

ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL held 9th January 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: Councillor Sally Brown.

Councillor Resignation: The resignation of Councillor Sally Brown was accepted. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to formally thank Cllr Brown for her contribution to the Parish Council. The Clerk will notify WDC accordingly.

Declaration of Interests: None declared. Councillor Mary Hughes handed her Register of Interests to the Clerk following her co-option at the previous meeting.

ITEM:	MINUTE RECORDED:	ACTION AGREED:
197/18	<p>The Minutes of a meeting held 12th December were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Cameron, seconded Cllr Bainbridge. All agreed.</p> <p>(192/17) The spelling of 'G. Shepheard' was noted.</p> <p>Minutes from the November meeting were also signed – deferred from the previous meeting.</p>	
198/18	<p>District & County Councillor Reports:</p> <p>District Cllr Ron Davies updated the meeting regarding the WDC grants scheme – approx. £50K available overall for community based projects. Details have been uploaded to the parish website and displayed on the notice board,</p>	
199/18	<p>Progress Reports:</p> <p>Clerk – Highways updates were noted. It was also noted that the two vacant allotments have now been allocated to new tenants.</p> <p>Village Hall – Cllr Bainbridge attended last weeks meeting. The extension is almost complete; just some minor works remaining. There is a plan to hold a celebration event on 17th February from 10 – 12.30. A fundraising coffee morning raised £400 recently however there will be less events this year due to a lack of volunteers. Coffee mornings are planned for 24th March & 1st December plus a jumble sale on 30th June. The Hall Committee would like to purchase a new oak notice board and it was suggested that applying to the</p>	

	<p>WDC grants scheme should be encouraged. The building name sign is to be erected in due course – 'Eckington Village Hall'.</p> <p>Recreation Centre – no report made.</p> <p>Footpaths – no report made.</p> <p>Tree Warden – no report made.</p> <p>Bredon Hill Conservation Group – no report made.</p> <p>Church & Bridge Trusts – no report made.</p> <p>Wychavon CALC – as previously circulated by email.</p> <p>Partnership – no report made.</p> <p>Cemetery & Churchyard – Cllr Wilkes explained that further tree works were required in the churchyard following recent weather. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Adrian Hope to do these further works subject to costs being approved.</p> <p>It was noted that the polite notices placed in the cemetery appeared to be having the desired effect.</p>	<p>Clerk to supply Adrian Hope with details of further works and request a quote for approval.</p> <p>Remaining polite notice to be checked at end of Jan. by the Clerk.</p>
200/18	<p>Planning:</p> <p>Planning Ref 17/02182/HP – the Council noted the approval of the erection of a fence (retrospective) and erection of a wooden garage/workshop in garden. There was notable concern about the decision which appears to have ignored Parish Council objections and the adopted Village Design Statement. It was agreed that Cllr Bainbridge should draft a letter to WDC regarding PC concerns and asking for clarification on interpretation of planning policy. The decision appears to conflict with a previous decision in Russell Drive which will also be highlighted to WDC.</p>	<p>Cllr Bainbridge to draft a letter as agreed to WDC. To be circulated for approval before sending.</p>
201/18	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>Payments approved:</p> <p>£251.30 M. Alexander - Clerks salary</p> <p>£184.00 P.Higgins - Lengthsman salary (incl.additional 3.5hrs worked)</p> <p>£48.00 G. Glaze – reimbursement for road salt</p> <p>£21.00 Eckington Village Hall hire fees</p> <p>Proposed for payment by Cllr Wilkes, seconded by Cllr Cameron. All agreed.</p> <p>The invoice for Kompan Play Equipment (£7623.40 + vat) had not been received since the order was placed.</p> <p>Monies received:</p> <p>£7623.40 Wychavon DC</p> <p>£533.00 Groundwork UK</p>	<p>Clerk to pay invoices as approved.</p> <p>Kompan Play invoice to be paid in due course.</p>

