

Minutes of the Meeting of Eckington Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th September 2016 at 7pm in the Civic Centre Eckington

Attendance

Councillors: - B. Ridgway (Chair) arrived 8.40pm; J. Austen; S. Beecher; K. Deffley; A. Dye; C Gare; C. Harper; C. Hunt; L. Kirton; J.S. Ridgway; C Tite.

Others: R. Bullimore (Clerk); M. Gazur (RFO) C. Mitchell (Marketing)

16/156 Chair

RESOLVED Councillor Gare took the Chair.

16/157 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED apologies received from Councillor E. Charlesworth (Holiday) J. Ibbotson (Illness) J. Marsh (Work). Councillor Brian Ridgway sent his apologies that he is going to be late as he has an urgent meeting to attend prior to the Council meeting.

16/158 Variation of Order of Business

RESOLVED to discuss item 15h adoption of street furniture policy to be discussed before item 15g a request of a dog bin.

16/159 Declarations of Members Interest

Councillor Gare declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No 16/171 Marsh Lane Tara Grant application she left the meeting whilst the item was discussed. Councillors Austen, Hunt, B Ridgway and Tite declared a personal interest in Minute No 16/182 Removal of trees and Minute No 16/195 Planning applications they stayed in the room whilst these items were discussed.

16/160 Members of the Public

Councillor Gare presented cheques to Rainbows Playgroup, District Councillor Stephen Peters and a representative from St Mathews Church WW1 Group awarded from the Parish Council Grant Scheme.

A representative from Rainbows Playgroup thanked the Council for the grant and informed the Council that the group had been served notice to leave their premises by 12 April 2017. The Playgroup is a registered charity providing childcare for between 10 and 18 children Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.10am until 11.40am. They informed the Council that they are actively looking for new premises.

Councillor Peters thanked the Council for the grant and he informed Members that he had raised £2,000 for 'Western Park Cancer Care'. The Clerk reminded him of the opportunity of a free stall at Eckington Market to enable him to raise more funds for this worthwhile charity.

A member of the public informed Members that she had been approached by land agents for permission to access their land to carry out a Fracking Survey. She asked if the Council were in favour of Fracking and whether they would be able to offer any advice. Clerk to add Fracking to the October agenda, Councillor Austen and Gare agreed to meet the resident.

A member of the public asked if there had been a response from the County

Council regarding a damaged footpath near Eckington School.

Police

Clerk informed Members that the Police will not be attending meetings as a matter of course they will only attend when there are any specific issues. The crime figures will not be produced Councils are advised to go to www.police.uk website to locate the monthly figures.

The Clerk reported on the crime figures; July 2016 compared to July 2015 decreased by 11%, the August figures remained the same 16 crimes. ASB figures for July 2016 compared to July 2015 decreased by 60% and the August figures dropped by 5%.

Councillors are very disappointed that the Police will not be attending every meeting and they believe the Police are missing a great opportunity for information to be passed onto them.

16/161 Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held 5th July 2016
RESOLVED to approve Minutes 16/132 – 16/153 of a Parish Council Meeting held 5th July 2016 subject to the omission of Councillor Tite's apologies.

16/162 Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held 19th July 2016
RESOLVED to approve Minutes 16/154 – 16/155 of a Parish Council Meeting held 19th July 2016.

Councillor Gare duly signed the 5th & 19th July 2016 Minutes.

16/163 Minutes of an Open Spaces Meeting held 21st July 2016
RESOLVED to receive Minutes 17/16 – 29/16 of an Open Spaces Meeting held 21st July 2016.

16/164 Minutes of a Community Hall & Premises Meeting held 4 August 2016
RESOLVED to receive Minutes 33/16 – 40/16 of a Community Hall & Premises Meeting held 4 August 2016.

16/165 Notes of a Communication Meeting held 18 July 2016
RESOLVED to receive Notes from a Communication Meeting held 18 July 2016. Councillor Austen informed Members that the Newsletter will be delivered at the end of the month.

16/166 Allotment Meeting held 28 July 2016
Clerk reported on an Allotment Meeting held 28 July which was well attended. Tenants raised concerns about several plots not being maintained. There is still a problem with the drain getting blocked at Setcup Lane. There was a request for water to be available for Landsbury Road tenants. It was agreed for numbers to be erected to identify the individual plots. A request was received for mulch to be provided for the pathways. None of the tenants showed any interest in having an Open Day or taking the opportunity to sell their surplus produce at Eckington Market. Clerk informed Members of a complaint received from Sitwells Estate regarding damage to crop caused by a vehicle delivering hay to one of the tenants at Ducksett Lane and they questioned why the land was being used for grazing. The Clerk has spoken to the tenant and has been assured that it will not happen again. RESOLVED Open Spaces Committee to discuss the implications that may arise by using plots for grazing.

- 16/167 Signage Meeting held 2 August 2016
Clerk reported on a meeting held to discuss placing signs at the entrances to the villages in the Parish. Members of the Town Team have agreed to consult with residents to find out what type of sign or feature they would prefer. A County Councillor Officer is to be asked to assist with finding suitable locations for the signs. Sponsorship and funding is to be sought to pay for the signage and installation. Councillor Dye agreed to discuss where a sign would be best placed at Ridgeway.
- 16/168 Marsh Lane Community Hall
Councillor Brian Ridgway, Councillor Jane Austen and the Clerk has met with representatives of the Marsh Lane Playgroup and Marsh Lane Community Hall Management Committee to try to resolve an issue between both parties regarding a new hire agreement. It was made clear to both parties that the Council has no responsibility regarding the hire agreement or the running of the building. The Council are willing to attend further meetings if required but they have no authority to change how the building is being managed.
- 16/169 Chair
RESOLVED to note Councillor Brian Ridgway took the Chair.
- 16/170 Council Grant Application Form
RESOLVED to adopt the changes to the Council's grant application form and to approve the £65 fee for the changes to the website for the amendments. The form has been made easier for applicants to complete. As with the previous form applicants are required to show that they have carried out additional fund raising and are to agree to attend a Council meeting to explain how the grant was used.
- 16/171 Grant Applications
Members considered a Standard Grant application from Acorns Toddler Group
RESOLVED to award £50 to Acorns Toddler Group to purchase additional play equipment and resources. Clerk to ask that in future that their accounts show more clearly what they have spent their money on.

Members considered a Standard Grant application from Marsh Lane Tara
RESOLVED to award £50 towards the cost of their public liability insurance to enable them to complete the hedge laying at Warren Crescent play area.

Members considered a Non Standard Grant application from Eckington Reminiscence Group
RESOLVED to defer the grant. Clerk to ask the Town Team to bring the request for village signs to the Council when they have all the information and costs available.
- 16/172 Bromehead General Charity
Councillor Herring, the Council's representative on the Bromehead Charity has been unable to attend any of their meetings due to a long term illness. He agreed that the Council should appoint a replacement. RESOLVED Councillor Beecher appointed as the Council's representative on the Bromehead General Charity.

- 16/173 Law Centre Committee
RESOLVED to note due to work commitments Councillor Harper has resigned as the Council's representative on the Law Society Committee. Clerk to request a nomination form from the Society.
- 16/174 Street Furniture Policy
RESOLVED to adopt the bench and dog bin section of the street furniture policy presented at the meeting. The Grit Bin section to be amended and brought back to the October meeting for approval.
- 16/175 Dog Bin request
Members considered a request for a dog bin to be placed on Camms Close
RESOLVED defer the item until the Clerk has spoken to Camms School Head Teacher to ask for his opinion on its possible location.
- 16/176 Eckington Cricket Club
During the closed season Eckington Cricket Club will be building a new clubhouse using £75k awarded from Sport England. They have asked the Council if they could provide storage for some of their equipment from the end of September until March 2017
RESOLVED items can be stored at the clubs' own risk in one of the Council's buildings providing that the club has adequate insurance cover.
- 16/177 Derbyshire Pension Fund Questionnaire
RESOLVED to approve the Council's response to the Derbyshire Pension Fund questionnaire. Finance Officer to investigate pension options available to the Council's staff. Costs to be discussed at the next available Council meeting.
- 16/178 Derbyshire County Council Gritting Schedule
RESOLVED to note Castle Hill Close was considered for inclusion on the County Council's gritting schedule following a petition from residents. Unfortunately, it was turned down because the road does not meet the criteria (as laid down in the Derbyshire County Council's Winter Schedule) Clerk to ask UFI if the Blue Bag Scheme could be extended to include Castle Hill residents.
- 16/179 Footpaths
RESOLVED to note a footpath that needs resurfacing at Dronfield Road near Eckington School has been added to the Derbyshire County Council work proposals list for the next financial year. There is no guarantee that it will be successful but in the meantime the footways will be continued to be monitored.

