

# ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL held 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018  
at Eckington Recreation Centre commencing at 7:30pm

**Present:** Councillors G. Glaze (Chairman), D. Bainbridge (Vice Chairman), C. Cameron, G. Ransted, M. Wood, N. Wilkes, M. Hughes, C. Yarnold and C. Auty

**Apologies:** M. Alexander, Clerk to the Parish Council

**Public Participation:** There were two members of the public present

**Declaration of Interests:** None declared

The Chairman explained the reason for holding the meeting was at the request of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG). The draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is nearing completion and the NPSG want to move to Reg. 14 stage soonest. The Parish Council (PC) needed to make decisions prior to Reg 14 to support the NP process. Background to this requirement was provided; the PC was to be gifted land (for community use) and a legal agreement between the landowners and the PC would need to be signed by the Chair and Clerk. The land will be added to the asset register of the PC and to conform to current Financial Regulations a valuation report is required.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions at this stage and there were none.

## **Land acquisition (as per circulated documents re land at Jarvis Street & Pershore Road, Eckington)**

It was proposed by Cllr Ransted, seconded by Cllr Bainbridge, that the valuation report be accepted and that the Chairman and Clerk be mandated to sign the legal agreements at the appropriate time. This was not voted upon as it led to some discussion.

While not questioning the content of the agreements Cllr Hughes suggested the PC should take independent professional advice to ensure transparency and demonstrate due diligence. The question was raised whether it was too late to get an independent opinion. The Chairman advised that professional advice and guidance had been given but that it was from a member of the NPSG. Nonetheless the NPSG considered the agreements to be more than satisfactory and further no adverse comments had been received from our Solicitor while preparing the documents.

However an amendment was proposed to defer the decision on signing legal agreements until the PC meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September and in the meantime expedite gathering further information from an independent Chartered Surveyor on the terms of the agreement. This was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Auty. A vote was held (6 in favour, 2 against).

## **Appointment of a Consultant for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (as per circulated documents with this agenda).**

Three proposals had been received from environmental consultants. Wychavon District Council will pay for this report. Planning consultant Foxley Tagg did not want to make a recommendation. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Ransted and seconded by Cllr Hughes that Lepus be appointed to conduct the SEA. All agreed.

## **Authorisation of the payment for the land acquisition report – Andrew Grant £540.00 incl vat.**

Payment to Andrew Grant was approved unanimously.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45pm**