

Tuesday 13th October 2015 – Eight residents attended the Open Public Forum.

Matters raised:

- Highways Issues – Footpaths on New Road are in a poor state and in need of maintenance; Path at Stoney Furlong in need of clearance; New Road to Glenmoor – buses and lorries breaking up the verges/paths; Pass Street – issues with vehicles parking on the road during drop off times at school. Hedges along this stretch are also in need of trimming.
- Nafford Road – Update requested in relation to the proposed re-siting of 30mph.
- Village Design Statement – Update requested regarding removal of all references to “settlement boundary” in the draft Statement.
- Eckington Bus Service – Concern was raised regarding the new timetable, in particular the move to a two hourly service (causing problems particularly with elderly users of the service).

Other issues raised – poor time keeping and currently no flood timetable.

A request was made for a community bus service to be considered.

It was explained that the above matters would be discussed during the Parish Council Meeting.

- Land to the rear of Roman Meadow – Mr B Bolsover informed the Meeting that he intended to purchase the land. Once purchased, outline planning permission would be sought. Mr Bolsover assured the Meeting that the comments made by the Parish Council in relation to the planning application made by Cala Homes, had been considered.

The Meeting thanked Mr Bolsover for attending the Meeting and informing the Parish Council of his intentions.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th October 2015

160/15 Present – Cllrs. Glaze, Bainbridge, Wilkes, Wood, Brown, Bogaard, Palmer and Ransted.

161/15 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Cameron. These were unanimously accepted.

162/15 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Bainbridge declared an interest in Item 12 of the Agenda.

163/15 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 08th September 2015 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08th September were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Wilkes, this was seconded by Cllr Bogaard. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

164/15 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis reported the following:

- Integration with Malvern Hills District Council is proceeding well. It is hoped that Wychavon business rates will remain independent, as WCC feel that pooling would not be beneficial for the District.
Some redundancies should be expected.
- SWDP – consultation now coming to a conclusion. Signing off expected in Spring 2016.

165/15 Progress Reports – The Following was reported:

Clerk: -

- Planning Enforcement Training (WDC) – Information already forwarded to councilors but flagged up again (scheduled for 11 May 2016).
- Churchyard – Agreed tree works scheduled for 26th October.

The Meeting discussed whether a further grass cut was required at the Churchyard and Cemetery. It was agreed that growth would be monitored and a request made for a further cut, if/when required.

Village Hall – Fund raising activities:

- The recent jumble sale had again proved to be very successful.
- Next event - wine tasting.

Rec Centre – It was reported that the Committee are endeavouring to ensure that the gate remains open during all events. Cllr Bogaard agreed to mention the issue of parking to the Police (to see if there is any action which could be taken which may help to alleviate the problem).

Footpaths – Matters reported:

- Stoney Furlong Lane – Clearance of the lane has already been raised and agreed with the WCC.
- The Wych Way now encompasses Eckington on its route.

BHCG – It was reported that:

- Planning app. 15/01723 (Woollas Farm – conversion of former MOD Radar Station) – this will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting.
- Fabric damage on Bredon Hill (Battens Wood) - Natural England have inspected the site and dealt with the issue.
- Battens Wood – reports of a track dug out in the wood, will be investigated shortly.

PACT – Three minor crimes were reported.

Cllr Bogaard agreed to request whether a poster could be obtained from the Police, highlighting safety measures which should be taken to help prevent burglaries.

166/15 – 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 08th September 2015:

W/15/02149/PN North House, Church Street – Detailed planning application for one 4 bed detached house, one 3 bed detached house and one 2 bed detached bungalow and garages with parking to serve Crown Court and a new 4.1 metre access drive from Jarvis Street on land to the rear of North House – Objections sent.

Approvals:

W/15/02180/PP Church Corner, Vicarage Gardens – Construction of new single storey rear extension and infill of open porch.

To Discuss:

W/15/01723/CU Woollas Farm, Woollas Hill – Conversion and extension of former MOD Radar Station to provide overnight accommodation to Deer park Hall Weddings and Business Centre, and for use as a classroom/meeting room for wildlife and photography workshops – Site meeting agreed.

W/15/02408/PP Belmont, Boon Street – The bricking in of an existing car port to provide a dining area within the dwelling. In addition, the continuation of existing render on the external face to provide one uniform finish to the exterior of the property – Concerns sent.

Enforcement Issue (Nafford Bank Farm 15/00918) – The Meeting was informed that a resident had reported inaccuracies (in accordance with the agreed plans) with the building work which had started at the Nafford Bank Farm site. Following this, the Parish Council had reported the matter to WDC, however as the response received was unclear, it was agreed that further clarification would be sought.

167/15 – Finance – Cllr Wilkes proposed and was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge that the following payments should be approved:

Payments to be made:

Clerk's salary	£397.30
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£28.41
Lengthsman salary	£149.55
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£645.60
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£528.00
Foxley Tagg (NP)	£4271.75

168/15 – Neighbourhood Plan – It was reported that:

- Call for potential development sites – the report has now been received by the Steering Group.
- Drakesbridge Road Bridge – Responses to the letters sent to both WCC and Network Rail (requesting whether any contingency plans have been set up, in the event of a bridge closure) were discussed. It was agreed that as Network Rail had not sufficiently answered the question raised, further clarification would be requested.

Village Design Statement –

It was reported that the issue raised at the last Parish Council meeting regarding the difference between “development boundary” and “settlement boundary” had now been rectified. Other minor changes (typographical errors) had also been made.

Concern over density of Eastern areas of the village was raised by one Councillor. It was agreed that the Councillor should voice his concerns to the Steering Group, so that the issue can then be considered.

The Meeting was then asked to vote upon adoption of the document. Six Councillors were in favour of adoption and one abstained. The Village Design Statement was therefore duly adopted.

169/15 – Highways –

- Nafford Road (Re-location of the 30mph sign) – The Meeting examined the speed data received from WCC, following which a vote was taken. Three Councillors were in favour of moving the sign, whilst four were against. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council would not support the re-location of the sign.

Maintenance requests to Highways:

- Station Road (footpaths at both Southern and Western end);
- New Road (footpaths) ;
- Damage to setts at War Memorial.

It was agreed that Cllr Wilkes would check for repair to the setts at The Close, following which he would report back to the Clerk.

It was agreed that:

- Hedge trimming on Pass Street (raised during the public forum) – this is the responsibility of the home owners.
- Issue raised by resident - sign attached to telegraph pole off Nafford Road (Elsie's Garden) - this is not a Parish Council matter and should be taken up by the complainant, with the owner of the land.

170/15 – Camera Drone – Eckington Manor – The Meeting discussed the complaint received from a resident regarding the use of a camera drone above privately owned properties. It was agreed that until the resident has received further information from the CAA, the Parish Council would not be in a position to pursue the matter. It was agreed that a request would be made to the resident to keep the Parish Council updated in this matter.

171/15 – Eckington Bus Service – The Meeting considered the issues raised during the open public forum. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would contact WCC raising the comments made by residents, and to request an extra service one day a week (to satisfy the timing issues relating to the Eckington to Pershore service).

It was also agreed that Cllr Ransted would make initial enquiries regarding the possibility of a community run bus service.

172/15 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing to report.

173/15 – New Homes Bonus – The following was reported:

- An application for the sum of £1100 has now been made in respect of Babes & Toddlers.
- Funding requests from the Cricket Club, Village Hall & Scouts have also been received.

Due to the Government agreeing to continue the Scheme, it was agreed that a Section 106 sub-committee should be set up. Cllrs Glaze, Brown and Palmer agreed to form the sub-committee. A report would be made at the next meeting.

174/15 – Correspondence for Information – Correspondence circulated.

175/15 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

Concern raised regarding dog mess in the village. It was agreed that an article reminding dog owners to clear up after their dog, should be placed in the Parish Magazine.

Cllrs were reminded to attend the Remembrance Day Parade (due to be held on 08 November).

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

The meeting was closed at 10.00pm.