



## ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting)

of a virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 commencing at 7 pm

**Councillors Present:**

G. Ransted (Chairman), M. Hughes (Vice Chairman) G. Goodlad, T Knight, C Yarnold, J Bees,

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, County Councillor Hardman, District Councillor Ron Davis, 2 parishioners, representative of Lonestar

195	<p><b><u>To receive Apologies</u></b> Councillor Wood was absent. <b>There was a two minute silence in prayer for the late Nils Wilkes, former Parish Councillor and Footpaths Warden</b></p>	
196	<p><b><u>Declarations of Personal, Sensitive or Pecuniary Interests</u></b> There were none</p>	
197	<p><b><u>To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020</u></b> The Minutes were agreed by unanimous vote</p>	
198	<p><b><u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</u></b> Wayleave – signed wayleaves received, all payments collected Hydroelectricity Project – waiting for further details/chased Website Accessibility Compliance – work ongoing, now 60% compliant Glenmore – overgrown alleyway reported by police/PC – Housing Association will be responding to the parish council shortly</p>	
199	<p><b><u>Public Participation</u></b> <b>Members of the public are requested to write to the clerk in advance of the meeting with any queries or comments on any of the agenda items.</b> A resident made representation against the valuation report on a Wayleave affecting his property. He pointed out that he spent a great deal of his time protecting parish property from vandalism. He stated that he had the opportunity of an alternative source of power supply and might resort to that unless the valuation by the parish council was reduced. <b>To Receive District/County Councillors reports and request information</b> Councillor Davis stated that Nils Wilkes would be sadly missed by the British Legion and others and asked that his condolences were passed on to the family. The Autumn budget meetings of the council would prove interesting but WDC are in good financial shape. Continuing with zoom meetings for the rest of this year. County Councillor Hardman has had face to face meetings with social distancing. A ban on care home visitors may be necessary and transmission ramping up amongst younger people. Currently 50 people in QE2 intensive care. Pleased to see village school up</p>	

	<p>and running. Warm weather has created problem with people swimming in rivers and at Eckington bridge this has caused parking chaos. 30mph limit on Nafford Rd proceeding. Unitary councils being discussed. Advised the PC to carefully consider changes to planning law. Mitton Bank development blocked by Highways authority.</p> <p><b>Parish Councillors made the following requests:</b>  <b>Could the County Council install warning signs at Eckington bridge and reconsider their offer of this land to the parish council or make parking charges.</b>  <b>Could the Council install passing places along Nafford Road.</b></p>	
200	<p><b><u>Finance &amp; Governance</u></b></p> <p>1. To authorise payments (interim and September) <b>Changes to July Payments, August and September payments agreed as listed at the foot of these minutes.</b></p> <p>2. To agree the bank balance to end of August and check budget expenditure. <b>The balance was agreed at £14988.77, the budget expenditure was proceeding as expected.</b></p> <p>3. Lengthsman Contract – <b>B/F</b></p> <p>4. Employment consultant quotations (<b>discussed in closed session at the end of the meeting</b>) – <b>Councillor Hughes proposed it necessary to seek expert advice on employment policies at approximately £1500.</b> The Clerk questioned why the Council would not take free of charge policies from NALC or ACAS or allow her to draft policies. Councillor Goodlad stated there might be a conflict of interest in the clerk drawing up policies. Councillor Bees commented this showed a lack of trust. He asked why it was necessary for the Council to employ consultants to review the clerk’s pay. Cllr Hughes stated that this was not the purpose of the engagement. <b>Councillor Hughes requested a vote on her proposal which was carried 5 for/1 against. Staffing Committee to draw up a list of consultants and a brief.</b></p> <p>5. Crowd funding opportunity – details passed to project planner</p> <p>6. Email accounts – to consider investing in a paid for service – there was lengthy discussion on this matter. Th clerk advised she had been unable to find a provider in the previous quotation round. Councillors were asked to provide details of any IT consultants. Cllr. Knight suggested everyone switch to gmail. Cllr Ransted stated David Bainbridge still trying to find a solution. <b>B/F</b></p> <p>7. War Memorial – consider future budget provision – <b>after some discussion it was decided that £200 should be added into next year’s budget to start building up a fund for maintenance.</b></p>	Clerk
201	<p><b><u>To consider any Planning Consultations/Decision notices</u></b></p> <p>Consultation: 20/01669/HP Cherry Hey New Road, - side extension – <b>No objection</b></p> <p>Decision: 20/01437/HP – Greengables, Drakes Bridge Road – removal of conservatory and construction of extension - Permit</p>	
202	<p><b><u>To consider any Policy matters:</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Investment Strategy insertions (MH)</b></p>	

