

ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held Tuesday 14th May 2019
At Eckington Village Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors G. Glaze, M. Hughes, G. Ransted, C. Yarnold, M. Wood, J. Wiffen.

1. Election of Chairman: It was proposed by Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Wiffen, that Cllr G. Glaze be appointed as Chairman to the Parish Council. All agreed. Cllr Glaze duly signed his Declaration of Office.

2. Apologies: T. Knight. It was proposed by Cllr Yarnold, seconded Cllr Ransted, that the Declaration of Office could be signed after the meeting due to agreed absence. All agreed.

3. Election of Vice Chairman: It was proposed by Cllr Yarnold, seconded Cllr Hughes, that Cllr G. Ransted be appointed as Vice Chairman. All agreed.

4. Declarations of Interests: There were no declarations of interests for the meeting. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Registers of Interests with Wychavon DC before the end of May.

5. Standing Orders: Councillors were reminded of the need to familiarise themselves with Standing Orders of the Council. Noted.

6. Councillor Code of Conduct: Councillors were reminded of the Code of Conduct for Councillors. Noted.

7. Appointment of Councillor Roles: It was agreed by all that the following Councillors be appointed to the roles as follows:

- Village Hall Committee Representative – Cllr G. Ransted
- Allotment Lead – Cllr J. Wiffen
- Community Engagement Lead – Cllr C. Yarnold + one vacancy to be appointed
- Parish Paths Warden – it was noted that this is a Worcs CC post; former Councillor Nils Wilkes will continue in this role. It was proposed by Cllr Glaze, seconded Cllr Ransted that no PC role is required. All agreed.
- Tree Warden – it was noted that this is a Worcs CC post; Cllr M. Wood will continue in this role.
- Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr G. Ransted
- Recreation Centre Committee Representative – Cllr C. Yarnold with Cllr M. Wood to support.
- Church & Bridge Trusts – Cllr M. Hughes
- Wychavon CALC – Cllrs G. Ransted & J. Wiffen
- Cemetery & Churchyard Lead – Cllrs C. Yarnold & G. Glaze
- Rural Communities Programme – Cllr M. Hughes
- Neighbourhood Watch & Community Speed Watch – Cllr G. Ransted

Committee Roles agreed:

- **Planning Committee** – Cllrs G. Glaze, G. Ransted, T. Knight
- **Finance Committee** - Cllrs G. Glaze, G. Ransted, T. Knight

It was agreed that other Committees should be formed as required and when additional Councillors had been co-opted.

8. Annual Subscriptions: The following annual subscriptions were proposed by Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Hughes. All agreed –

- Avon Navigation Trust £10.00
- Cotswold Line Promotion Group £20.00
- Clerks & Councils Direct £nil
- Worcs CALC & NALC £816.17
- Society of Local Council Clerks £50.00 (pro rata as multi Council Clerk)

9. Risk Assessments & Insurance Review:

It was agreed that this should be deferred to the June meeting and that the Clerk should circulate the documents to all for perusal.

10. Minutes of the meeting held 9th April 2019: The Minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Yarnold. All agreed.

11. District & County Councillor Reports: District Councillor Ron Davis addressed the meeting -

Congratulations to all those elected Councillors and thanks to all those who have left the Council after many years of service.

- WDC has Conservative control with a majority of 27. Leader is Cllr B. Thomas. Executive board x8 has been appointed. Annual meeting to be held 15th May.
- A profile of Eckington District Ward was circulated to the meeting.
- Councillor training dates – to be advised.
- New Homes Bonus legacy applications re-open on 20th May for application above £10K.
- Annual report details and Council Tax figs were noted.
- Cllr Davis agreed to confirm the position regarding the community land transfer application lodged with WDC as it appears to be going to Planning Committee.

12. Progress Reports:

Clerk – Police report circulated. Defibrillator training dates arranged for 17th & 27th July – to be circulated via Facebook, website, parish magazine. WDC workshop for Councillors on 13th June (as circulated). Cllr Ransted agreed to attend.

Village Hall Committee – There was no report circulated, but Cllr Ransted reported on the AGM held and the accounts presented. The new Chairman is D. Bainbridge.

Recreation Centre Committee – no report.

Footpaths – Cllr Glaze reported that Hammock Lane options are ongoing and reports are still awaited.

Tree Warden – no report. A fruit tree workshop has been arranged via Worcs CC.

Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr Ransted reported that Mitton Bank development is awaiting the Highways report.

Church & Bridge Trusts – no report.

Worcs CALC – Next meeting 6th June.

Partnership – it was agreed that as no further actions were to be taken that this be removed from future agendas.

Cemetery & Churchyard – The Clerk updated that the kerb stones work had been undertaken at a cost of £100 + vat per kerb stone.

Allotments – Cllr Glaze reported 'earth works' that had recently taken place and asked the Clerk to confirm with the plot holder No. 2 what the future intention was for the site. No prior permission had been granted by the PC for the works undertaken.

Community Engagement – Cllr Yarnold had circulated a pdf of the survey summary results, which is also to be uploaded to the website and to Facebook. Saturday morning Councillor Surgeries have been arranged as agreed and are also to be publicised.

13. Planning Matters:

Applications for consideration:

19/00940/FUL – Mr E. Mustin, Drakesbridge, Drakesbridge Rd, Eckington WR10 3BN – demolition of existing garage and construction of a detached dwelling.

