

ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th December 2019 at Eckington Village Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present :

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 might be filmed or recorded but that anyone wishing to make such a record was to notify the Chairman before the commencement of the meeting.

98. To receive Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Goodlad

99. Appointment of a Council Chairman

Following the resignation of Cllr Glaze the council will make a new appointment **Cllr Ransted expressed his willingness to stand as Chairman. Cllr Hughes proposed, Cllr Knight seconded his appointment. Cllr Bees proposed Cllr Hughes as Chairman, seconded Mike Wood, this motion was not carried as Cllr Hughes declined the appointment. Cllr Ransted appointed by unanimous vote.**

100. Appointment of Vice Chairman

Cllr Ransted proposed, Cllr Bees seconded that Cllr Hughes be appointed, all in favour

101. Staffing Committee membership and meeting date

Cllr Ransted joined the committee who would meet in January prior to the Council meeting

102. Appointment of councillor to the Planning Working Group

The Planning Working Group membership was approved as Cllrs Knight, Goodlad, Ransted, John Wiffen. Cllrs Ransted and Hughes were appointed to act as council representatives on the Neighbourhood Plan group.

103. Declarations of Personal, Sensitive or Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Hughes declared an interest in 19/02696/HP and left the room during the discussion in item 108.

104. To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting of 19th November 2019

The Minutes were agreed as a true record by the majority.

105. 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

A resident asked, who had decided that his questions circulated to councillors would not be answered at the meeting. In his view, answers to questions in writing were not from the parish council.

Is the Chartered Valuers opinion to be relied upon if there is a parish hall built on PRF2 site?

His query regarding the development boundaries in the SWDP had not been answered.

Where can he obtain a hard copy of the Neighbourhood Plan?

Cllr Ransted responded that the resident has had an opportunity to discuss his various queries at councillor surgeries but did not attend. The council did not have to answer questions in public session in meetings and his questions were in any case repetitive and already dealt with. NP booklet expensive to print, therefore copies will be available to read at the public meeting and at the village shop. Cllr Bees confirmed the council would be relying on expert valuers advice.

106. To receive and request County & District Councillor reports

None received

107. 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.

- Village Hall (Cllr Ransted)
- Recreation Centre (Cllr Knight)
- Footpaths (no report)
- Tree Warden (no report)
- Bredon Hill Conservation Group (Cllr Ransted)
- Church and Bridge Trusts (no report)
- Wychavon CALC (Cllr Ransted)
- Cemetery & Churchyard (Cllr Yarnold – copper beech attended to)
- Allotments (Cllr Wiffen)
- Community Engagement (no report)
- Dementia Friendly Village (Cllr Hughes)
- Neighbourhood Watch & Community Speed Watch (Cllr Ransted)

Councillor Ransted had been approached by Emley Castle Parish Council and seconded by Ashton Under Hill Parish Council for support for all the roads between the nine villages around Bredon Hill to be limited to 40/50 mph. The Council agreed their support. Cllr Ransted to action.

108. Planning Matters:

108.1 Applications for consideration:

19/02394/HP Stone End, Manor Road, removal of flat roof and replace with pitched roof over porch, garage and utility – **No objection**

19/02696/HP Clennage, Nafford Road – replacement garage with attic – **No objection**

19/02619/HP Drakes Bridge DrakesBridge – extension – **No objection**

108.2 Decision Notices:

Cllr Knight reported that 19/01934/FUL Land off Hacketts Lane was permitted.

108.3 Consultation Update:

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Preferred Options 4th Nov – 16th Dec – **A working group was approved by the Council to respond by the 16th December – Cllr Knight, Cllr Goodlad, Cllr Ranstead.** The response had been circulated and was approved by the council. The council objected to the traffic increase over Eckington bridge and the pressure on diversionary routes during flood events. The lack of rural transport serving the villages and lack of infrastructure i.e. medical facilities, primary care accommodation and parking.

Cllr Ransted advised the council that Bredon Hill Conservation Group had also responded and were particularly concerned about the preferred option of development at Mitton, affecting views from Bredon Hill.

109. Eckington Neighbourhood Plan

Update and key dates and to consider a Communication Plan:

The ENP has been printed and a public meeting will be called for the 18th January 2020. 30th January will be the referendum date. Cllrs Knight/Goodlad circulated a communication plan which was approved by the NP Steering Group and Parish Council. They requested assistance with the printing costs approx. £300. Cllr Hughes requested that the NP Steering Group provides a breakdown of how their budget has been spent. Councillors also asked that they are invited to comment on the FAQs. (Cllr Wiffen left the meeting indicating that he was resigning) **Cllr Knight is to arrange a meeting for councillors to attend.**

110. Parish Council Logo – to consider quotations and receive ideas for design
Deferred from last meeting

111. Finance

111.1 To authorise payments (list)

In addition to salary payments due in December and NP printing costs £300 the council agreed the following payments:

Office Expenses	59.07		59.07
Worcs CALC Good Councillor Guide	4.25		4.25
Carver Knowles - Valuation of Overage	720.00	120.00	600.00
Website Administration	50.12		50.12

111.2 To agree the bank reconciliation to end of November and budget reports November

**The Bank reconciliation was agreed as £14887.66 (Treasurers A/C)
£25918.46 (Deposit A/C)**

November Budget expenditure £944.35 Receipts £100

111.3 To agree the precept

Councillor Ransted proposed, Cllr Bees seconded, The Council passed a resolution by unanimous vote to fix the precept at £26340

111.4 Consider purchase of poster pack £250 to deter dog fouling

Proposed to spend £250 from reserves to deter dog fouling, Cllr Bees, seconded Cllr Knight, all in favour

112. To consider a Grants Policy (Clerk)

A draft policy was circulated. Cllr Knight to find other examples for the council to consider.

113. Parish Wards Procedure document (Cllr Goodlad)

To finalise parish wards and agree remit of councillors

Council were asked to confirm whether parish wards were intended to improve communication with residents leading up to the referendum. Council discussed and agreed that they would engage in distributing leaflets but could not go around canvassing for yes/no votes. The purpose of the parish wards was to aid communication in situations like this but also to give residents a point of contact.

114 Review Standing Orders para 12 and para 3 x

Copies of relevant policy documents have been circulated

Cllr Ransted proposed that there was no need for a change to standing orders. In his view minutes drafted by the clerk could be sent to him for agreement. It would then be his responsibility to take comments from the council and redraft them if necessary. He indicated that a 2 hour limit should be the aim of council meetings. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.

115 Legal Matters

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 The Council called an adjournment as publicity of the item would prejudice the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Council discussed the advice received from the council's solicitors on the legal documents and overage and confirmed they were content that the Council were not at risk. The Council discussed the advice received from the Chartered Surveyor on the legal documents and various overage scenarios, including a parish hall, which might occur in the future and were content that the Council were not at risk of incurring overage costs.

The Council also agreed the clerk's claim for 6 hours overtime in dealing with the extra work involved

116. Date of Next Meeting

To fix the time and place of the next meeting

21st January 2020

The meeting closed at 9pm