	<p>Account balances noted as: £33,837.14 Current account £13,897.15 Deposit account</p> <p>Grass cutting tender invitations have been acknowledged and three tenders are expected for the next meeting.</p> <p>The war memorial condition survey will be conducted shortly by the Clerk, and a grant application for funding will be progressed in due course.</p> <p>Precept 2018/19 – further to the decision taken at the December meeting, final approval was agreed to request £24,000.00 for 2018/19, subject to WDC confirming the Council Tax Base (CTB) for the year. It was agreed to give the Clerk authority to request the precept from WDC following CTB confirmation.</p>	<p>Clerk to bring the tenders to the next meeting.</p> <p>Clerk to conduct the condition survey asap.</p> <p>Clerk to request the precept as agreed/authorised.</p>
202/18	<p>Councillor Co-option: No applications received.</p>	
203/18	<p>The Transparency Code: It was agreed that the Clerk should progress the Worcs CC website with Cllr Bainbridge. It was noted that the parish website received approx. 4000 visits last year. Cllr Bainbridge was thanked for his on-going work on the site.</p>	<p>Clerk to progress Worcs CC website as agreed.</p>
204/18	<p>Neighbourhood Plan: The Chair reported on the Planning Consultant comments received on the final draft. A meeting is to follow.</p>	
205/18	<p>Highways Matters: It was noted that County Cllr Hardman had not yet arranged a meeting with G. Brienza and Ready Hedge as previously agreed. It was agreed that the Clerk should create a spread sheet to record Highways reports / actions. Cllr Wilkes reported that the pothole in New Rd, opposite Little Thatch is now quite dangerous and needs reporting again. Additionally, at Hollands Rd – subsidence on Fox Hill, west of Hollow Coombe Cottages – OS 393994 240901. Cllr Bainbridge reported that the manhole needs replacing near Little Thatch, New Rd – Severn Trent foul water.</p>	<p>Clerk to chase up the meeting to be arranged.</p> <p>Clerk to create spread sheet as agreed. Clerk to report Highways & STW matters as shown.</p>
206/18	<p>New Homes Bonus:</p>	

	No new applications.	
207/18	<p>Bus Service: Cllr Ransted reported on the meeting held, which was disappointing. There was no acknowledgement of the fact that on a non-school day there is no afternoon service back from Pershore (Eckington/Defford/Birlingham). A further meeting is to be held on 23rd January. 53/X50 services – no response to previous concerns raised. The Hopper service was discussed re the 2019 contract. Bus pass renewal – Cllr Ransted is to raise this with County Cllr Hardman. It was noted that passes can be renewed on line or via The Hive currently which is difficult for some elderly users.</p> <p>Train issues were also noted, especially regarding the impact of the new Parkway on Pershore Station.</p>	
208/18	<p>Flooding Issues: County Cllr Hardman has not yet arranged a meeting with Worcs CC as agreed. No further issues but it was noted that road signs recently remained up for a day longer than required. Signage then became a road hazard. It was noted that there is a webcam at The Wharf and that drivers have been seen driving through the road barriers.</p>	<p>Clerk to chase up the meeting to be arranged.</p> <p>Clerk to report recent signage issue to Highways.</p>
209/18	<p>Rural Communities Programme: It was agreed that Cllr Hughes will now progress this programme following the resignation of Cllr Brown.</p>	<p>Clerk to write to S. Brown to ask for a handover with Cllr Hughes.</p>
210/18	<p>Neighbourhood Watch & Community Speed Watch: Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr Ransted is progressing a meeting with G. Shephard – 7 people are interested so far. Also looking at Facebook options – Cllr Bainbridge to be involved.</p> <p>Speed Watch – Cllr Ransted reported that 6 people are starting shortly and 3 are ready for training.</p>	
211/18	<p>Correspondence for Information: None received.</p>	

212/18	<p>Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas:</p> <p>Cllr Glaze reported – LGA Peer Challenge in March 2018 noted. No further action agreed.</p> <p>Parish Games – result noted – 3rd from 25 parishes. It was also noted that C. Chapman the current Co-ordinator is resigning and a new one is needed. It was agreed that the Chair place an advert in the next parish magazine, if appropriate, and will also write to thank C. Chapman.</p> <p>A complaint had been received re car parking in Drakes Bridge Rd which was noted, however it is not clear what the PC can do. It was agreed that the Chair will contact the local Policing Team.</p>	<p>Chair to place an advert in the parish magazine / write to thank C. Chapman.</p> <p>Chair to contact the local Policing Team as agreed re car parking.</p>
213/18	<p>Annual Parish Meeting 2018:</p> <p>The date was noted as 17th April 2018 at Eckington Village Hall, prior to the Parish Council meeting.</p>	
214/18	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>To be held Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.</p>	
	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.</p>	