

Tuesday 12 March 2013 – One resident attended the open public forum to raise the issue of overgrown hedges at Nafford Road. The Meeting discussed the fact that the Parish Council are currently pursuing this matter with Worcestershire Highways, however the process has become protracted due to the fact that the current landowners are in administration. The Meeting agreed that they would continue to pursue this matter with the Highways Authority, in an attempt to reach a resolution.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th March 2013

30/13 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Ransted, Cameron, Wood, Smith, Forrest, Bainbridge and Wilkes.

31/13 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Glaze and were duly accepted by the Meeting.

32/13 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Williamson declared an interest in Item 6 (Planning) of the Agenda.

33/13 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2013 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Wilkes, this was seconded by Cllr Smith. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

34/13 District & County Councillor Reports –

Cllr Davis reported on the following issues:

- WDC budget for the next financial year has now been finalized – there will be no increase in Council Tax;
- WDC Exec. Board have now formally approved the proposal from the Recreation Committee in relation to use of Section 106 money;
- Police & Crime Panel - Cllr Davis informed the Meeting that he would attempt to obtain crime figures for each village within his Ward (Eckington crime figures are currently low);
- Cllr Davis passed information to the Clerk relating to the opportunity to obtain Community Grants (for open spaces). The Clerk agreed to pass this information on to the Recreation Centre.

Cllr Hardman reported on the following issues:

- Cllr Hardman informed the Meeting that he had been able to donate a small amount towards the running costs of the 381 bus service (for the coming year);
- Hacketts Lane (water leak) – Cllr Hardman informed the Meeting that Severn Trent have undertaken the required maintenance works. Unfortunately, however, although the problem had improved, the PC informed Cllr Hardman that there still appeared to be an issue with ground water. Cllr Hardman agreed to raise the issue again with Highways;
- Grass cutting – The Meeting again raised the ongoing issue of the attempt to extract information from WDC regarding the grass cutting within the village. Cllr Hardman agreed to pursue the matter;
- Cllr Hardman raised the issue of the results of the recent speeding survey within the village. It was agreed this matter would be discussed at the next Meeting, as the PC had not yet had an opportunity to analyze the results.

35/13 Progress Reports – Clerk:

The Clerk reported the land drainage issues (brought to the attention of the PC by WDC).

The Meeting discussed and agreed that Eckington would enter the Parish Games again this year.

The Meeting was reminded of the forthcoming second training session (due to be held on 25th March) undertaken by CALC and organised for the Parish Council, covering ‘Other aspects of Localism, Code of Conduct & Dispensation & Cilca Qualification.

Village Hall – It was reported that:

- The current situation relating to grants was discussed, with a view to applying for lottery funding in the near future;
- The replacement of the village hall windows is imminent and quotes are now being sought for the extension works to the front of the hall;
- A recent coffee morning was well supported and a jumble sale is due to take place within the next few weeks. The AGM will take place on 21st May.

Recreation Centre – It was reported that quotes are currently being sought for the surfacing of paths and the provision of extra car parking.

Footpaths – The Meeting was informed that it is anticipated that a bench will be installed at St. Catherines within the next few weeks.

In relation to the Modification Order concerning Drakesbridge Road/Peason Lane, the Clerk reported that the Order has now been advertised in the local press. The six week objection period is now in operation.

CALC – Cllr Ransted attended. The recently adopted Code of Conduct was discussed – so far there had been no breaches to the Code within Worcestershire.

36/13 – 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 February 2013:

Planning Applications to be discussed:

W/13/00368/PP 3 Ninesquares – First floor extension to front elevation – No objection.

W/13/00306/PN 3 Court Gate Nursery, Station Road – Single storey extension to the rear of the existing office/storage unit – No objection.

Concerns were raised regarding vehicles associated with the building works at Riverdene parked on Pershore Road and the corner of New Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WDC in relation to this matter.

The Meeting discussed the recent training undertaken relating to PC’s producing a Neighborhood, Planning and Development Plan. Following a short discussion, the Parish Council agreed that they saw little benefit in producing the plan for the village at this present time.

37/13 – Highway Matters –

Nafford Road (overgrown hedges) – The Meeting was informed that, due to the current landowners being in administration, WDC are currently trying to obtain authorisation for funding to instruct a contractor to carry out the works. The Meeting stressed the urgency of this request and it was agreed the Clerk would continue to pursue the matter with Highways.

Grass verge cutting – It was reported that the Clerk had been in contact with Highways again regarding this matter and that they were currently in the process of working out costings relating to the Parish Council undertaking the responsibility for grass cutting within the village. It was

reported that WCC intend to have the information available within the next couple of weeks, along with the details of the current contractors. The Clerk would continue to pursue the matter. Nafford Road (subsidence) – The matter has been reported to Highways and referred to the local works team. The work will be subject to funding availability.

Relocation of the bus turn - The Meeting again discussed the initial request made to Astons Bus Company to relocate the present bus turn from The Close to Glenmoor. The request had been made by the Parish Council, due to damage being caused along the road edging in the Close and there being significantly more space at Glenmoor for the buses to turn. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to the bus company again in order to pursue the matter further.

38/13 – Cala Homes & Section 106 Funding - Nothing further to report.

39/13 – New Homes Bonus Meeting - A brief discussion took place regarding groups within the village who had been awarded funding, and the next step required by them in order to obtain a cheque from the PC for their funding amount. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Cllr Glaze to clarify the situation.

40/13 – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting - The Meeting agreed that the APM would take place on 9th April (prior to the monthly Council Meeting) and the APCM on 14th May.

41/13 – Eckington Picnic Site – Following the site meeting at the Wharf between Worcestershire Countryside Services and Cllrs Williamson and Wilkes, it was agreed that there would be no benefit to the Parish Council in taking on the responsibility of the maintenance of the site and therefore, Countryside Services should continue to manage the Wharf for the immediate future. The Meeting was unanimous in this decision.

42/13 – Finance – Cllr Forrest proposed and was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£318.46
Admin expenses & mileage	£33.80
Lengthsman salary	£148.00
Village Hall hire	£24.00
CALC training (Clerk)	£10.00
L. Gerber (reimbursement of BT phone bill)	£85.34
CALC whole Council training	£120.00

43/13 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

44/13 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

- To discuss list of options suggested for further use of NHB funding;
- The Meeting noted the response to comments made by the PC relating to the proposed planning application regarding the Dovecote (Mantoft, Upper End).

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 09th April 2013, in the Recreation Centre, this will include the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting was closed at 09.15pm.