Response by 28th May. Concerns regarding the proximity to a listed building and that the fence line of the new development will block off existing access to the house. Sight lines may also not allow another access to be put in due to the proximity of the bridge.

It was agreed that Cllr Glaze should explore issues and circulate options for comment by the PC before the deadline. Also, to link to neighbourhood Plan demands if possible.

19/00830/HP – Mrs Emma Moore, Donnington, Manor Rd, Eckington WR10 3BH – construction of a single storey extension and associated drainage works.
(Response by 9th May – no objection submitted)

19/01029/CLE – Mr Richard Draper, Lechmere, Hammock Lane, Eckington WR10 3BJ – Occupation of Lechmere in breach of occupancy condition as set out within planning permission 668/73 – application for lawful development certificate (existing). No objection.

Notifications:

19/00430/GPDQ – Barns at Court End Farm, Mill Lane, Eckington – Prior Approval granted for change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to 2 dwelling houses and for assoc. operational development.

14. Financial & Governance Matters:

14.1 Payments to be made – proposed Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Wiffen, all agreed:

- £399.45 Clerk salary
- £87.35 Clerk expenses (phone / internet / mileage)
- £177.30 Lengthsman salary
- £1152.84 New Farm Grounds Maintenance grass cutting and war memorial work
- £690.00 J. Pitchforth allotment fencing repairs
- £816.17 Worcs CALC & NALC annual subs
- £30.00 G. Glaze printing costs
- £24.00 Eckington Village Hall hire fees
- £1639.33 Public Works Loan Board repayment (03/06/2019 by DD)

14.1.1 Monies received noted:

£110.00 Allotment fees
£12500.00 Wychavon DC precept (first instalment)
£617.00 Burial fees

14.1.2 Account balances noted:

£14816.00 Treasurers account
£25913.00 Business account

14.2 Councillor Wards – it was agreed to pursue the idea of Councillor Wards, where each Councillor would be allocated an area of streets / homes to get to know and cover as required for community engagement activities / reporting. It was agreed that Cllr Hughes should draw up proposed areas and bring to the next meeting for further discussion.

14.3 Data Protection (GDPR) updates – all current documents to be reviewed. The Clerk to circulate and re-confirm the Data Protection Officer appointment asap. D. Bainbridge to be reminded regarding progress with the generic emails set up.

15. Councillor Co-option: There were no applications. Clerk to place an advert in the parish magazine and on Facebook asap.

16. Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Glaze reported on the Steering Group meeting held and resignations, from those who did not stand for election, were noted. The Plan is currently at Reg. 16 stage so it was agreed that new Steering Group PC members would not be practical.

17. New Homes Bonus: Cllr Glaze reported no new applications received. There is potential for funding Smartwater if the project goes ahead. Current Eckington fund balance is £24633.00.
Cllr Hughes raised the idea of outdoor gym equipment for the Recreation Field – approx. £20K cost but will investigate options. Cllr Yarnold will also raise the idea with the Rec. Committee.

18. Parish Matters:

Bus services – Cllr Ransted reported that there is a public meeting on 22nd May at Pershore Town Hall hosted by the Vale Transport Group.

Rural Communities Programme (Dementia Friends) – Cllr Hughes had circulated the minutes of the Steering Group held 10th April which gave an update on recent activity and highlighted future events planned. Cllr Hughes is hosting a ‘drop-in’ event for Dementia Week. It is hoped that Eckington will shortly be confirmed as a Dementia Friendly Community.

Neighbourhood Watch & Community Speed Watch – Cllr Ransted confirmed that 5 NW signs are in place and more metal signs are to follow, funded by the P&CC. The CSW camera has been returned and new sessions are to be arranged. Extra volunteers are to be trained; adverts to be placed in the parish magazine.

Smartwater Project – Cllr Glaze explained the criteria for the scheme and the fact that it can be offered free to residents if 70% of the parish sign up to the scheme. There is a village meeting tomorrow night when the benefits of Smartwater will be explained. The maximum cost to the PC will be £3K plus external funding from the P&CC and County Cllr A. Hardman. Publicity has been done locally and a training day for residents will follow if the scheme goes ahead.

Church Street parking restrictions – the email from Highways was noted regarding the current parking order in place. The PC will await the consultation exercise in due course and the Clerk agreed to ask Highways how that will be implemented.

Power Cuts – concern had been raised by a resident regarding the number of power cuts and the impact on residents and businesses. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Western Power about concerns and ask for their future proposals.

19. Correspondence for Circulation: Councillors received Clerks & Councils Direct and Cotswold Line News from the Clerk.

20. Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas:

Cllr Wood raised concern that residents may not be aware of the Reg. 16 stage of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Glaze reminded the Council of the publicity done to date and of what will be announced through WDC. Cllr Glaze agreed to refresh the parish magazine article re Reg 16.

Cllr Hughes asked for an update regarding a previous resident letter about change of use of land. Cllr Glaze confirmed that a response had not yet been drafted. Cllr Hughes then expressed concern and requested clarification regarding reference to the drainage tank and Cllr Glaze agreed to arrange a site visit.

Cllr Hughes suggested the idea of a village ‘market’; idea as that currently held in Bredon Village Hall. Cllr Glaze asked the Clerk to remind Highways to cut the grass verges etc for the Open Gardens on 16th June.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 pm

Next meeting to be held on Tues 11th June at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall