

Tuesday 9th May 2017 One resident attended the Open Public Forum.

Tony Smith spoke to the Parish Council regarding the planned extension/improvements to the Village Hall. The following was reported:

- It has been agreed that initial costs received were too high; a local architect has now been consulted and a more agreeable quote and amended plans have now been received.
- The Village Hall has allocated £38,000 towards the project and anticipate the remainder of the funds to be provided from NHB funding (as previously agreed).

The Meeting confirmed that £30,000 had been 'ring-fenced' by WDC and would be ready to draw down as soon as the Village Hall are in a position to proceed. Mr Smith was informed that a formal letter should be sent to the PC, following which a request for the funds would be made.

Other matters reported included:

- WIFI in the Hall – this is a work in progress, it is hoped that a grant from Rooftop Housing will be secured.
- Prospective further NHB applications include: lighting, sound system and curtains. Mr Smith was informed that an application, including costings, would need to be made to the PC before these requests could be considered further.

Minutes of the Eckington Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2017

70/17 Present – Cllrs. Glaze, Brown, Wilkes, Wood and Ransted.

71/17 Election of Parish Council Chairman – A proposal was made by Cllr Ransted and seconded by Cllr Wilkes, that Cllr Glaze should take the Chair. There being no further proposals, Cllr Glaze agreed to the proposal and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

72/17 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Cameron and Bainbridge. These were unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

73/17 Election of Vice Chairman – A proposal was made by Cllr Ransted and seconded by Cllr Wilkes, that Cllr Bainbridge should take the position of Vice Chair. Having received verbal notification from Cllr Bainbridge that he would be willing to stand as Vice Chair for a second term, and there being no further proposals, Cllr Bainbridge was formally accepted as Vice Chair. (It was noted that Cllr Bainbridge would sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, before the next Parish Council Meeting.)

74/17 Declarations of Interest – No declarations were received.

75/17 Standing Orders – The Meeting noted and agreed the current Standing Orders. There being no additions required since their amendment in 2014, it was agreed that no further consideration would be required at this point.

76/17 Annual Subscriptions:

CLPG, ANT, LCR & CALC

A proposal to subscribe to the above organisations was made by Cllr Wilkes, this was seconded by Cllr Ransted.

77/17 Annual Risk Assessment

The Meeting reviewed the Annual Risk Assessment and agreed the necessary changes.

78/17 District & County Councillor Reports

Cllr Ron Davis provided the PC with a recently produced report relating to the local area.

The PC queried whether other parishes felt the same level of concern relating to the depleted bus service. The Meeting was informed that there is concern from some, but not all, local parishes regarding this matter.

79/17 Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11th April 2017

Following one minor amendment, the Meeting agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11th April were a true and accurate record. Therefore a proposal to accept the Minutes was made by Cllr Ransted and seconded by Cllr Wilkes. All present were unanimous in their agreement and the Minutes were duly signed.

80/17 Progress Reports –

Clerk – The Meeting was informed that as the allotted time for residents to call an election has now elapsed, WDC have agreed that the process of co-option can now begin. It was reported, therefore, that the Clerk had advertised the co-option of two Parish Councillors on the Parish Notice Board and would request Cllr Bainbridge to include a copy of the Notice on the Village Website.

Police Report:

- 11/04 – Attempt made to steal a caravan from Hanford Drive.
- 06/05 – Window broken on a Land Rover in Cotheridge Lane.

Village Hall – The Meeting was informed that fundraising continues; events planned include further jumble sales and coffee mornings. It is also hoped that another classic car show and wine tasting event will take place later in the year.

Recreation Centre – It was queried whether any alternative grass cutting contractors could be recommended (due to the current contract being up for renewal). The Clerk agreed to supply Cllr Wood with details.

CALC – It was reported that the next meeting is due to take place on 1/6.

81/17 Planning – The Meeting considered the following planning matters:

Approval:

W/17/00138/LB Coach House, Woollas Hill – Relocation of oil tank. Addition of metal chimney.

82/17 Parish Council Insurance – The Meeting considered the two quotes received. After a short discussion it was agreed that the 3 year option received from AON Ltd should be accepted. A proposal to accept the quote was made by Cllr Wilkes, and seconded by Cllr Brown.

83/17 Finance – Cllr Wilkes proposed and was seconded by Cllr Brown that the following payments should be approved:

Payments made:

Clerk's salary	£414.37
L. Gerber Admin expenses & mileage	£35.46
L. Gerber – annual room allowance	£250.00
Lengthsman salary	£160.09
CALC (subs)	£728.53
Aon Ltd (PC insurance)	£375.08
New Farm Grounds Maintenance – Rec. cut	£355.20
New Farm Grounds Maintenance - PC	£374.40
N. Wilkes – war memorial plants	£42.70

(The Meeting discussed and agreed a £50 increase in the Clerk's annual room allowance – proposal made by Cllr Ransted and seconded by Cllr Wood).

84/17 Neighbourhood Plan –

Progress is ongoing.

It was reported that comments have now been received back from the planning consultant.

85/17 Highway Matters –

- Clerk to chase overhanging bough, Nafford Road (previously reported), with Highways.

- Damage to paving stones at the War Memorial – Clerk to report. Cllr Wilkes to raise the matter with Readyhedge (regarding HGVs).

86/17 New Homes Bonus –

The following was reported:

- Under 5's application will not progress any further at this stage.
- The PC await to hear from the Village Hall regarding an application for lighting and sound.

87/17 Eckington Bus Service -

It was reported that although the recent public meeting was well attended, as there had been no support for the community bus, this will not proceed further at this stage.

A further meeting with First is due to take place shortly, where ongoing concerns regarding the 382 service will be raised.

88/17 Flooding Issues -

It was reported that WCC modelling results have now been received. It was confirmed that raising the road will cause flood water to rise, which may lead to possible flooding at Birlingham.

There is still much to consider before any flood alleviation work can be considered.

Cllr Glaze will attempt to arrange a further meeting with WCC to ascertain the best way forward regarding this issue.

89/17 Asset of Community Value -

Upon further consideration (and discussion with the owner of the property), it was agreed that this matter would not be further progressed at this stage.

90/17 Rural Communities Programme –

The Meeting considered the report received from WDC. The following recommendations were received:

- Running and promoting computer classes for older people.
- Becoming a Dementia Friendly Village through the Alzheimer's Society.
- Continue to investigate options for community transport schemes.
- Running and promoting exercise classes for a range of abilities and ages.
- Circulating a list of volunteering opportunities and how to get involved.

It was agreed that:

- Some of these activities are already taking place within the village.
- Further information will be sought regarding becoming a Dementia Friendly Village.
- It was noted that some volunteers (regarding these recommendations) have already come forward.

91/17 Clerk's Appraisal

The Meeting noted the recent appraisal undertaken by the Chair.

92/17 Correspondence for Information –

Noted.

93/17 Councillors Reports and Items for future Agenda –

Speed Issues – It was reported that further volunteers for the Speedwatch campaign were still needed, and should there be no interest in the next few weeks, it may be necessary to discontinue the scheme. Clerk to place a plea for volunteers in the Parish Magazine.

Parish Allotments – It was reported that one of the plots is currently not been properly maintained. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the allotment holder enquiring whether they wish to continue with the tenancy.

94/17 Date of next meeting –

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 13th June.

Meeting closed at 10.00