

ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting)
of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at
Eckington Village Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30 pm

Present:

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

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 1 resident, County Councillor Adrian Hardman, District
Councillor Ron Davis

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.

66. To receive Apologies

None

67. Declarations of Personal, Sensitive or Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Goodlad pointed out there was an error in the address of 19/01934/FUL and
that the gate was nothing to do with her property.

68. To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting of 10th September 2019

**Proposed to accept as a true record by Cllr Yarnold, seconded by Cllr
Wiffen, all in favour**

69. 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**

The member of the public posed two questions:

1. Has Jarvis Street developer pulled out?
2. Referring to a letter dated January 2019 that he had received, he explained
that he didn't want overage to affect the village adversely. He has spoken to
Worcs.CALC who say that they can provide legal advice to the council. He was
of the opinion that the council should take legal advice if a parish hall is to be
built on the land.

a. Response to parishioner correspondence

Cllr Glaze proposed to read out a response which he had prepared and circulated
for comment to all members. Comment had only been received from Cllrs
Wiffen and Goodlad. Cllr Knight proposed that the matter was fully debated and
asked for an adjournment. The clerk advised that it was not appropriate to
adjourn public session and that any unscheduled debate would have to be
moved to the end of the meeting or that the matter should be heard by the
public. Cllr Knight insisted that he did not want to speak in open session and
proposed that the matter be moved, the council agreed.

Cllr Knight raised a matter about a member of staff which would be referred to staffing committee. He advised the council that he had received reports about overgrown hedgerow blocking visibility on Nafford Rd. Cllr Wiffen indicated that he had also reported this to WCC.

(Clerk to report)

70. To receive and request County & District Councillor reports

Cllr Davis congratulated the council on being a full membership indicating that other parishes were struggling. The SWDP review has concluded that there will be another increase in housing development with 900 houses dispersed in the villages. Wychavon DC now working on their budget. He asked for an update on parking problems in Eckington, Cllr Glaze explained that offenders had left the village.

Cllr Davis left the meeting.

Cllr Hardman was present between items 72 and 73. He advised that adult and children social care is still a pressure point even though numbers of children in social care holding steady at between 140/180. Government have acknowledged this in their spending review and has allocated £1.5 million, but this will not cover adult care as numbers are steadily rising. The Government has also pledged a vast sum for bus services which will lead to the larger companies investing in electric buses but will not improve services to rural villages. Cllr Hardman is talking to elderly people in the county to find out about their plans for care provision. SWDP has gone live with three new towns planned due to the Government predicting an ever increasing population. Cllr Hardman pleased to support Smartwater with £1000 grant. He advised footways will be maintained at the railway line and he is lobbying to get surface of pavement from the shop to the church improved. Parking restrictions still in process but it could be that allowing parking in bays might slow traffic through the village. Network Rail have raised an objection to Gypsy/Traveller site application but there is a danger of non-determination if WCC delay in making a decision. The matter will go to committee.

Q Is there a plan in place to provide sufficient gypsy/traveller sites.

A Yes, but the application in question made before the plan

Q Roadworks in Nafford Rd completed but concern about the quality of the patching work.

A The roads will be top dressed eventually

Comment: Residents have said they are pleased that the roadworks have been completed.

71. 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. It was agreed by the council that in future reports of external meetings should be received 10 days in advance of each meeting so that they can be published with the agenda.

Reports from:

Chairman

Speedwatch

Working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Village
Vale and Pershore Transport Group
were circulated and will be published with the minutes on this occasion.

71.1 A request for signage "No Access to Strensham Works" to prevent lorry movement in Mill Lane was passed to the County Council and their request for further information sent to Cllr Wiffen – This has now been actioned by the Parish Councillor and County Council considering provision of the sign

72. Allotments

72.1 Council to review the current Tenancy Agreement, consider a request for polytunnels and the suggestion that a deposit of £50 is taken from new tenants. Cllr Wiffen proposed/Cllr Bees seconded amendments to the wording section 4 (notice period) and 5 (tenants responsibility on leaving), all in favour. Cllr Wiffen proposed/Cllr Bees seconded that polytunnels would be allowed but only to cover half the plot area. In all instances a £50 deposit will be collected from each tenant on renewal of their tenancy to protect the council against any costs involved in flytipping.

72.2 Council to fix the charges for 2020

The Council agreed to raise the rent to £20 per plot, but no increase for water charges.

73. Cemetery & Churchyard – To review the Burials & Memorials Policy and fix charges for 2020

The additions to the policy were proposed by Cllr Wiffen, seconded by Cllr Yarnold. The fees were increased with the wording to be made clear. All in favour.

74. Planning Matters:

74.1 Applications for consideration:

19/01917 Land near Roman Meadow

EPC objected to the original planning application for this site on the basis of too high density. However this has been addressed in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan (currently with Inspector prior to Public Vote). On this basis we do not add further comment except to observe that final approval should be in accordance with the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

19/01878 The Homestead Church Street Roof repair & assoc. works/replacement windows/internal doors/fireplace to woodburner/removal satellite dish
No objection.

19/01934 New Gateway at top of Hacketts Lane adjacent to Winryde.

We object due to the proximity of the suggested new gateway and the unsuitable width of the road frontage for agricultural vehicles to use; and that there is an existing, safer access.

This application also purports to be 'in preparation' for the development of 6 new properties at Jarvis St properties identified as part of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan (currently with Inspector prior to Public Vote). Thus 'how safe access to this field/land will be secured', should be addressed as part of the overall planning application that comes forward as part of the Neighbourhood Plan

These comments, having been circulated by the working party, were proposed by Cllr Ransted, seconded by Cllr Yarnold, all in favour.

74.2 Notifications:

19/01802/FUL - Field No 1431TewkesburyRoad Eckington - Approved

75. Financial & Governance Matters:

75.1 Payments for authorisation:

Admin Expenses	bacs	45.82
Worcs CALC (Cllr Knight/Goodlad - Planning)	bacs	80.00
Lengthsman services	25Sepbacs	189.00
Administration	25Sepbacs	379.44
SLCC-Cemetery Management Book	15Octbacs	40.80
PKF Littlejohn - External Audit Fee	15Octbacs	240.00
New Farms Ground Maintenance	15Octbacs	383.88
R Hartland - Hedge Trimming Rec		
Ground	1732	168.00
123Reg - Neighbourhood Plan domains	1733	31.18
Administration Expenses/postage/ink	15Octbacs	136.59

and consider payment for renewal of Neighbourhood Plan document hosting £31.18, hedgecutting £168.00, village hall £42, plants for war memorial £20 Payments were proposed by Cllr Glaze, seconded by Cllr Ransted, all in favour.

75.2 To agree budget reports and bank reconciliation to 31st September 2019

A budget report was circulated and proposed for acceptance Cllr Bees, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour. The Treasurers bank balance was noted at £16707.47

75.3 To receive confirmation of satisfactory conclusion of the External Audit of the 2018/19 Year End Accounts.

The clerk advised the council of the conclusion of the audit and publication of the required notices.

75.4 To appoint council auditor(s) to carry out an internal audit of the accounts

Cllr Knight offered to carry out a check on the accounting paperwork, all in agreement.

75.5 Grasscutting costs for 2020-21 – review arrangements with Recreation Committee & Cemetery

Previously the Recreation Committee had received a £2500 grant from the council each year but had in more recent years asked that this be offset against grasscutting. The council were keen to support the recreation centre at the same level but the councils representatives were asked to provide year end accounts and ensure that quotes were being obtained for best value.

75.6 To consider offer of increased wayleave payment from Western Power

The council discussed the matter at length and agreed that professional advice be obtained on the actual valuation of compensation, pros and cons. **Cllr Hughes to obtain 3 quotes**

75.7 To agree the clerk's overtime claim

The council agreed to pay 10 hours overtime according to the claim.

75.8 To consider a quotation for tree works at the cemetery

The lowest quote of £850 plus vat was accepted subject to the householder paying a percentage of the cost. **The clerk to negotiate with them.**

76. Policy & Core Documents

To consider and agree publication of the:
Communications Policy

The Communications Policy was agreed by unanimous vote, with the wording "The Chair" being changed to "The Clerk" under the section on social media.

77. To consider Quotations/Arrangements for Website Hosting:

(a report has been circulated)

The Council debated the support of the village website and agreed to cover the costs of services provided by David Bainbridge at £601.41 per annum. **Clerk to invite him to submit an invoice for work to date**

78. Parish Council Logo – to consider quotations and receive ideas for design
Deferred

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

Cllr Glaze advised that a draft examiners report had been received by the SG for fact checking. WDC would also undertake the same. Only two days are allowed for this exercise!

The examiner has recommended the plan proceed to referendum but with some policies being removed and others modified. It is WDC decision if the plan proceeds to referendum or not. The final report will be published next week.

When this is to hand the SG will meet with the PC.

Once the implications are known it is proposed a public meeting will be arranged to inform the village.

80. To Create a List of Projects for funding by S106/New Homes Bonus/Grants

Deferred

Parishioner correspondence

The Meeting was adjourned to hear from Cllr. Knight. The member of the public offered to step outside the meeting. There was lengthy debate, not all relevant to the agenda item. Councillors raised the concern that any response to the resident's queries should be concise, make the planning policy clear and readily accessible, the resident should not be left to research it. It was agreed that Cllr Hughes, Knight, Wiffen and Glaze will liaise to approve the final letter. Cllr Wiffen went out to find the resident to advise him of the decision but he had left.

81. Date of Next Meeting and arrangements for Remembrance Sunday /VE

Day 75

Date of next meeting. 19th November 2019

Cllr Bees advised arrangements were in hand for Remembrance Sunday.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm