

Tuesday 10th September 2013 – There were no residents present at the Open Public Forum.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th September 2013

113/13 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Wood, Smith, Bainbridge, Ransted, Wilkes and Glaze.

114/13 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Cameron and Forrest. The Meeting accepted the Apologies.

115/13 Declarations of Interest – No declarations were received, although Councillors were reminded to fill in forms for all Declarations.

116/13 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 09th July 2013 – Following one minor amendment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 09th July were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Smith, this was seconded by Cllr Glaze. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

117/13 District & County Councillor Reports –

In Cllr Davis' absence, a report was sent to the Meeting urging the Parish Council to continue with current NHB applications (this being in light of recent proposed changes to the scheme) and encouraging a letter of objection to the changes, to be sent from the Parish to the Government.

Cllr Hardman – Cllr Hardman informed the Meeting that although removal of yellow lines along Church Street had been considered by WCC, it was agreed this would not be pursued as although it may lessen risk to pedestrians and residents it could increase the risk to drivers. It was therefore agreed that enforcement would be the best possible solution to the problem.

The Clerk informed the Meeting that Safer Roads Partnership had been in contact and had agreed to undertake their own speed survey, with a view to speed enforcement being carried out within the village in the near future. The Safer Roads Partnership will update the Clerk once the findings have been analyzed.

WCC have not yet decided whether yellow lines should be added from Church Road (alongside the war memorial) to Drakesbridge Road.

Cllr Hardman informed the Meeting that an updated map relating to Broadband areas within the locality, is now available to view on-line.

118/13 Progress Reports – The following was reported:

Clerk –

- Neighbourhood Planning Seminar (WDC) flagged up – PC agreed there would be no need to attend, as this had been covered during the recent CALC evenings hosted by the PC;
- CALC Networking Event, Ways Forward For Your Council – The Clerk informed the Meeting of her intended attendance. Cllr Williamson also agreed to attend.

Village Hall – The Following was reported:

- The funding process regarding building works is still ongoing, with £1,000 raised at a recent jumble sale;
- Scaffolding owned by the Village Hall, will now only be available to hire if a suitable insurance plan is in place by the hirer;

- Due to the Post Office facility now being removed from the Village Hall and the loss of revenue this would incur, the PC discussed whether purchases regarding building works could be made by the Parish Council on behalf of the Village Hall, in order to re-claim VAT. Cllr Smith agreed to raise this at the next Meeting.

CALC – A report was made in relation to the recent CALC meeting, topics covered were; Pershore Market Town Partnership, Local Strategic Partnership, Bredon Hill Conservation Group, Quality Council Scheme, precept and a guest speaker who discussed a new organisation named VOICES, which aims to provide strategic leadership and a collective voice for voluntary and community organisations.

PMT – Cllr Ransted attended a recent meeting. The effects of proposed new housing in the locality were discussed, in particular in relation to parking availability within the town.

119/13 – 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 09th July 2013:

W/13/001447/8CU&LB Lower End House, Manor Road – Change of use of redundant barn to luxury B&B in conjunction with adjacent Lower End House and Eckington Cookery School – no objection.

W/13/01372/PP Orchard Lea, Jarvis Street – Single storey side extension, porch, conservatory, loft conversion & dormer windows – no objection.

W/13/01504/OU The Old Pike House, Pershore Road – Outline planning application for the erection of a 3 bed detached dwelling – no objection.

Planning Approvals

W/13/00874/CU Manor Farm, Manor Road – Change of use of agricultural barn and land to side from agriculture to dual use for agriculture and for purposes ancillary to the Cookery School (retrospective).

W/13/001447/8CU&LB Lower End House, Manor Road – Change of use of redundant barn to luxury B&B in conjunction with adjacent Lower End House and Eckington Cookery School.

W/13/01177LB & 01122/PP Old School House, Jarvis Street – Single storey extension.

W/13/01372/PP Orchard Lea, Jarvis Street – Single storey side extension, porch, conservatory, loft conversion & dormer windows.

The Meeting discussed the recent letter received from WDC Planning informing Parishes of changes to (i) public speaking within planning committee meetings; (ii) to cease the automatic sending of paper plans to Parish Councils, instead they would be purchased at a cost to the PC.

The Meeting agreed that a letter would be sent in favour of the new provisions for public speaking at planning committee, although asking for further clarification of precise timings allowed. The PC would also seek costings for any planning paperwork required.

120/13 – Highway Matters – The following issues were brought to the attention of the Meeting:

- Tewkesbury Road (at bus turning area) - Robinia in need of pruning;
- Mill Lane – areas have been marked by WCC for installation of white marker posts, although work has not yet been undertaken;
- Tewkesbury Road (opposite Hanford Drive – investigate white van parked on verge

All matters will be reported to Worcestershire Highways.

121/13 – Section 106 Funding – The Meeting discussed the practicalities of paying invoices received by the Clerk in relation to Section 106 purchases at the Recreation Ground. It was agreed the Clerk would seek advice from Heather Peachey (WDC) in relation to this matter.

122/13 – New Homes Bonus Meeting - The Meeting was informed of the proposed changes to the NHB Scheme (set out in recent communications received from WDC) and the possible ramifications to the Parish Council. Cllr Glaze read a prepared draft response to be sent by the PC to the Government which strongly opposed these changes. The Meeting was unanimous in its agreement that the letter should be sent and thanked Cllr Glaze for the amount of time spent in preparing such a well thought out response.

The Meeting also discussed the forthcoming public meeting due to take place on 14th October where more information on current NHB projects will be discussed. The Meeting agreed it was imperative that as many residents as possible attend in order that the funds for these projects can be secured. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to all past recipients of NHB funding and current users of the Village Hall, to personally invite them to this important Meeting.

123/13 – Mowing – Churchyard – The Meeting discussed the need for clearance work to be undertaken along the boundaries of the Churchyard. It was therefore agreed that a quote for the works should be sought from the current grass cutting contractors, and discussed at the next meeting.

124/13 – Parish Lengthsman – The Meeting discussed the legal requirement to pay all employees holiday pay. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would speak with the Lengthsman asking him to reduce his working hours in order that provision could be made for holiday pay. It was agreed this would be reviewed in a few months' time.

125/13 – Finance – Cllr Bainbridge proposed and was seconded by Cllr Wilkes that the following payments should be approved:

Payments Already Made:

Clerk's salary (inc. recent backdated salary increase, NALC)	£345.19
Admin expenses & mileage	£34.10
Lengthsman salary	£148.00
Village hall hire	£15.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£621.18
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£316.80
Wychavon Sport	£69.00

Payments to be Made:

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Clerk's holiday pay (unclaimed last month)	£44.70
Admin expenses & mileage	£9.52
Lengthsman salary	£148.00
A. Angood (WI projector)	£688.96
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (April & Aug cut)	£719.64
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£273.60
L. Gerber (BT phone line reimbursement)	£33.05
WDC (brown bin)	£87.64

ANT	£10.00
Cotswold Line News	£10.00

126/13 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

127/13 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda

- Second edition of the Village News is now on-line
- Should a sub-committee relating to Superfast Broadband within the village now be set up? This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 08th October 2013, in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.35pm.