matter to be brought before the planning committee.

06/15 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk:

- Parish Games AGM to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Colin Chapman (village games co-ordinator) to attend;
- Safer Roads Partnership – Travel Consultancy Document (undertaken by Cala Homes) has now been sent from the PC to Safer Roads Partnership. SRP have agreed to consider the document at their Operations Forum in January, following which they will discuss with the PC whether further enforcement can be carried out or whether a Community Concern Program could be set up within the village.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Williamson for the assistance of Readyhedge in re-filling the Parish grit bin during December.

Police Report: 5 minor crimes reported during December and January.

Village Hall:

- Building works – fundraising and pursuing grants is still ongoing. It is anticipated that £75,000 will have been secured by the end of March;
- Recent minor maintenance has been carried out at the Hall;
- Some progress has been made in locating the deeds, although this matter is still ongoing.

Footpaths – Definitive Map Modification Order – Hammock Lane/Piecing Lane. Cllr Wilkes informed the Meeting that he would be attending an inspection/site visit due to be carried out in April by the Inspector for the case. Cllr Wilkes will be attending in the place of (and at the request of) the residents who made the initial application to add the footpaths.

Church & Bridge Trusts – It was reported that a discussion had taken place between the Cllr Wilkes and the Trust. It was agreed that, due to the fact that the matter had not progressed in 18 months, it was now imperative that legal documents regarding the land are found before another meeting takes place. Without these documents, no progress can be made.

07/15 – Finance – Cllr Williamson proposed and was seconded by Cllr Wilkes that the following payments should be approved:

**Payments to be made:**

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£23.91
Lengthsman salary	£154.10
Village hall hire	£54.00
PAYE	£55.20
Stuart Blunsom (cemetery work)	£950.00
AJ Binns (Sec. 106 work)	£1008.00
Lepus Consulting (NP event)	£18.90

The Meeting considered the revised draft budget for 2015/16. It was agreed that the increases made were necessary (due primarily to the production of the Neighbourhood Plan and expected election costs. A proposal was therefore made by Cllr Smith that the precept for the year should be £23,300, this was seconded by Cllr Forrest. The meeting unanimously agreed the decision.

08/15 – 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 09<sup>th</sup> December 2015:

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

**Applications to be Discussed:**

W/14/02786/PP & 02796/LB Quietways, Pass Street – Garage conversion, extension to form porch, internal/external alterations – no objection.

W/14/02600/PP 28 The Close – External works to the front of the property to provide level threshold disabled access to property – no objection.

W/14/02894/PP 6 Russell Drive – Single storey link between dwelling & garage – no objection.

**Approvals:**

W/14/02281/PP Fernbank, Station Road – Single storey rear extension.

The Meeting also discussed:

W/14/02850 Hill Barn, Nafford Bank Farm – Application for prior approval of change of use of agricultural buildings to form three dwelling houses – As Cllrs had not had an opportunity to view the plans on-line, it was agreed they would do so and send any comments to the Clerk, for submission to WDC. The Clerk would also query with WDC why notification of the plans had not been made to the Clerk.

09/15 – Highways – It was reported that Cllr Hardman had agreed to personally investigate the state of the footways in Station Road, following which any remedial work deemed necessary would be carried out. It was confirmed that a date for the full resurfacing of the footways had still not been decided by WCC

10/15 – Neighbourhood Plan – The following was reported:

- Area designation final approval is scheduled to go before the planning committee in March;
- Locality grant has now been applied for – awaiting response;
- Final decision on housing survey due by the end of the week. Once printed the survey will be delivered to all households, then either collected or can be handed into the village shop. The importance of filling in the survey was stressed.

11/15 – Grass Cutting – It was reported that the agreed plan had now been returned to WCC. The PC still await an agreed rate, the Clerk will continue to pursue in an effort to have received the rate by the next PC meeting. The Meeting briefly discussed information received from Bredon Parish regarding their grass cutting contract, but agreed that the matter could not progress until a rate had been received from WCC.

12/15 – Highways – Issues to be reported:

- Pothole – Nafford Road;
- Request re-painting of give way lines and centre lines within the village.

13/15 – Section 106 Funding – Ongoing – still a small amount of funding remaining.

14/15 – New Homes Bonus - It was reported that:

- Approved funding for Eckington Under 5's has now been received. Cllr Glaze will liaise with Under 5's group to agree how purchases will be made;
- The Meeting discussed and agreed that an application should be made on behalf of the Flower Festival regarding the purchase of feather flags (these will be for general village use).

15/15 – Cala Homes – Nothing to report.

16/15 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

17/15 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

- Cemetery/Churchyard Regulations – to be considered at the next meeting;
- Meeting agreed purchase of replacement battery for vehicle activated speed sign;
- Meeting noted the report of emergency vehicles being unable to access Boon Street, due to parked vehicles – Clerk to speak to Fire Brigade to ascertain what took place, also to speak to Police regarding the matter. Request for considerate parking to be made in the Village Magazine.

- Notice regarding forthcoming elections to be placed in Parish Magazine.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm.