

ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

M I N U T E S of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th
September 2019

At Eckington Village Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30 pm

Councillors present:

Councillors G. Glaze (Chairman), G. Ransted (V/Chairman), J Bees, M. Hughes, T Knight, J Wiffen, M Wood, C Yarnold

Also present: Clerk/RFO, 1 member of the public

It was noted that the proceedings of this meeting may be filmed or recorded but that anyone wishing to make such a record is to notify the Chairman before the commencement of the meeting.

51. To receive Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Goodlad

52. Declarations of Personal, Sensitive or Pecuniary Interests

There were no apologies except those mentioned under item 58.

53. To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting of 9th July 2019

The Minutes were proposed Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Wiffen and agreed as a true record.

54. Adjournment for Public Participation

An adjournment of the business of the meeting may be called if a member of the public wishes to speak to any item on this agenda

No adjournment was called

55. To receive and request County & District Councillor reports

- A question about resurfacing of Manor Road was referred to County Highways and the County Councillor
- Questions raised to District Councillor – parking offences are being monitored. No response re: planning appeals/surcharge on rates

56. To receive reports from the Chairman and Parish Councillors

Reports will be taken as read. Any actions arising from the reports will be itemised separately.

Chairman's report – Cllr Yarnold has resigned as representative to the Recreation Committee (Cllr Knight volunteered to take his place at this meeting). Cllr Glaze to meet with Western Power/Playgroup leaders to discuss underground cable installation for Pike House.

Police had recommended reducing hedging following graffiti to scout hut – Cllr Glaze had actioned this. A resident had attended councillor surgery with

suggestions for allotment improvements and query about a planning appeal. Letter received from Penrith requesting part funding of tree works. Clerk to obtain inspection report. Volunteer required to liaise with British Legion regarding Remembrance Day Parade. (Cllr Bees volunteered at this meeting)

Reports were circulated regarding:

The Recreation Centre – This year’s firework display may not go ahead due to H & S regulation. Theft of equipment noted. (Cllr Knight)

Allotments – plots 1 and 2 being monitored for activity. Tenants to be asked to cut the pathways around their plots. (Cllr Wiffen)

SpeedWatch – three new volunteers to receive training (Cllr Ransted) Cllr Ransted and Cllr Glaze attended a meeting on the 4th September which explained the criteria for fines/warning notices.

New Homes Bonus – £24633 pending projects

Neighbourhood Development Plan– queries have been answered and pending a decision in the form of a fact check draft report

Vale & Pershore Transport Group – awaiting review of bus services. Worcester Parkway station due to open in December.

Village Hall Committee – have requested that the Parish Council fund a noticeboard

Neighbourhood Watch – meeting of 14th August poorly attended and it might be necessary to visit residents to get support

There were no actions required by the Council apart from:

56.1 Allotments – Council to consider a request for polytunnels and the suggestion that a deposit of £50 is taken from new tenants (or review of charges) – **The Council discussed the requests and decided to consider these further provided that the Allotments spokesperson came with some authority from other tenants. The council agreed that there should be a review of tenancy agreements and rents which might facilitate the requests.**

B/F to next meeting

A request for a noticeboard was also considered and it was agreed that the tenants should be able to create their own noticeboard.

56.2 Cemetery & Churchyard – To note work to trees have been carried out, to consider a review of policy with regard to ornaments, to consider charges for double graves

Clerk to draft new policy and B/F to next meeting

56.3 To consider a request for signage “No Access to Strensham Works” to prevent lorry movement in Mill Lane (Cllr Wiffen)

Council agreed that this matter should be of concern to the County Council and the Clerk to write to Highways Dept.

57 Review of Committee/Working Group Structure

The Council considered draft planning procedures which delegates responsibility to a Planning Working Group to:

Carry out site visits and examine plans against planning policies/draft neighbourhood plan

Draft responses for council agreement

Proposed for acceptance by Cllr Glaze, seconded by Cllr Knight, carried by majority vote (1 against/1 abstention)

It was agreed that the Finance Working Group would be disbanded due to the RFO taking over the responsibility for drafting the budget for discussion and approval by the full council.

58. Planning Matters:

58.1 Applications for consideration:

The Planning Working Group circulated draft comments and requested feedback from the Council. The following were agreed:

19/01802/FUL Field No 1431 Tewkesbury Rd – extension to agricultural building

Application Number: 19/01802/FUL

Field No 1431, Tewkesbury Road, Eckington

Proposed extension to general purpose agricultural building

No Objection

Planning Application - 19/01517/OL

Overhead Lines, Nafford Road, Eckington

Overhead electricity line works to install 232m long 3rd wire to existing overhead line route.

We recommend approval of this application.

Planning Application - 19/01355/FUL

Change of Use from disused land - Field SO9239 at Eckington Road, Bredons Norton to 5no. Pitches for local travellers with 1no. Static and 1no. Touring Caravan on each pitch (10 Vans in total).

We recommend refusal of this application for the following reasons:

It does not comply with the current South Worcestershire Development Plan, the revised version of which is currently being produced, which should give proper consideration of the provision of traveller sites across Wychavon to ensure it meets its required obligations in a planned manner, rather than by default through inappropriate approvals of small sites proposed in an ad-hoc manner which do not meet local need/specifications.

The proposed site access is unsafe, as per Highways, with poor visibility (they said 'it posed significant highways problems'); the potential for serious accidents on an unrestricted speed section of road.

The site does not fall within any Village Development Boundary.

The site is not commensurate with the area of outstanding natural beauty in which it is proposed (The Cotswold Conservation Board regarded the previous similar application as 'seriously detrimental to the character of the landscape and the appearance of the countryside in this area).

The site is not included in the Draft Eckington Neighbourhood Plan currently with the Inspector for approval prior to final consultation.

Planning Application - 19/01254/FUL

Woollas Farm, Woollas Hill, Eckington, Pershore, WR10 3DN

Expansion of Deer Park Business Centre, through redevelopment of farm yard at Woollas Hall Farm

(Replace existing agricultural buildings and construct new office buildings and farm winery (agricultural use).

Following our Site Visit on 15th July we are happy that the proposals will improve the site through replacement of existing old lower quality buildings with the new ones being proposed, that the proposed new buildings are sympathetic to the existing site and will be no more visible to surrounding areas than the current ones thereby not compromising the current area of outstanding natural beauty; and in addition it is hoped they will increase local employment opportunities.

We recommend approval of this application.

Planning Application - 19/01490/HP

Drakesbridge House, Drakesbridge Road

Replacement two storey rear extension and detached car port.

We recommend refusal of this application for the following reasons:

Q10 of the planning application asks if there has been a new or altered access and is answered no: This is not correct! The authorised vehicle access is on the south west corner of the site, whereas the planning application shows a new access along the southern boundary.

Q11 asks if the proposed works affect car parking arrangements and is answered no: Again, this is incorrect. Car parking spaces have been moved from the Western boundary to the Eastern boundary.

We have no concern with the proposed extension provided all materials, including window/door frames match existing.

We are concerned with the new unauthorised vehicle entrance from Drakesbridge Road.

While understanding Drakesbridge Road is an unclassified road, we believe moving the vehicle entrance towards the railway bridge is very dangerous, as there is limited vision for emerging vehicles exiting the property on to a road used by a variety of traffic, including a number of heavy goods vehicles.

Moreover Drakesbridge Road is the only access to the lower end of the village and any disruption or blockage would be catastrophic.

In addition, the Arboricultural report is out of date and refers to another proposed development.

Planning Application - 19/00156/CU

Eckington Caravan Park,
Change of Use of land to accommodate static holiday caravans.

Following a Planning Working Group Site Visit (attended by Cllrs Knight, Goodlad and Ransted; Cllr Glaze gave his apologies) on 26th July we were happy that the proposals for extending the Caravan Park by 5 pitches will not impact negatively upon the view of the village when entering via Pershore Road, subject to the current hedging being maintained and the new caravans being sited behind the hedge.

We recommend approval of this application.

Application Number: 19/01534/GPDQ – Cllr Glaze declared an interest (neighbour) and made no comment

Court Close Farm, Manor Road, Eckington, Pershore, WR10 3BH

Description of Proposal:

Notification for prior approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development

Recommend no objection

APP/H1840/W/19/3233080 – Drakes Bridge Demolition of Garage & construction of dwelling

Planning Working Group had no additional comments on this application to those made in respect of the original application that was refused.

58.2 Notifications:

19/01247/HP 2 Westgate Villas, Church St – single & two storey and rear extension – Permitted

19/01241/HP Butterfly House, Nafford Rd, enlargement of rear balcony, renovation of elevations – Permitted

19/00987/LB – Little Thatch, New Rd – replace 4 oversized arched windows - Permitted

19/01490 & 01491/HP & LB - Drakes Bridge (2 storey extension/carport) - Refused

59. Council Response on the Worcs. Passenger Transport Strategy

Cllr Ransted drafted a response which was accepted by the Council for submission via the Clerk

60. Financial & Governance Matters:

60.1 Payments for authorisation:

Administration	31Julbacs	#	570.22
Lengthsman services	5Augbacs	#	216.00

New Farm Cemetery			
Grasscutting	9Aug	bags	# 575.82
HMRC PAYE Apr/May/Jun	13Aug	bags	# 285.32
Administration	30Aug	bags	# 292.03
Lengthsman services	30Aug	bags	# 27.00
WychavonDC empty Bridge	10Sept		
carpark bin		bags	89.10
Wychavon DC empty Station	10Sept		
Rd bin		bags	89.10
Cotswold Line Promotion			
Group subs	10Sep	1730	15.00
		10Sept	
Eckington VH hire		bags	297.50
Worcs CALC Training course			
Cllr Knight	10Sept	bags	30.00
NFGM Cemetery & Churchyard	10Sept	bags	472.08

Payments above were proposed by Cllr Bees/seconded by Cllr Knight and agreed by unanimous vote . The Council also discussed grasscutting costs for the recreation ground £1680 and agreed to pay this by unanimous vote. Councillors were encouraged to attend training courses and Cllr Knight and Cllr Goodlad were authorised to attend planning training (cost £130).

60.2 To agree budget reports and bank reconciliation to 31st August 2019

A budget report was circulated by the RFO to show that expenditure to end of September is running at £12945.04 against the total for the year £25305.56. A contribution towards Smartwater from the County Council fund outstanding in receipts but otherwise as expected. The Treasurers Account reconciliation was agreed at £7400.18 at the end of August.

60.3 GDPR – use of personal email addresses – councillors were reminded that if they choose to use personal email addresses to correspond with residents and receive data they must register with the ICO.

61. Councillor 'Wards': Councillor Hughes to circulate final list for publication

62. To consider Quotations for Website Hosting:

The Council considered the quotations for hosting the village website. A decision was deferred. **Clerk to provide a report to next meeting.**

63. Neighbourhood Plan: To receive a progress report (Neighbourhood Plan Group)

As reported in Chairman's report.

64. Parish Council Logo

Deferred for further quotations

65. Policy & Core Documents

To consider and agree publication of the:

- a. 2019 Financial Regulations
- b. Complaints Policy
- c. Publication Scheme
- d. Privacy Policies
- e. Asset Register
- f. Risk Register (Audit purposes only)

The above policy and record documents were agreed by unanimous consent.

g. Communications Policy

This policy required further wording regarding social media responses by councillors (B/F)

66. To Create a List of Projects for funding

Councillors were encouraged to consult with residents and bring back aspirational ideas for future projects to take advantage of funding opportunities

67. Date of Next Meeting – Discuss change of venue and schedule of meetings
The council agreed to move meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of each month from the October meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm