

Tuesday 10th February 2015 – Three residents attended the Open Public Forum. The following issues were raised:

- Hedges along Nafford Road require cutting back – Clerk to report the matter to Wychavon;
- Planning application 14/01862 (Church Cottages, Church Street) – The applicant thanked the Parish Council for their support of this application, including the recent amendment;
- Planning application 14/01794 (Manor Farm) – Mr Kerrigan enquired whether further objections had been sent to WDC in relation to the above planning application amendment. The Parish Council confirmed that a further letter of objection had been sent, which included a request for further information/documentation regarding this amendment. The PC informed Mr Kerrigan that the matter would be further discussed during the Parish Council Meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th February 2015

18/15 Present – Cllrs. Cameron, Williamson, Smith, Forrest, Glaze, Wilkes, Bainbridge, Wood and Ransted.

19/15 Apologies – No apologies were received.

20/15 Declarations of Interest – No Declarations were received.

21/15 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2015 – Following a minor amendment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th January were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Williamson, this was seconded by Cllr Wilkes. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

22/15 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis gave the following report:

- The budget has now been approved by the Executive Board. There will be a 1.99% increase in precept/household tax;
- WDC have extended their brown bin availability;
- Recycling centers will be increased throughout Wychavon;
- Policing and street cleaning budget to be increased;
- NHB funding drawdown will be paused until the 2015 elections.

The Meeting discussed the Persimmon Homes site on Station Road, Pershore and the need for changes to the road infrastructure. Cllr Davis agreed that this will be a condition made when/if any planning approval is granted.

The PC requested an update regarding planning application W/14/01617&01794 and raised particular concerns regarding the changes in the application, which do not specify the amount of functions per year or guests, leaving the amendment open ended. This is not satisfactory due to implications on traffic, noise and parking. The Meeting were in agreement that consideration of this application should be postponed until the necessary supporting documentation is submitted (including a new traffic statement, noise assessment and detailed business plan to indicate the total patterns of use for the events applied for).

Cllr Davis did not share the opinion of the Parish Council and therefore did not see the need to delay decision making, or the need for the application to be brought before the Planning Committee.

23/15 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk:

- A request had been made to Network Rail to improve/add rabbit proof fencing between the railway line and the allotment site – awaiting response;
- Concern raised by resident regarding speeding issues on Nafford Road – Clerk to request further details.

Police Report: 2 crimes reported (including theft of car 03/02/15)

Village Hall: A conveyance/transfer of land has now been located, although as this is incomplete further investigation will need to be made.

Church & Bridge Trusts – It was reported that the legal documents regarding the land have still not been located. Until these can be produced a further meeting would be futile.

CALC – Next meeting – 4th March.

Cllr Hardman arrived and gave the following report:

- Discussion is currently taking place relating to the possibility of a satellite surgery from Bredon (due to increased demand from new housing in the locality);
- Options for flood alleviation and the funding thereof were discussed;
- Due to recent budget increases, funding will now be made available to carry out re-surfacing works to Station Road. Resurfacing at Tewkesbury Road and New Road were also requested.

The Meeting informed Cllr Hardman of their concerns regarding planning application W/14/01617&01794, with particular regard to Highways issues. Cllr Hardman agreed to make a request for a further investigation to be made

24/15 – 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 13th January 2015:

W/14/01862/PN Church Cottages, Church Street – Amended plans and elevations. Revised Design and Access Statement and addendum to Heritage Statement – no objection.

Applications to be Discussed:

W/14/02049/LB Whitehouse, Church Street – Amendment to the site area, to remove the railway embankment from the area – Comments sent.

W/15/00084/PN Nafford Bank Farm, Nafford Road – Erection of 4 stables and amendment to existing access including re-positioning of existing gate – Concerns raised.

W/14/01794/LB & 01617/CU Manor Farm & Lower End House, Manor Road – Amendment – Additional use of existing buildings and open areas for the use of holding weddings and civil partnership events, other celebratory events and corporate meetings. Minor amendments and additions to conversion of existing barn (approval no. 13/01447). Change of use of part of agricultural barn to toilets and furniture storage in association with existing barn – Although a letter highlighting concerns had already been sent to WDC, it was agreed that a further letter should be sent requesting that the relevant documentation pertaining to the amendment be obtained before a planning decision is made. It was agreed that the letter should be copied into Head of planning, Cllr Hardman and Cllr Davis.

Approvals:

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

W/14/02894/PP 6 Russell Drive – Single storey link between dwelling and garage.

W/14/02600 28 The Close – works to provide disabled access.

Application Withdrawn:

28 The Close – Proposed larger home extension – single storey ground floor extension.

25/15 – Neighbourhood Plan – It was reported that over 500 consultations have been delivered within the village, approximately 300 have been returned so far. It is anticipated that a preliminary analysis will have taken place by the end of the month.

The NP committee are currently awaiting clarification regarding locality grants.

26/15 – Grass Cutting – The Clerk reported that although an official rate regarding urban grass cutting had still not been received, a guide rate had been produced. Due to the fact that this was much lower than expected, it was agreed that it was unlikely that the PC would take over the responsibility from WCC at this time. It was agreed that the Clerk would clarify the amount of cuts with WCC for the coming year.

The Meeting discussed the quotes received regarding grass cutting at the Cemetery and Churchyard. A proposal was made by Cllr Williamson, seconded by Cllr Forrest that New Farm Grounds Maintenance should be appointed.

27/15 – Highways – Issues reported to WCC:

- Potholes Nafford Road – No safety issues evident;
- Manhole on New Road (further maintenance required) – WCC have passed to contractor for works.

28/15 – Parish Council Website – Cllr Bainbridge gave a presentation relating to improvements which could be made to the Parish Council section of the village website. The Meeting was in favour of the improvements and it was therefore agreed that Cllr Bainbridge would undertake the work.

29/15 – Community Speedwatch – The Meeting discussed and agreed to pursue the community led speedwatch. It was agreed that the first action would be to ascertain interest from the village, therefore an advert looking for volunteers would be posted in the village magazine and Parish noticeboard.

30/15 – Caravan – Concern was raised regarding the caravan and possible addition of a cesspit, located in the field off Manor Road. It was agreed that the matter required further investigation and should therefore be reported to Wychavon District Council.

31/15 – Section 106 Funding – Ongoing – still a small amount of funding remaining.

32/15 – New Homes Bonus – It was reported that due to the suspension of funding drawdown until after the 2015 elections, the two applications recently made to WDC have been suspended. Concern was also noted regarding a possible shortfall in the Village Hall funding allocation.

33/15 – Cala Homes – It was reported that a further 30 day extension has now been agreed in relation to the planning application.

34/15 – Correspondence for Information – No correspondence received.

35/15 – Finance – Cllr Williamson proposed and was seconded by Cllr Cameron that the following payments should be approved:

Payment already made:

Nature First (Sec. 106) £2214.00

Payments to be made:

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£26.53
Lengthsman salary	£154.30
Village hall hire	£15.00
Worcestershire CALC	£10.00
Westcotec (VAS battery)	£96.00
J. Doyle (NHB funding refund)	£702.70
Muddy Faces Ltd (NHB)	£178.61
Eckington Recreation Centre	£457.00

36/15 – Annual Parish Meeting – It was agreed that the Meeting would take place on 14th April at 7.00pm.

37/15 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

- Cemetery/Churchyard Regulations – to be considered at the next meeting;
- Cllr Williamson requested that (if possible) alternative arrangements be made for the moving of the VAS sign in the future. Readyhedge would continue to re-charge the batteries;
- The Meeting discussed Pat testing of puddle pumps and PC laptop. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the matter.
- It was reported that the Clerk had discussed the recently encountered car parking problems with the Fire Service and that a notice had been placed in the Parish Magazine, requesting considerate parking in the future.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th March 2015, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 10.15pm.