

Tuesday 08th September 2015 – Two residents attended the Open Public Forum.

Matters raised:

- Concerns regarding the draft copy of the Village Design Statement.
- Nafford Road – proposed re-siting of 30mph. The Parish Council was asked to explain the request made to Highways, for a speed check. It was explained that this was required due to concerns regarding the re-siting (raised by some residents).

It was explained that both matters raised would be discussed during the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 08th September 2015

144/15 Present – Cllrs. Glaze, Wilkes, Wood, Brown, Bogaard and Ransted.

145/15 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Bainbridge, Palmer and Cameron. These were unanimously accepted.

146/15 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Glaze declared an interest in Item 11 of the Agenda.

147/15 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2015 – The Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th July were a true and accurate record and a proposal was made by Cllr Wilkes, this was seconded by Cllr Bogaard. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

148/15 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis reported the following:

- Finances in good shape, despite having to make repayments of business rates to Doctors Surgeries (this being due to a recent change in rating demands);
- Integration with Malvern Hills District Council – still ongoing;
- SWDP – initial comments expected at the end of September; signing off expected in Spring 2016.

149/15 Progress Reports – The Following was reported:

Clerk: -

- WDC Flood Alleviation Support Grant Scheme – Following a short discussion regarding the Scheme, it was agreed that Cllr Wood would consider the criteria in order to ascertain whether Eckington would be in a position to make an application. Cllr Wood agreed to report his findings to the Chair within the next few days.
- WRS Draft Consultation on Street Collection Policy – No comment.
- Dog waste bin (Wharf) – It was reported that a request had been made to WDC to re-site the bin at the agreed location.

Police Report – 16/08, New Road – two parked cars scratched.

Request for all homeowners to review their home and vehicle safety. Information regarding this can be found at www.westmercia.police.uk

Footpaths –

Piecing/Hammock Lane Modification Order – Countryside Services have acknowledged the demand for the routes to be open and walkable; however due to the technical challenges (including significant drainage issues and one of the routes passing through an SSSI), the matter is ongoing. Discussions are currently underway with the landowner, the Environment Agency, Land Drainage Authority and Natural England.

Complaint received regarding Electric fencing along the river – Countryside Services are satisfied that the fences are in order and within the rights of the landowner.

BHCG – Items discussed at the recent meeting:

- Gloucestershire/Tewkesbury Development Plan – BHCG have put their concerns to the local authority, regarding the proposed development of MOD land, and the impact of traffic to the villages surrounding Bredon Hill;
- Fabric damage on Bredon Hill (Battens Wood) - Natural England are currently looking into this matter.

CALC – Concern had been raised regarding low attendance at meetings by Parish Councils.

CALC will continue to encourage PC's to send representatives to their meetings.

The recent meeting received a report from Healthwatch (an independent body providing a voice for the public relating to health and social care issues).

Village Hall – The following was reported:

- Approximately £90,000 (including grants) now available to fund proposed extension. May need to borrow £25,000;
- Application will be made to PC to fund Wifi installation (from NHB funding);
- Agreed to attempt to appoint a coordinator to resurrect “Shindig” performances;
- Deeds have now been read and considered.

PACT – Cllr Bogaard to contact the local Officer.

150/15 – 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 14th July 2015:

Approvals:

W/15/01364/RM The Cottage, Upper End – New timber frame dwelling – reserved matters application following outline planning permission ref no. 14/02130.

To Discuss:

W/15/02180/PP Church Corner, Vicarage Gardens – Construction of new single storey rear extension and infill of open porch – no objections.

151/15 – Finance – Cllr Ransted proposed and was seconded by Cllr Bogaard that the following payments should be approved:

Payments already made:

Clerk's salary	£397.30
L. Gerber – admin expenses & mileage	£56.52
Cotswold Line Promotion Group – subs	£10.00
Eckington Village Hall	£27.00
R. Langdon (lengthsman services)	£36.00
Greenfields Garden Services Ltd (Sec.106)	£1666.19
Wychavon Sport (Parish Games)	£69.00
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£458.40
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec.cut)	£324.00
Grant Thornton (external audit fee)	£480.00

Payments to be made:

Clerk's salary	£397.30
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£11.48
L. Gerber (reimburse BT invoice)	£65.46
Lengthsman salary	£149.55
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£374.40
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£324.00

Jon Smith (reimbursement of Rec.bench – Sec.106)

£1002.00

152/15 – Neighbourhood Plan – It was reported that:

- Call for potential development sites – nine sites received. These will be assessed by Foxley Tagg, who will report back to the Steering Group.
- Drakesbridge Road Bridge – Letters to be sent to WCC and Network Rail requesting whether any contingency plans have been set up, in the event of the bridge having to close.
- Finance – two further grants received. A query has been raised with WDC regarding the amount (the PC having received the whole of it, rather than partially as had been expected);

Village Design Statement –

It was reported that:

- Cllr Cameron would support the document (following the correction of a couple of typographical errors);
- Cllr Palmer supported the document, but warned that it should not be too restrictive – small developments would not necessarily have the variety required and would not attract 106 funding.

The Meeting then considered the comments raised during the Open Public Forum:

- Development boundary of the village – The Meeting discussed and agreed that all references to boundaries should be “development boundaries” rather than “settlement boundaries”, in order to eradicate any confusion.

It was therefore agreed that adoption of the document would be deferred for one month, pending the alterations.

153/15 – Highways –

- Nafford Road (cutting back overgrowth) – The Meeting discussed the request from Highways for the lengthsman to carry out this work. It was agreed, however, that as this is outside the 30mph zone, it would not be the responsibility of the lengthsman to carry out the work. It was agreed that, although requests had already been made to WCC and the landowner regarding this matter, a further request to WCC to resolve this matter would be made.
- The Close, replacement of sett curbs – It was agreed that due to poor workmanship, a request would be made for WCC to re-do the maintenance work.
- Re-siting of 30mph sign on Nafford Road – The Meeting considered the mean speed collected from the recent speed check (29.6mph). It was agreed that in order to make informative comments, a copy of all the speed data collected would be required. The Clerk agreed to make this request to Highways.

154/15 – Cemetery – The Meeting discussed and agreed the request to place a memorial bench in the left hand section of the cemetery.

155/15 – Churchyard – The Meeting considered and agreed the quote received regarding the clearance work required. A proposal was therefore made by Cllr Bogaard, and seconded by Cllr Wood.

156/15 – Section 106 Funding – It was reported that the bench had now been purchased. The Meeting agreed that it was important for the car park matting to be laid as soon as possible, due to the winter months fast approaching. It was also agreed that a further reminder would be made to the Recreation Committee for the gate to be unlocked and open during all events.

157/15 – New Homes Bonus – It was confirmed that WDC will now release the next stage of funding to Parish Councils. Eckington Parish Council will receive £44,000 (£30,000 of which will go towards the Village Hall extension).

A further request for funding has been received from Babes and Toddlers; the application to WDC will be made shortly.

Two further enquires have been received:

- Wifi installation at the Village Hall;
- Scout Hut - Replacement of guttering and soffits.

Cllr Glaze stressed the need to show community benefit for all applications (this being necessary in order for WDC to consider the application).

158/15 – Correspondence for Information – Correspondence circulated.

159/15 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda – Nothing.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm.