

Tuesday 09th June 2015 – Nine residents attended the Open Public Forum.
The Chair welcomed the two newly adopted Parish Councillors to the Meeting.
The public attendees raised the following:

Modification Order – Hammock Lane/Piecing - As the decision to affirm the Order had been made at the end of May, it was felt that being unable to use the footpaths until at least the middle of June (due to the obligatory 6 week objection period), was unsatisfactory. The footpaths are currently in an unusable state and it was therefore felt that clearance work should begin as soon as possible. Residents requested that the Parish Council make an official request to Worcestershire County Council for clearance to begin as soon as possible.

Eckington Manor – Recent Event – Complaints were received regarding traffic issues, lighting and noise disturbance at a recent event held at the Manor. Residents were frustrated by their treatment from both Wychavon DC and WRS and felt that their concerns/views had not been listened to. The Parish Council noted the concerns and copy letters from Mr Kerrigan, WDC and Eckington Manor’s solicitors and informed the residents that the matter would be further discussed during the Parish Council Meeting.

Broadband – The PC were informed that the second cabinet should be enabled at the end of June/beginning of July.

Planning Application 15/01298/PN North House, Church Street (Development of 3 properties) – Residents asked the Parish Council to consider the following:

- Reference should be made to the Eckington Conservation Area Adopted Statement (which refers to preservation of open spaces);
- Reference should also be made to the Neighbourhood Plan, where significantly smaller homes are presently required;
- There would be a major visual impact for those presently living in the vicinity.
- Line of vision of the proposed properties seems to contravene English Heritages’ request “for a specific sight line to the Church from Jarvis Street.
- A request should be made for Wychavon Planners to return to the site, now that more detailed plans have been produced;
- Request was made for the Parish Council to consider consulting the Neighbourhood Planning Consultant regarding this matter;

One resident was not opposed to the development in principle but felt that the current application would be an overdevelopment of the land.

The Parish Council were also asked to consider the views of the land owner, who felt that she was within her rights to develop the land if she so wished. The land owner was unhappy with some comments that had been made to her, and the subsequent stress that this had caused.

The Parish Council thanked the residents for their comments and informed them that the above matters would be considered during the Meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 09th June 2015

104/15 Present – Cllrs. Glaze, Wilkes, Bainbridge, Wood, Palmer, Bogaard and Ransted.

105/15 Apologies – Apologies were received from District Cllr Davis.

106/15 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th May were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Wilkes, this was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

107/15 Co-Option – The Meeting considered Mrs Cameron’s application for co-option. The Meeting unanimously agreed that Mrs Cameron should be co-opted to the Parish Council. As one further vacancy remained on the Parish Council, it was agreed that further co-option would be considered at the next Meeting.

108/15 District & County Councillor Reports – No reports received.

109/15 To Appoint Sub-Committee Members – The following was agreed:
Staffing Committee – Cllrs Glaze and Bogaard
Planning Committee – Cllrs Bainbridge, Wilkes, Glaze and Bogaard
Finance & Budget Committee – Cllrs Glaze and Cameron;
NHB Committee – Cllrs Glaze and Cameron (a further Councillor will be added if/when the need arises);
Section 106 Committee – Cllrs Bainbridge, Wilkes, Palmer and Wood.

110/15 To Appoint Individual Councillors to the Following Roles – The Following was agreed:

Footpath Officer – Cllr Wilkes
Tree Warden – Cllrs Wood and Bogaard
Eckington Memorial Hall – Cllr Bainbridge
Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr Ransted
Eckington Recreation Centre – Cllrs Wood and Palmer
Church & Bridge Trust – Cllr Wilkes
CALC – Cllrs Ransted and Glaze
PACT – Cllr Bogaard

111/15 Progress Reports – The Following was reported:

Clerk: -

- Enforcement issues:
 - (i) Eckington Riverside Caravan Park – It was confirmed that WDC have now investigated the matter (reported by a resident). On meeting with the Manager and discussing the issues raised, WDC were satisfied that there were no enforcement issues at the site;
 - (ii) Court Close Farm, Manor Road – It was reported that the matter had again been reported to WDC (due to the fact that the static caravan had not been removed within the 3 month timescale imposed by WDC).
- Training – New Councillors were informed of a forthcoming Code of Conduct and Standards training event to be held at Wychavon.
- Network Rail – It was confirmed that a response to the second request for rabbit proof fencing had still not been received. Clerk would continue to pursue.
- Lengthsman – The Meeting was informed of the lengthsman’s possible sickness leave during the next couple of months. The Meeting discussed whether the work could be covered by a lengthsman from a local parish and whether sick pay would be paid. Clerk to seek guidance from CALC.
- Telephone Box – It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of thanks to Mr McCabe for undertaking the refurbishment of the telephone box.

Police Report:

- Damage caused at the Recreation area to wooden planking and litter bin. Mobile and foot patrol continues in the area;

- Abandoned caravan found on the outskirts of the village. This was reported as stolen and removed for examination.

Village Hall –

- It is intended that the Committee will approach builders for an idea of costs for the building project, before officially going out to tender;
- The Committee may formally approach the PC regarding trusteeship of the Hall;
- 2 loose tiles on Hall roof – will need maintenance.

Footpaths –

Piecing/Hammock Lane Modification Order – The Meeting discussed whether the PC should approach WCC regarding the re-opening of the paths. It was agreed that a letter would be sent requesting that the maintenance/clearance works to the paths be carried out before the end of the 6 week objection period, in order that the paths may in use as soon as possible.

BHCG – Items discussed at the recent meeting:

- The Group have agreed to send a letter to WDC requesting better consistency regarding changes to permitted developments;
- A46 consultation meeting due to take place shortly – to discuss possible changes/additions;
- Felling of traditional orchards is a matter for concern, particularly due to the fact that an orchard in Bredon has recently been removed.

CALC – The main item discussed was the Elections. A representative from WDC attended the Meeting and discussed the recent election process.

112/15 – 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 12th May 2015:

Approvals:

W/15/00812/PN The Old Pike House, Pershore Road – Erection of a 5 bed detached dwelling.

W/15/00918/PN Nafford Bank Farm, Nafford Road – Stables for 4 horses.

Planning Matters to be discussed:

W/15/01298/PN North House, Church Street – Development of three cottage style dwellings and garages and car parking to serve ‘Crown Court’ with new 4.1 metre shared private access road from Jarvis Street – Objections sent.

The Meeting discussed the concerns raised by residents regarding a recent function held at Eckington Manor. It was agreed that two Councillors would request a meeting with the proprietor to discuss the issues raised. Any further action regarding this matter would be considered at the next meeting.

113/15 – Finance – Cllr Cameron proposed and was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge that the following payments should be approved:

Payments already made:

Community First Trading (additional insurance re: phone box)	£10.77
Portable Partitions Company (NP)	£199.99
Nils Wilkes (reimburse re: phone box materials)	£257.07

Payments to be made:

Clerk’s salary	£397.30
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L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£37.26
CALC Training	£10.00
Ian Pickford (reimburse re: NP costs)	£465.87
Lengthsman salary	£154.10
Village hall hire	£107.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£374.40
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£324.00
Beverley Jones (NP)	£25.56
ANT (subs)	£10.00

The Meeting discussed and approved the year end accounts for 2014/15.

114/15 – Neighbourhood Plan – It was reported that:

- 207 residents attended the recent consultation event;
- The evidence gathered will be summarised and presented at the next NP meeting;
- Costs to date are £5,000. Further funding from grants is awaited;
- The Meeting approved any further costs incurred for refreshments relating to early morning/late evening meetings, which may need to take place.

115/15 – Highways –

- Glenmoor – overgrown moss on the path has now been cleared by Rooftop Housing Association;
- White road markings – Clerk to investigate why only one half of the village has been re-marked;
- Church Street kerb – Clerk to request that WCC replace the kerb (which was broken during recent work undertaken by Western Power).

116/15 – Community Speedwatch – The Meeting was informed that all except one of the nine volunteers had now been trained. Specific sights have been agreed and the volunteers have already begun monitoring speed in the village.

Alternative methods of speed control were also discussed, however as the majority of other methods had already been considered by WCC and deemed inappropriate, it was agreed that the Community Speedwatch program was presently the most effective method of speed control.

117/15 – Dog Waste Bin – The Meeting considered the costs of installation and maintenance of a bin at the Wharf. A suitable location was agreed, following which a proposal to purchase the bin was made by Cllr Ransted and seconded by Cllr Wilkes.

118/15 – Cemetery Inspection – The Meeting discussed and agreed the stone maintenance work required at the Cemetery. A proposal was made by Cllr Bogaard and seconded by Cllr Cameron to agree the quote received for the works.

119/15 – Recreation Ground – It was reported that Cllr Glaze had discussed the Pershore Road parking issue with a member of the Recreation Committee, who had agreed to remind all those using the facilities that the gate must remain open to ensure that (as much as possible) parking is off the road.

120/15 – Section 106 Funding – It was reported that the remainder of funds will be used for further enhancements to the Recreation Ground (including a bench and car parking matting).

121/15 – New Homes Bonus – No further update.

The Meeting noted the information received from the Childrens Kayak Charitable Trust, however it was agreed that no action would be taken.

122/15 - Cala Homes – The Meeting noted the information received from WDC regarding the end to negotiations relating to the proposed purchase of land and subsequent building of houses.

123/15 – Correspondence for Information – No correspondence.

124/15 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

- Shrub/tree maintenance at the Churchyard – Cllr Wilkes informed the Meeting that he would seek advice on maintenance required, before requesting that the Clerk seek quotes for the work.
- Footbridge rubbish bin (east side) requires emptying – Clerk to make request to WCC.
- Advertising signs at the War Memorial – The Meeting was informed that a sign advertising a recent event was erected at the war memorial (without permission of the PC). The PC agreed to monitor this, as it was agreed that the memorial should not be used for advertising purposes.
- Village water hydrants – Following a report that some of the water hydrants in the village had not been in working order during the recent callout of the Fire Service at Cotheridge Lane, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Fire Service requesting clarification of the events and assurance that all hydrants within the village are in full working order.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 10.20pm.