



## ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** (subject to approval at the next meeting) of a virtual meeting of the Parish Council held Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 commencing at 7.00 pm

**Councillors Present:**

M. Hughes (Chairman), T Knight (Vice Chairman), J Field, G Goodlad, G. Ransted, S Williamson and M. Wood. Parishioner R Jackson to give presentation.

**Also Present:** L. Yapp (Clerk), County Cllr A. Hardman

Item	Minute Recorded	Action
PC 21/01	<b>Apologies:</b> were received from Cllr Bees	
PC 21/02	<b>Declarations of Personal, Sensitive or Pecuniary Interests and Requests for Dispensations:</b> None received	
PC 21/03	<b>Approval of Minutes dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021:</b> The Minutes of meeting dated 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved as true records. Proposed acceptance Cllr Williamson, seconded Cllr Ransted – all in favour	
PC 21/04	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:</b> The clerk reported on the following Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog Bins – Cllr Hughes reported Eckington already had 19 bins, 8 of which are joint litter / dog waste bins, 8 litter only and 3 dog waste only. Cllr Goodlad responded that if there was a need it would be at the top of Hacketts Lane, leading onto Stoney Furlong. She would get a photograph of the exact location to see if this would be acceptable by WDC</li> <li>• Nafford Road – the clerk is awaiting feedback from WCC re mitigation actions.</li> <li>• Lighting on Footbridge – see update in County Cllrs report below.</li> </ul>	<i>Cllr Goodlad</i>
PC 21/05	<p><b>Public Participation:</b> No parishioners were in attendance, but Cllr Hughes reported that she had been contacted by a number of parishioners re bonfires at Upper End. It was agreed that a note goes out to parishioners in the newsletter, asking for consideration when lighting fires.</p> <p><b>Rob Jackson</b> gave a presentation on a <b>Community Fibre Broadband Scheme</b> – that there are ‘vouchers’ available to parishioners / businesses to offset against the overall project costs. Mr Jackson was prepared to do all the ‘leg work’ but asked for support from the parish council. This was well received by Cllrs, with Cllr Williams kindly offering for any promotion printing costs to be sponsored by Ready Hedge. The clerk would arrange for the printing. Mr Jackson also reported on a <b>Hydro’ scheme</b> to utilise the River Avon. Grants are available and he has already secured £13k worth of funding to finance a feasibility study before the next phase – which would mean the building of the ‘hydro’ plant. Strensham Services and Severn Trent could ‘take’ the energy, with any income generated from energy to be invested back within the village – again, this would need full community support and engagement. Cllrs thanked Mr Jackson for his presentation and offered to deliver leaflets in the village. Cllr Knight asked if Nafford Lock could be included but was advised that this had already been ruled out.</p>	<i>Action Clerk</i>

PC 21/06	<p><b>County &amp; District Councillor Reports:</b></p> <p><b>County Cllr Report:</b> Cllr Hardman reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WCC Council Tax has been set at a 2.5% increase and there would be no increase in Adult Social Care. This is due to the fact that there is much more support within the community rather than hospital, creating a significant underspend.</li> <li>• Lighting on the Footbridge – the bulb has now been replaced. The clerk referred to communication from a parishioner that the new bulb was now far brighter than before. Cllr Hardman suggested a shade / shield may improve this and would get this organised.</li> <li>• Pedestrian Crossing by Shop – he had nothing further to report.</li> </ul> <p><b>District Cllr Report:</b> Cllr Davies was not present at the meeting</p>	
PC 21/07	<p><b>Financial &amp; Governance Matters:</b></p> <p><b>1 Payments &amp; Receipts for approval:</b>  Clerks Salary (Net) February      £207.80  Clerks Salary (Net) March      £450.06 <i>to be paid 31<sup>st</sup> March</i>  Website Administration March      50.12  <i>Plus any other payments received after 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021- clerks training course on Cemetery Management /Compliance - £162 - this was approved and authorised.</i>  Bank Reconciliation had been circulated to Cllrs – <i>there were no issues / queries raised.</i></p> <p><b>2 Bank balances</b> were noted as £217,722.55 &amp; £25,930.39.</p> <p>Proposed acceptance of payments / accounts / balances by Cllr Knight, seconded Cllr Goodlad – all in favour</p> <p><b>3. To Agree Appointment of Internal Auditor</b> - the clerk had been in contact with Mr J Smith who had confirmed that he was happy to carry out the next internal audit.</p> <p><b>4. Clerks Salary / Home Working</b> - the clerk had asked approval from the council to be paid on the last working day of each month, and a monthly allowance of £26 to cover home working expenses. This was approved by Cllrs, proposed Cllr Knight, seconded Cllr Hughes.</p> <p><b>5. HMRC PAYE</b> – It was agreed that Cllr Knight be nominated to have access to the parish councils HMRC account, purely as a back-up in the event of the clerk being unable to make the monthly submission and to make any payments where necessary.</p> <p><b>6. Asset Register</b> – the clerk reminded the council that everything owned by the parish council should be recorded on an Asset Register, preferably a photographic record. Cllr Hughes and the clerk would take a walk of the village to record everything.</p>	<p><i>Invoices to be paid as agreed.</i></p> <p><i>Action Clerk</i></p> <p><i>Action Cllr Hughes / Clerk</i></p>
PC 21/08	<p><b>New Homes Bonus</b> - following the previous decision to use the remaining NHB (before the deadline of the end of March) to level off the community land on Pershore Road, a quote had been obtained for the levelling well in excess of £100k. It was agreed at the NP Implementation Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March that a consultation letter / survey would be communicated with parishioners for feedback on the use of funds for this purpose.</p>	<p><i>Action Cllr Knight / Clerk</i></p>

PC 21/09	<p><b>Cemetery / Burials:</b></p> <p><b>1. Digitising of Cemetery records</b> – Cllr Hughes reported that she was going through the process of obtaining costs and that she had been on contact with the clerk for Pershore Town Council who had been really helpful. As soon as quotes / options have been received they will be shared with the parish council for consideration.</p> <p><b>2. Policy &amp; Charges</b> - deferred to a future meeting</p>	
PC 21/10	<p><b>Communication:</b></p> <p><b>1. Website</b> – it was reported that the website administrator had given notice to cease working on the parish council website but was happy to help with any transition period. It was considered that this would be an ideal time to look at the current site and to consider any changes needed to satisfy new legislation. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Field look at options / quotes, and if necessary, to consult with the current website administrator.</p> <p><b>2. Eckington Parish Council Facebook</b> – Cllr Yarnold offered to take on responsibility and for this to be linked into the new website</p>	<i>Action Cllr Field / Clerk</i>
PC 21/11	<p><b>Planning Matters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21/00184/STRETR – Street Trader Consultation – the parish council had no objections to this application, but asked for a condition to be put in place for a site survey to be carried out for litter before leaving the trading location.</li> <li>• Planning Application Procedure – a proposed procedure to decide on comments on any planning application had been drafted and circulated to Cllrs – this was approved by all Cllrs</li> </ul>	
PC 21/12	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Goodlad reported on the committee meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> March – minutes to be circulated to Cllrs and posted on the website</li> </ul>	
PC 21/13	<p><b>Parish Lengthsman Scheme</b> Two applications had been received and interviews were carried out by Cllr Knight and the clerk. Both applicants were given careful consideration, but the position was offered to the applicant who was already a recognised LM locally, had the necessary qualification for working on the highway (a legal requirement by WCC) and was prepared to be employed on a 'self-employed' basis. He would also have a responsibility to ask as 'handyman' for any ad hoc repairs /maintenance and to commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> April.</p>	
PC 21/14	<p><b>Reports from Councillors and the Clerk:</b> there were no reports, other than Cllr Hughes reporting that she had attended the Area CALC meeting</p>	
PC 21/15	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The clerk reported on communication received from a resident regarding residency at <b>Riverside Caravan Park</b>. The clerk had been in contact with WDC who advised that during the Covid lockdown and current restrictions no enforcement action would be considered although the issue raised had been noted by the enforcement department</li> </ul>	
PC 21/16	<p><b>Matters for Future Agendas / Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of Annual Parish meeting</li> </ul>	

PC 21/17	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Next meeting to be held virtually on Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2021.	
	<b>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm</b>	