

Tuesday 13th May 2014 – There was no attendance at the Open Public Forum.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Eckington held on Tuesday 13th May 2014

65/14 Present – Cllrs. Williamson, Glaze, Wood, Bainbridge, Cameron, Ransted, Wilkes (and Forrest).

66/14 Election of Parish Council Chairman – A proposal was made by Cllr Bainbridge for Cllr Glaze to take the Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Cameron. There being no further nominations, the Meeting unanimously agreed the motion. Cllr Glaze accepted, and duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chair thanked Cllr Williamson (on behalf of the whole Parish Council), for the superb way in which her duties as Chair had been carried out during her time in the post.

67/14 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Smith. These were unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

68/14 Election of Vice Chairman – A proposal was made by Cllr Williamson for Cllr Bainbridge to become Vice Chair. This was seconded by Cllr Ransted. There being no further nominations, the Meeting unanimously agreed the motion. Cllr Bainbridge accepted, and duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

69/14 Declarations of Interest – No declarations were received.

70/14 Standing Orders – The Meeting noted the Standing Orders (updated Nov/13) and agreed slight modifications would be made in readiness to agree at the June Meeting.

71/14 To Appoint Members of Staff to the Following:

The Meeting unanimously agreed that the following appointments should be made:

Staffing Committee – Cllrs Forrest, Glaze, Smith

Planning Committee – Cllrs Bainbridge, Wood, Wilkes, Ransted

Finance & Budget Committee – Cllrs Cameron, Williamson, Glaze

NHB Committee – Cameron, Smith, Forrest, Glaze

Section 106 Committee – Bainbridge, Wilkes, Forrest, Williamson

(7.35 – Cllr Forrest arrived)

72/14 Annual Subscriptions – A proposal was made by Cllr Williamson that the following annual subscriptions should be made. This was seconded by Cllr Wilkes and unanimously agreed by the Meeting:

CLPG	<i>(invoice not yet received, 2013 - £10.00)</i>
ANT	£10.00
Community First	<i>(invoice not yet received, 2013 - £20.00)</i>
LCR	£17.00
CALC	£540.51

73/14 District & County Councillor Reports:

Cllr Davis reported the following:

- WDC continue to look for additional savings to be made across all departments;

- NHB – Cllr Davis encouraged the PC to ensure that a suitable plan is in place regarding eligible funds, to ensure that all funding is spent within the Parish;
- SWDP – Before the Development Plan can be agreed, it still requires a further 4,100 homes to be supplied within the 3 districts.
A brief discussion took place regarding the planning process within WDC.

There was no attendance from the Cllr Hardman.

74/14 Annual Risk Assessment –

The Meeting noted the updated risk assessment.

It was agreed that advice should be sought regarding the length of time between safety inspections in relation to the large cedar tree at the front of the churchyard.

75/14 To Appoint Individual Councillors to the Following Roles:

The Meeting unanimously agreed that the following Councillors should be appointed:

Footpath Officer – Cllr Wilkes

Eckington Memorial Hall – Cllr Bainbridge

Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr Ransted

Eckington Recreation Centre – Cllr Wood

Church & Bridge Trust – Cllrs Wilkes & Forrest

CALC – Cllrs Glaze & Williamson

PACT – Cllr Ransted

PMTP – Cllr Ransted

Tree Warden – A brief discussion took place regarding whether the role should be offered to a local resident, rather than a member of the PC, as is the case in some Parish Councils. It was agreed, however, this would not be necessary at present. Therefore Cllr Wood agreed to continue with the role.

76/14 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 01st April 2014 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 01st April were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Forrest, this was seconded by Cllr Williamson. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

77/14 Progress Reports –

Clerk – No report.

Village Hall – It was reported that the annual meeting had recently taken place, whereupon a new Chair had been elected. There is currently a vacancy for a committee secretary.

A request has now been made to CALA Homes for a contribution towards the Village Hall building project. Other sources of funding are currently being investigated, before a second planning application is submitted to WDC.

Recreation Centre – The Meeting was informed that progress is now being made with the Section 106 funding improvements.

Footpaths – It was reported that a new information leaflet relating to the Wychavon Way has now been produced and will shortly be available to the public.

The Meeting discussed and agreed the request from WCC to consider whether the PC would agree to an amendment regarding the width of the proposed addition of footpath at Hammock Lane/Peason Lane (modification order). The Parish Council agreed that every effort should be made to bring this matter to a conclusion. It is therefore anticipated that the order will now be re-advertised including the amended width.

BHCG – The Meeting discussed concerns raised regarding the amount of housing and anticipated timescales under the SWDP proposals.

It was reported that MOD Ashchurch will be closing, however there is still no confirmed timescale.

PACT – It was reported that:

- Due to staffing issues, there is currently no Police presence at the PACT meetings. A suggestion was made that perhaps Eckington could join with another neighbouring Parish, although this has yet to be discussed;
- Neighbourhood Watch within the village was also discussed. It was agreed that, although the PC would support this initiative they would not be in a position to initiate anything as a Parish Council

PMTP – It was reported that WDC are currently reviewing the Market Town Partnerships initiative.

78/14 – 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 01st April 2014:

Applications to be Discussed:

W/14/00855/ The Chapel, Jarvis Street – Single storey rear extension – No Objection.

The Meeting noted a resident's concern and WDC's response, to changes in the proposed build at Woodbine Cottage.

The Meeting noted two letters of response received from WDC regarding:

- Parish Council Planning comments regarding Highway issues;
- Planning Officer Reports to Planning Committee and Committee items.

The Meeting agreed that although some of the issues raised by the PC had been addressed, there were still outstanding matters which required clarification. It was agreed that the Clerk would re-write requesting further clarification.

79/14 – Highway Matters –

The Meeting discussed and agreed that, at the present time, the issue of requesting yellow lines alongside the war memorial, would not be further pursued with Highways.

The Clerk would continue to pursue all other outstanding matters.

80/14 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing to report.

81/14 – New Homes Bonus Meeting – It was reported that almost all of the funding from the second request made to WDC has now been spent, with a further amount being 'ring fenced' for use towards the Village Hall modifications.

82/14 – Circular River Walk – The Meeting discussed safety issues raised by a local resident relating to the use of weed killer along the path. The Meeting agreed to bring the matter to the attention of Countryside Services.

83/14 – Review of Polling District & Polling Places – The Meeting considered the letter received from WDC relating to the Polling Station within Eckington. It was agreed that current arrangements were sufficient for the needs of the village and therefore the PC had no changes to recommend.

84/14 – Churchyard & Cemetery Tree Inspection – The Meeting agreed that BJ Unwin Forestry Consultancy should carry out the safety inspection of both the Churchyard and Cemetery trees. The Clerk would also seek advice regarding whether the large cedar tree at the front of the Churchyard should be inspected more frequently than the agreed 5 year term.

A proposal was made by Cllr Williamson and seconded by Cllr Forrest, for the purchase of grass seed, for use within the Cemetery.

85/14 – Cala Homes – The Meeting noted comments received from local residents, in response to the consultation carried out by Cala Homes regarding the proposed new housing. The Meeting also noted information received from WDC regarding community housing needs within the village. The Meeting agreed that a second visit to the Parish Council from Cala Homes, should take place during the June meeting.

86/14 – Finance – Cllr Williamson proposed and was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge that the following payments should be approved:

Clerk's salary	£376.81
Admin expenses & mileage	£37.80
Annual room allowance	£200.00
Lengthsman salary	£140.25
Village hall hire	£24.00
CALC (Councillor training)	£60.00
Stuart Blunsom Tree Care	£570.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£539.46
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£376.20
ANT (subs)	£10.00
CALC (subs)	£540.51
LCR (subs)	£17.00
Community First (insurance)	£392.83
Blue Gecko Plants	£80.00
Adrian Ball (reimbursement - cricket equipment)	£1317.05
CALC (Clerk training)	£30.00

87/14 – Correspondence for Information – Noted.

88/14 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

The Meeting noted and was disappointed to be informed of a recent incident of anti-social behavior (reported by a resident), carried out within the village.

The next Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 10th June 2014, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.45pm.