

ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL held 13th February 2018
At Eckington Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Public Participation: There were no members of the public present.

Present: Councillors George Glaze (Chairman), David Bainbridge (Vice Chairman), Cilla Cameron, Geoff Ransted, Mike Wood, Nils Wilkes and Mary Hughes.

Also present: District Councillor Ron Davies

Apologies: None.

Declaration of Interests: Cllr Bainbridge declared an interest in planning application 18/00212/AGR – noted.

ITEM:	MINUTE RECORDED:	ACTION AGREED:
215/18	<p>The Minutes of a meeting held 9th January 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Wilkes, seconded Cllr Cameron, all agreed. It was also noted that for future Minutes, the village hall should be named as the Eckington Village Memorial Hall. No other matters arising.</p>	
216/18	<p>District & County Councillor Reports D. Cllr Ron Davies addressed the Council on the following matters – WDC meeting 20th Feb will include 2018/19 budget agreement. D. Councillor allowances are proposed to increase by 1% (£50 increase per person approx.) New Homes Bonus will not change in year 6 & 7 – formal notification in due course. Planning letter to WDC re Orchard House, Drakes Bridge Rd – response from Gary Williams at WDC was noted. Cllr Wilkes requested a meeting to be held with Planners re their decision making and the Village Design Statement / Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which was agreed by all. D. Cllr Davies offered to arrange if required by the Council. There is a query as to whether the NP is a mandatory planning consideration. D. Cllr Davies stated that he understood that it is NOT a mandatory consideration, but that there appears to be no consistency in decisions and very little enforcement. It was also noted that there are currently a lot of retrospective applications being approved. Some planning conditions are also unenforceable.</p>	<p>Any further correspondence to be copied to D. Cllr Davies please who will follow up with Planners.</p>

<p>217/18</p>	<p>Progress Reports:</p> <p>Clerk – the Clerk updated re the current situation re local policing and PC contact, following an exchange of emails with the Local Policing Team at Pershore.</p> <p>Cllr Glaze is still trying to get a response re car parking issues and traffic management.</p> <p>The war memorial condition survey has been lodged with the War Memorials Trust and a decision is awaited re any funding opportunity.</p> <p>Data Protection (GDPR) work is underway – the ICO “12 Steps to Compliance” were circulated to those present. The Clerk will continue to work on the next steps which will involve a questionnaire for completion by all Members.</p> <p>Village Memorial Hall – Cllr Bainbridge updated re the hall refurbishment. There will be a launch ‘drop in’ event this Saturday between 10 – 12.30 – all welcome. Cllr Bainbridge will also be showing a slideshow of refurbishment pictures.</p> <p>Recreation Centre – Cllr Wood reported that the outdoor bins have been emptied.</p> <p>Footpaths – Cllr Wilkes – no updates.</p> <p>Tree Warden – Cllr Wilkes updated re a meeting held with E.O.S., the Clerk and Jon Smith from the Rec. Centre about Western Power Distribution proposed tree pruning along the cable lines. The tress affected are those along the roadside of the Recreation Centre which have cables running through the branches. It is proposed to prune the affected trees to within a one metre diameter of the cable. This will involve the cable being changed to bundled cable, otherwise the pruning diameter would have to be three metres, which is thought to be unacceptable. Cllr Wilkes proposed that the Council request the change to bundled cable and a one metre diameter prune. Seconded Cllr Bainbridge. All agreed.</p> <p>It was noted that this cable also supplies power to the bridge traffic lights. It was further noted that there are separately agreed works to the Poplar trees behind the allotments during the summer. No further updates from Cllr Wood.</p> <p>Bredon Hill Conservation Group – Cllr Ransted – no updates.</p> <p>Church & Bridge Trusts – Cllrs Cameron & Wilkes – no updates.</p> <p>Wychavon CALC – as circulated by the Clerk. Cllrs Glaze & Ransted – no further updates.</p> <p>Partnerships – Cllr Ransted – no further updates.</p> <p>Cemetery & Churchyard – Cllr Wilkes reported that the recent tree works had been completed successfully with just the bracing left to do now.</p>	<p>Cllr Ransted will check re Police surgeries for the parish magazine.</p> <p>Clerk to progress GDPR as required and to circ. The questionnaire before the next meeting.</p> <p>Clerk to liaise with Jon Smith, E.O.S and WPD re preferred works.</p>
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218/18	<p>Planning Matters: Cllr Bainbridge had declared an interest in application 18/00212/AGR so this matter was led by Cllr Glaze.</p> <p>Applications for consideration: 18/00212/AGR – Mr Simon Williamson, Court Gate Nursery, Station Rd, Eckington WR10 3BB – application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed building. Following discussion, concern was raised re the traffic impact of more vehicle movements incl HGV vehicles to the site. A Traffic Impact Assessment was requested to reassure residents already suffering traffic problems. It was therefore agreed that there is no objection in principal, but that Planners should note that there is real concern re traffic impact and an impact assessment is requested. (Response to be copied to D. Cllr Davies).</p> <p>Decisions Noted: 17/02108/CLE – Michelle Waterton, Courtyard Flat, Woollas Hall, Woollas Hill, Eckington WR10 3DN - certificate of lawful existing use or development granted for garage and gazebo buildings. 17/02313/GDPQ – Blue Gecko Plants, Tewkesbury Rd, Eckington WR10 3DE – prior approval is required and refused for change of use of building and any land in it's curtilage from a use as an agricultural building to a use falling within class C3 (dwelling houses) of the schedule to the use class order.</p> <p>Other matters: The letter from WDC, in response to the PC letter re Orchard House, Drakes Bridge Rd, was circulated at the meeting. The PC agreed that the matter should be taken further and a second letter drafted to WDC re concerns about the interpretation of planning policy.</p>	<p>Clerk to submit response as agreed, cc to D. Cllr Davies.</p> <p>Clerk to circ the WDC letter electronically to all. Comments from the PC to be collated so that a further letter can be drafted asap. D. Cllr R. Davies to arrange a meeting for the PC with Planners in due course.</p>
219/18	<p>Financial Matters: Payments proposed for payment by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Cameron. All agreed: £251.30 Clerks salary (net) + £25.76 mileage claimed £165.00 P. Higgins - Lengthsman salary (net) £832.43 Foxley Tagg Planning Ltd – Neighbourhood Planning fees £300.00 Perdix – moles clearance</p>	<p>Clerk to pay accounts as agreed.</p>

	<p>£1525.50 Parkinson Wright Solicitors – land at New Rd purchase £30.00 Bredon Hill Conservation Group – annual contribution £12.00 Eckington Village Hall – hire fees £190.92 Wychavon DC – annual charge for dog bins at Hammock Rd & New Rd £12.00 Society of Local Council Clerks – training fee £46.00 Wychavon DC – garden waste bin annual charge (Direct Debit) £635.00 – Eckington Village Hall – new doors (retrospective) £16.00 – G. Glaze (Chairman’s allowance) internal audit fee (retrospective)</p> <p>Account balances noted: £24,674.64 Current account £13,897.70 Deposit account</p> <p>Grass Cutting Tenders: Summary of tenders received as circulated by the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Bainbridge that New Farm Grounds Maintenance should be awarded the contract based on price and quality of work. All agreed.</p> <p>Village Memorial Hall – an additional grant request had been received by the Clerk re the new front doors. The amount requested is £570.00 in addition to the amount already paid. This is due to a misunderstanding of the actual cost of the doors by the Committee. The matter was discussed, and a vote held (5 in favour / 1 abstention).</p> <p>Additional tree works – there had been some additional tree works required in January during the recent cemetery and churchyard works by A. Hope. These had been agreed via email (now proposed retrospectively by Cllr Ransted, seconded Cllr Cameron) and the works completed as required. Cost as quoted £445.00 + vat.</p> <p>Accounts reconciliation – Cllr Glaze and the Clerk have successfully reconciled the accounts to end December 2017.</p>	<p>Clerk to inform Tenderers as agreed.</p> <p>Clerk to request an invoice for the additional amount payable.</p>
220/18	<p>Councillor Co-option: An application had been received from Chris Yarnold which had been circulated for consideration prior to the meeting. It was agreed by all those present to co-opt Chris Yarnold with effect from the March meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk to notify WDC accordingly and to arrange completion of forms as required.</p>

221/18	<p>Transparency Code: The Clerk is progressing the new Worcs CC website as requested. It was agreed to copy 12 months' worth of data from the current website to populate the new one.</p>	Clerk to progress.
222/18	<p>Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Glaze gave an update to the meeting re the legal position of the NP. The draft plan is with WDC for comments before Reg. 14. The current stage of the legal agreements has already been circulated by Cllr Glaze via email. The PC may need an additional meeting to discuss the document. Cllr Ransted queried the inclusion of Upper End re the owners retained land, and whether it should be referred to? Cllr Glaze explained the area referred to as retained land together with the arrangements with the school, funding options for additional works (i.e. s106) and C.I.L available. Consideration will be needed re future grant availability and the New Homes Bonus scheme. Another significant factor is the overage clause re the land – does the PC want sight of the final documents before they are signed? If so an Extra-ordinary meeting will be called to keep the time frame for Reg. 14. Cllr Hughes queried whether a District Valuer report had been obtained; Cllr Glaze confirmed not however a Heads of Terms agreement was in place. Cllr Hughes also suggested that the PC note declarations of interest re the future availability of new properties by members of the Steering Group – clarification will be required. The question of 'support' being in place and available for some of the properties was also raised. Cllr Glaze acknowledged that this would be required but that matters were not yet at that level of detail. The land at Pershore Rd with overage on it was also discussed. Further discussion required as to what the £200K be spent on. Comments will be forwarded to the Steering Group for the next meeting. It was then agreed that there will be an Extra-ordinary meeting called before the final signing of the legal documents on behalf of the PC. Cllr Glaze will advise the Clerk when this is required.</p>	Cllr Glaze to advise the Clerk when an Ext-ord. meeting is required.
223/18	<p>Highways Matters: Highways reports summary as circulated by the Clerk. Bell bollard at Eckington Cross – the war memorial has again been damaged by HGVs. Ready Hedge has offered to pay for a bell bollard to be installed and Highways have also</p>	Clerk & Cllr Wilkes to progress the bollard quote and installation.

	<p>agreed to this work. A quote is now needed for the bollard and installation.</p> <p>Nafford Rd – recent comments on Facebook were noted. Drainage ditch clearing is a problem and Cllr Hughes offered to progress this matter with residents. The stop cock in the road has been reported but water is running down the road instead of the ditch. Roadway sides are also in a bad state of repair. Developer hedges have not been cut back and this is moving traffic further in to the road.</p> <p>It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Highways (G. Brienza) to discuss this and other outstanding highways matters.</p> <p>Cllr Hughes also raised concern about the ongoing speeding along Nafford Rd which was noted.</p>	<p>Clerk to arrange a meeting for Cllrs with G. Brienza at Worcs Highways – dates to be circulated for attendance.</p>
224/18	<p>New Homes Bonus:</p> <p>No updates other than that given by D. Cllr Davies earlier in this meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Hughes passed on thanks for the play equipment cheque paid.</p>	
225/18	<p>Bus Service:</p> <p>Cllr Glaze updated the meeting re the alterations to the First timetable wef 26th March. New timetables are available for the villages, but these will be out of date once new alterations take effect. Also, some errors in the print. The voucher included expires on 31st March. There is another bus services meeting on 14th February which Cllr Glaze will attend.</p>	
226/18	<p>Flooding Matters:</p> <p>Cllr Glaze reported that there has still been no meeting with Highways, which Cty Cllr Hardman said he would organise. It is hoped to include flooding matters within the Highways meeting that the Clerk will be organising shortly.</p>	
227/18	<p>Rural Communities Programme:</p> <p>The Clerk and Cllr Hughes have contacted S. Brown as Cllr Hughes needs information on what has been done so far. Cllr Glaze will also investigate WDC contacts for the Dementia Friendly scheme.</p>	<p>Clerk / Cllr Hughes / Cllr Glaze to look in to RCP scheme to date and WDC contacts.</p>
228/18	<p>Neighbourhood Watch / Community Speed Watch:</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr Ransted reported on a recent meeting held. The messaging system was discussed together with the Facebook page. The group had also</p>	<p>Cllr Ransted to chase up Neighbourhood Watch scheme actions from the recent meeting.</p>

	<p>received information re messaging announcements. The scheme is now officially registered, and the next meeting will decide how to link to Facebook. The scheme AGM will be held at Hindlip in May.</p> <p>Community Speed Watch – Cllr Ransted reported that a few people have been caught between 30 – 40 mph. There are now 9 people signed up to the scheme and 3 more to be trained. Six sessions were arranged and four have been held. Local traffic calming concerns noted – Cllr Ransted is responding to Facebook comments, but in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the PC.</p> <p>Speeding in Nafford Rd was also discussed following Cllr Hughes concerns raised earlier in the meeting. Wider discussion is required re speed limits in the area due to the number of residents along this road. It was agreed to raise this on the next agenda and to check previous discussions documented.</p>	<p>Cllr Ransted to follow up training requirements and progress the scheme locally.</p> <p>Clerk to place Nafford Rd speeding concerns / speed limits on the next agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Glaze to check previous documentation on the matter.</p>
229/18	<p>Correspondence for Information: None received.</p>	
230/18	<p>Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Cllr Cameron queried whether we should formally monitor Facebook? Cllr Glaze to progress this with Cllr Bainbridge. Matter to be placed on the next agenda.</p> <p>Cllr Wilkes reported a dog fouling problem along Stoney Furlong currently – to monitor and look at reporting options. Cllr Wilkes also queried a new garage at Station Rd East as unsure whether permission had been obtained or whether it was permitted development.</p>	<p>Clerk to place Facebook monitoring on the next agenda.</p> <p>Clerk to investigate dog fouling reporting options. Cllr Glaze to check re the new garage.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.35 pm.</p> <p>Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 13th March at 7.30 pm</p>	