

Tuesday 17th April 2012 – There was no attendance at the open public forum.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th April 2012

53/12 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Glaze, Ransted, Smith, Bainbridge, Forrest, Wilkes and Wood.

54/12 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Cameron and were accepted by the Meeting.

55/12 Declarations of Interest – Declarations of interest were made by Cllr Wilkes and Forrest in relation to Item no. 6 on the Agenda.

56/12 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 13th March 2012 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Forrest, this was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

57/12 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis informed the Meeting of the following:

- Forthcoming Localism Event – Cllr Davis encouraged PC attendance;
- Grant application regarding the village hall improvements – approval been granted for full amount requested.

Cllr Hardman informed the Meeting of the following:

- Improvements to Station Road will be carried out within the next financial year;
- VAS signs – Cllr Hardman agreed to pursue the on-going issue of erection of posts.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Parish Council's intentions regarding the responsibility of Eckington Wharf. The Meeting agreed this matter would be discussed and a decision reached later in the Meeting.

58/12 Progress Reports – Clerk:

The following correspondence was read to the Meeting:

- Worcestershire County Council Waste Strategy Development plan document (information and website) – Meeting acknowledged.
- Letter from Allotment tenant regarding vandalism – The Meeting agreed that the matter should be reported to PACT and discussed as an Agenda item at the next meeting.
- Localism Act Event (Wychavon District Council) – Cllr Smith agreed to look into the matter to ascertain whether attendance was necessary.

Village Hall – The following matters were reported to the Meeting:

- Applications regarding funding are still ongoing (some have been refused, Wychavon DC is the first approval to be received);
- Copies have now been made of all Minutes relating to the Village Hall;
- It has been agreed that a commemorative plaque of old comrades will be erected at the Hall.

Recreation Centre – Some minor vandalism was reported.

It was also reported that the annual inspection has now been carried out.

Tree Warden - It was reported that one new tree has been planted within the village (in replacement of one that had died earlier in the year).

PMTP – Cllr Ransted reported that he is now in communication with the PMPT representative regarding whether there was a need for his services on the PMTP Committee.

59/12 – 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 March 2012:

W/12/00553/PP Robinia House, Jarvis Street – Build over existing entrance porch to create en-suite and rear extension to create kitchen/dining/family room – no objection.

W/12/00557/PP Hendref, Boon Street – First floor extension above existing garage and utility room – no objection.

Planning Approvals

W/12/00363/LB Whitehouse, Church Street – Internal alterations to brick arch (amendment to approval W/11/017341/LB)

Planning Applications to be discussed:

W/12/00532/CA & W/12/00533 Woodbine Cottage, Mill Lane – Two storey extension and new garage wood store – no objection.

Planning Application – withdrawn:

W/12/00767/OU Land Adjacent Sandrene, Tewkesbury Road – Outline application for one detached dwelling.

The Meeting discussed and agreed the draft letter to be sent to Wychavon District Council Planning Department (regarding planning issues within the village). It was agreed that copies would also be sent to the District Councillor, County Councillor and the local MP.

Cllrs Glaze & Smith gave a brief report to the Meeting regarding the recent neighbourhood planning meeting (attended by both Councillors). The Meeting were informed that, although the initiative is presently at its early stage, it was felt that it may not be specifically suited to small parishes such as Eckington.

60/12 – Highway Matters – The Clerk informed the Meeting that although a request had been made to Highways regarding possible traffic calming measures at Pike House (in an attempt to improve the area for pedestrians), Highways had informed the Clerk that, due to expense, it would be unlikely that the work would take place. The Meeting agreed, however, that the PC should make a further request for the work to be adopted as a scheme within future financial budgets. Other possible traffic calming measures were also discussed including; village gateways and tarmac strips at the entrance to the village.

61/12 – Eckington Wharf – Cllrs. Wilkes and Ransted gave a report to the Meeting regarding the additional Meeting with Worcestershire County Council in relation to the possible transfer of responsibility for Eckington Wharf to Eckington PC. Following discussion, the Meeting was in agreement that the responsibility should remain with Worcestershire CC (due primarily to possible costs, flooding implications and possible insurance issues). The Clerk would inform Worcestershire CC.

62/12 – Cala Homes & Section 106 Funding - The Meeting discussed the opposition received from the village (via a petition and voiced from attendees during the Annual Parish Meeting) in relation to the possible purchase of land for recreational use at Stoney Furlong. It was agreed that

the sub-committee would meet prior to the next PC meeting, whereupon the next step in this process and other possibilities for use of the Section 106 funding would be discussed.

63/12 – Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – The Meeting was informed that the matter was still ongoing and would continue to be pursued by the Clerk.

64/12 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – Nothing to report at present – matter ongoing.

65/12 – Community Bus Service Scheme – Cllr Glaze informed the Meeting that the contract for bus services has now been awarded to Astons Coach Company and will commence on 27th May, running until 16th September. The Meeting agreed a draft advertisement for inclusion in the Parish Magazine. Posters will be erected within the village and information will be posted on the village website.

66/12 – Wychavon Bursary Award Scheme – The Meeting discussed a request from Wychavon DC regarding a PC contribution towards the revised scheme. The Meeting agreed to decline the offer.

67/12 – Parish Lengthsman – Due to a small increase in the Highways Lengthsman budget, a proposal was made by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Glaze that the Parish Lengthsman should receive a small salary increase. It was also agreed that the Chair and Clerk would meet with the Lengthsman before the next PC meeting in order to carry out the annual appraisal.

68/12 – Finance – Cllr Forrest proposed and was seconded by Cllr Glaze that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£309.34
Admin expenses & mileage	£26.89
Lengthsman salary	£141.90
PAYE	£46.80
Village hall hire	£12.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£179.82
Wychavon DC (non domestic rating bill)	£48.82
Worcestershire County Council (supply of grit bin)	£162.00
Community First (annual insurance)	£383.94
T. Gittins (hedge cut)	£145.80

69/12 – Correspondence for Information – The Meeting noted the file of correspondence available for inspection.

70/12 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda
No items.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and will take place on Tuesday 08th May 2012.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.