

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Three residents attended the Open Public Forum.

The following issues were raised:

- The Parish Council was informed that motorists wishing to get to post code WR10 3BB using a satellite navigation device, were being directed to the wrong area of the village. The resident informed the Meeting that he was in the process of trying to resolve the matter.
- A request was received for enforcement to be carried out on the yellow lines on Tewkesbury Road (outside the hairdressers). Cllr Bogaard agreed to pursue the matter with PACT.
- The following requests were made by the Village Hall Committee to the Parish Council:
  - (i) A donation of £59,000 towards the building project (this being the shortfall needed for the project). The PC was asked to consider taking out a loan to raise the funds. The initial reaction was that this would mean a significant rise in Council Tax for the village, which under current government rules would not be permitted;
  - (ii) Purchase of new curtains and rails for the stage (NHB funding) – the Chair explained that a breakdown of costs would be required before the request could be considered;
  - (iii) Request to consider the PC becoming trustees of the Village Hall – The Chair explained that further information and guidance regarding this matter would be sought.

A letter from the Village Hall Committee containing the above requests would be further discussed during the Meeting.

- Village Design Statement –
  - (i) Mr Bateman thanked the PC for making the agreed changes to the VDS. It was explained that as he was now satisfied that the issues raised in his recent letter had been resolved, he no longer required a written reply.
  - (ii) Mr Bateman assured the PC that he was supportive of the Chair, and apologised if he had implied otherwise.
  - (iii) Further letter received – this would be discussed during the Meeting.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

01/16 Present – Cllrs. Glaze, Wilkes, Cameron, Bainbridge, Wood, Brown, Bogaard, Palmer and Ransted.

02/16 Apologies – None received.

03/16 Declarations of Interest – Declaration received from Cllr Bogaard (Item 6 – planning application 15/03231).

04/16 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – Following one amendment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 08<sup>th</sup> December were a true and accurate record and a proposal to accept the Minutes was made by Cllr Bogaard, this was seconded by Cllr Bainbridge. All present were unanimous in their agreement, and the Minutes were duly signed.

05/16 District & County Councillor Reports – Cllr Davis reported that:

- WDC precepts are currently being agreed, a slight increase is expected.

- It is likely that planning application 15/01723 (Woollas Farm) will be decided at planning committee in February.

#### 06/16 Progress Reports

Clerk: - The following was reported:

- Allotments – 2 complaints received regarding rabbits entering the allotments. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Network Rail, following their agreement to gas the rabbits at the end of 2015.
- Complaint received regarding a Highways issue on Nafford Road – Clerk to report.
- Parish Games – It was reported that Colin Chapman had agreed to attend the forthcoming de-brief/AGM.
- WCC e-mail regarding Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations – Cllr Glaze to pass on contact details of a possible interested party within the village.

Police Report: The following two incidents were reported:

- 14/12/16 – Report of 3 sheep attacks from a dog off Nafford Road;
- 27/12/16 – Report of disorientated male. The male was located and returned to his home address;
- Several reports of burglaries received in both Bredon and Birlingham.

A request was made for all residents to review their home security and ensure that a light is left on timer, during times when property is left empty for any length of time.

Village Hall – The following was reported:

- Fundraising is ongoing.
- Grant applications made have not been successful, it is yet to be decided whether a further application will be made.
- It has been agreed that white lines will be painted on either side of the steps (as a safety measure).

In relation to the funding request, it was agreed that:

- A full proposal, including costs, would need to be made to the PC.
- Various options should be put to the PC, to ascertain whether the amount required could be made smaller.
- The PC need to be made fully aware of any future plans for the Village Hall.

It was also agreed that further information would be sought regarding trusteeship of the Hall.

Cllr Glaze agreed to draft a letter to the Village Hall Committee.

Footpaths – Modification Order (Hammock Road, Piecing Lane) – Work is progressing slowly.

It was reported that there continue to be issues which prevent the footpaths from opening, primarily work required in relation to water level at Hammock Lane and maintenance work being prevented at Piecing, due to a reluctance to disturb soil (at the request of Natural England)

BHCG – Planning app 15/01723 (Woollas Hall) – Outcome awaited at February planning committee.

Poachers reported in the Combertons area.

Cllr Hardman arrived (8.30pm):

- 382 Bus – Cllr Hardman confirmed that as this service is not subsidized, it is extremely unlikely that an hourly service will be added.
- Cllr Hardman to pursue re-surfacing of footways, ascertaining a start date for the works, and an update relating to the work required at New Road.
- Cllr Hardman agreed to obtain an update relating to the Modification Order, following which he would meet with Cllr Wilkes to discuss.

Church & Bridge Trusts – During a recent meeting, it was agreed that a seat would be purchased and placed in the parish meadow.

07/16 – 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 08<sup>th</sup> December 2015:

W/15/03029/OU Land rear of Roman Meadow – New residential development of 25 dwellings including 10 affordable dwellings with associated landscaping and infrastructure – objection sent.  
W/15/02604/PP Stone End, Manor Road – Extension to driveway – Comments sent.

**Approvals:**

W/15/02605/PN Malham House, New Road –Erection of bungalow.  
W/15/02573/PP 2 Forge Cottages, Cotheridge Lane – Enlargement of existing ground floor extension and insertion of bi-fold doors to lounge. Erection of second storey extension above flat roof extension to create a new bedroom with ensuite bathroom above. Insertion of additional window to lounge and timber porch canopy to front door.  
W/15/02752 Nafford Bank Farm, Nafford Road – Stables and new access road.

**Refusals:**

W/15/02680/PP 6 Russell Drive – Erection of garden shed, fence & new drop kerb.

**To Discuss:**

W/15/03231/PP 3 Upper End – Flat roof replacement – No objection.

The Meeting discussed whether a full Council response should be made to the recent planning enforcement survey (WDC Overview & Scrutiny Committee) or whether comments from each councillor should be made individually. It was agreed that the planning committee would meet separately and send a collective response.

It was also agreed that a letter should be written to WDC requesting confirmation that enforcement will be carried out relating to two recent planning applications within the parish.

08/16 – Finance – Cllr Bainbridge proposed and was seconded by Cllr Cameron that the following payments should be approved:

**Payments already made:**

TJB Garden Services (106 funds)	£150.00
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**Payments to be made:**

Clerk's salary	£397.30
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£37.34
Lengthsman salary	£177.05
Village hall hire	£15.00
WDC (bin installation costs)	£578.73
New Farm Grounds Maintenance	£187.20
New Farm Grounds Maintenance (Rec. cut)	£95.40

The Meeting noted the base rate now received from WDC, and therefore agreed the draft precept of £23,000.

The Meeting discussed the information received regarding the new company appointed to undertake the external audit for smaller authorities. It was agreed that the PC would be part of the scheme, rather than setting up its own independent audit panel.

09/16 – Neighbourhood Plan –

- Adoption of the amended VDS – A proposal was made by Cllr Bainbridge to adopt the amended VDS, this was seconded by Cllr Palmer and therefore formally adopted by the PC
- Following the comments received from Mr Bateman during the Open Public, the PC were in agreement that it would not be necessary to further comment on the letter received from the resident, however a short letter acknowledging this and thanking him for his contribution this evening would be sent.
- The Meeting noted two further letters received by the Clerk raising queries relating to the VDS. It was agreed that these would be considered at a later date, alongside all comments received from the forthcoming village consultation event.

Due to various misconceptions voiced by some residents, Cllr Glaze proposed that the PC should host a further meeting, before the next consultation event, to remind villagers of the relationship between SWDP, WDC and the local plan etc, (this point also raised in the further letter received from Mr Bateman). It was explained that Mr A Ford (WDC) has already agreed to attend such a meeting to explain the differences and relationship between the various planning components. The Meeting was in agreement that the proposed meeting should take place and therefore Cllr Glaze agreed to go ahead with the proposed date of 8<sup>th</sup> February.

10/16 – Highways –

It was reported that a recent meeting had taken place between Cllr Wilkes, Cllr Glaze and Highways. Various works were discussed and it was agreed that:

- Station Road Footways – works planned to commence on 07/03/16;
- The Close (damaged setts), New Road, footways – maintenance planned, as yet no date.

Cllr Glaze agreed to continue to pursue these matters.

11/16 – Pershore Volunteer Car Share Scheme

Following advertisement in the village, it was reported that Pershore Volunteer Centre have been liaising with interested residents of Eckington. Cllr Ransted reminded the Meeting that when residents contact the centre, they should refer to the scheme as ‘Eckington Car Scheme’.

12/16 – Section 106 Funding – Nothing to report.

13/16 – New Homes Bonus – The following was reported:

- The Scouts & Guides application has now been made and will shortly be sent into WDC.
- Cricket Club – initial costs are between £12,000 and £17,000. It was agreed that this was extremely high and a lower quote should be sought.
- WI request for Mac adapter cable and loudspeaker system – It was agreed that as there is already a sound system in the Village Hall, an investigation needs to be made to see whether this can be utilised. As the price of the cable is a very small amount, it was agreed that the PC would offer to purchase this for the WI.

14/16 – Smartwater – The Meeting was informed that following advertisement within the village, only two residents had shown an interest in purchasing the kit. It was therefore agreed that the scheme would not go ahead.

15/16 – Dog Waste Bin – The Meeting considered the map showing where current dog bins are situated in the village. The Meeting concluded that there did not seem to be an immediate need for a bin and agreed to defer the matter until September.

It was agreed that a slab would be placed next to the bin outside Readyhedge (as the bin is situated some distance from the road).

16/16 – Correspondence for Information – Correspondence circulated.

17/16 – Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

- Complaint received regarding lighting at property on Pershore Road – Clerk to report to WRS.
- Cllr Glaze will attend the WCC annual budget meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 10.00pm.