	<p><b>The Council deliberated that the draft strategy was sufficient. The list of investments to be published as required.</b></p> <p><b>2. Allotment Tenancy Agreement insertions (MH)</b> Cllr Hughes proposed the insertion of the wording " any person from a household with land of 1/3 of an acre will be refused in favour of another person on the waiting list"</p> <p><b>The Council agreed this insertion.</b></p> <p><b>3. Consider quotations from investment advisors (JB)</b> The Clerk requested clarity over the length of time the Council would invest in markets. Cllr Hughes stated that funds might be needed to start projects in 18 months to 2 years. The clerk advised that a minimum 5 year period of investment was recommended. One investment advisor had felt confident in providing advice on a shorter investment period and a quotation would be obtained. <b>B/F</b> In the meantime the council would require 3 separate bank accounts and the clerk would open these.</p>	Clerk
203	<p><b><u>1. To receive reports from Parish Councillors/Clerk</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Hall – Cllr Ransted – no report</li> <li>• Recreation Centre – Cllr Knight - circulated</li> <li>• Tree Warden – Cllr Wood – no report</li> <li>• Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr Ransted – no meeting</li> <li>• Church and Bridge Trusts – Cllr Hughes – no meeting</li> <li>• Wychavon CALC - Cllr Ransted – no meeting</li> <li>• Cemetery &amp; Churchyard – Cllr Yarnold – no report</li> <li>• Allotments – Cllr Bees – no report</li> <li>• Community Engagement – Cllr Yarnold – no report</li> <li>• Dementia Friendly Village – Cllr Hughes – no report</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch &amp; Community Speed Watch - Cllr Ransted – no report</li> <li>• Clerks report – no report</li> </ul> <p><b><u>2. To receive reports from Community Land Working Group and Brodie Planning</u></b> Cllr. Hughes reported that the working group and Brodie Planning had been liaising on the S106 agreement and a mini-option appraisal would be produced for both sites. Cllr Goodlad taking the lead on this.</p>	GG
204	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b> 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020</p>	
	<p><b>An adjournment will be called excluding the public to the following two items as publicity may be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted</b></p>	
205	<p><b><u>Legal &amp; Confidential Matters</u></b></p> <p>1. Jarvis Street – quotations for legal representation/any other action – three quotations to be obtained for legal work</p> <p>2. Pershore Road – S106 agreement</p> <p>Further to receipt by councillors of the final version of the document <b>it was resolved</b> that the Parish Council approves the</p>	Clerk

	<p>Section 106 Agreement between Wychavon District Council, Mr &amp; Mrs Bolsover, Spitfire Bespoke Homes Ltd, Worcestershire County Council and Eckington Parish Council and that Cllr Ransted and Cllr Bees were authorised to sign the documentation in readiness for completion. It was further confirmed that the Parish Council would authorise the Solicitors instructed to complete the documentation on the Parish Council's behalf once all parties were ready to proceed with completion</p> <p>3. New Wayleave Pike House</p> <p>A lengthy discussion took place with councillors deliberating over a possible discount on the valuation. <b>It was agreed to request a charge of a one off payment of £4500 plus £500 costs and a termed wayleave for 15 years of £12.65.</b></p> <p>4. Receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> September and agree any actions</p> <p>Cllr Knight had prepared a summary of the minutes but the full minutes were not available therefore there was no discussion on them. Cllr Hughes reported one matter listed in these minutes as 200.4</p>	Clerk
	The meeting was closed at 10.45pm	

#### Payments July

Lengthsman (June)	#	265.5	265.5	0
HMRC PAYE Apr/May/Jun	#	57	57	0
New Farm Grounds - Grasscutting		575.82	479.85	95.97
Office Expenses	#	38	38	0
Website		50.12	50.12	0
Salary	#	514.32	514.32	0
Epson (ink cartridges)	#	59.99	49.99	10
Cotswold Line Promotion Group		15	15	0
		<u>7300.17</u>	<u>6909.84</u>	<u>390.33</u>

#### Payments August

New Farm Grounds (July Grasscutting)	#	383.88	319.9	63.98
Lengthsman (July)	#	193.5	193.5	0
Wychavon DC (emptying bins)	#	181.94	151.62	30.32
Brodie Planning (project planning)	#	1824	1824	0
David Bainbridge (website)	#	50.12	50.12	0
Eckington WI GRANT	#	100	100	0
Tesco mobile top up	DC #	20	20	0
BHIB (insurance)	#	337.57	337.57	0
Salary (514.52) & Expenses (26)		540.52	540.52	
		<u>10931.7</u>	<u>10447.07</u>	<u>484.63</u>

#### Payments September

Lengthsman (August)	202.5	202.5	0
Salary	514.52	514.52	0
Office Expenses	26	26	0
D Bainbridge (Website/email management)	50.12	50.12	0
ICO (data protection registration)	40	40	0
John Doody	500	500	0
NFGM (Grasscutting cemetery)	383.88	319.9	63.98