RESOLVED to note the County Council has contacted the land owners to ask them to clear growth obstructing a section of Back Lane - Bridleway 119.
- 16/180 10K Project
RESOLVED Members approved and Councillor Brian Ridgway subsequently signed a Licence under s177 Highways Act 1980 for two archways to be installed on the alleyway between Pinfold Street and Market Street, Eckington.

RESOLVED to note the Council has received planning permission for the

installation of the archways.

RESOLVED to approve the quotation received from W M Engineering Ltd to erect the archways.

RESOLVED to agree the purchase of a battery operated clock to be installed in one of the archways.

RESOLVED to note there is £2,465 remaining in the 10K budget.

Members thanked Councillor Beecher for the work he has done on the 10K Project.

16/181 Suspension of Standing Orders

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders at 9pm and to continue with the meeting.

16/182 Removal of Trees

RESOLVED to note the District Council's response regarding the removal of trees in the Parish. The Council assess planning applications that involve the removal of trees and seek specialist advice. On occasion it may be concluded that the loss of a tree(s) is not an overriding consideration and that the removal is justified.

To note the Parish Council, accept that any trees that are dying and that could cause damage to property or person should be removed. However, trees should not be removed if it is cheaper than the cost to maintain them.

16/183 Renishaw Post Office

RESOLVED to note confirmation has been received that the Post Office at Renishaw is to relocate to new premises to Select & Save, 14 Main Road, Renishaw.

16/184 Restorative Justice

After a police investigation two young people were identified as perpetrators for burning a bench at Ida's Road play area. Rather than going to court the offenders agreed to go down the Restorative Justice route. They paid for the cost to replace the bench and agreed to apologise to the Council.

The whole process was unsatisfactory to the Council:

- The Council were informed by the police that the incident would be dealt with by the Restorative Justice route. The Council was not consulted.
- The police decided on the date and time of the Restorative Justice meeting. The police did not give enough notice to allow adequate time to notify Councillors of the meeting or time to arrange for someone to open the Civic Centre for the meeting.
- The meeting was held on a public footpath with members of the public walking past.
- At short notice Councillor Austen agreed to attend the meeting and she found it extremely uncomfortable and embarrassing.

Clerk to express the Council's concerns to the police about the way this matter was dealt with and to suggest that should a similar incident happen again the

process is conducted in a more professional manner.

- 16/185 Social Media
The Marketing & Events co-ordinator reported on the posts and the number of hits on the Council's website, facebook and twitter pages.
- 16/186 Civic Centre Website
RESOLVED to agree costs for Supake to create and host a website for the Civic Centre.
- 16/187 Council Logo
RESOLVED Council approved a new logo for the Parish Council.
- 16/188 Civic Centre Calendar of Events
RESOLVED to set a budget of £6,000 to provide a calendar of events at the Civic Centre.
- 16/189 Parish Council Website
RESOLVED to approve £35 fee for improvements to the Council's homepage.
- 16/190 Expenses Policy
RESOLVED to approve the Staff and Councillor expenses policy presented at the meeting.
- 16/191 Civic Centre Logo
RESOLVED to approve a black and white monochrome logo for the Civic Centre signature headings.
- 16/192 Training Achievement
RESOLVED the Council congratulated the Cemetery Superintendent on completing an Emergency First Aid at work course.
- 16/193 Cemetery
RESOLVED to accept a quotation from Gary Fletcher Surfacing Ltd. for white lining and road resurfacing work in the cemetery.
- 16/194 Clerks Job Description and Terms and Conditions of Employment
RESOLVED to agree on the Clerks Job Description and Terms and Conditions of Employment.
- 16/195 Staff Job Descriptions and Terms and Conditions of Employment
RESOLVED Council to review the staff's job descriptions and Terms and Conditions of Employment. Staff to be consulted, issued with new job descriptions, contracts and to be given 12 weeks' notice to adopt the changes.
- 16/196 Civic Centre Project
A number of quotations have been received for the renovation project, further quotations are required. RESOLVED Delegated power given to the Clerk with approval from the Chair of the Council and Chair of the Community Hall & Premises Committee to accept quotations and arrange for the work to be carried out. As a temporary measure the annexe room is to be painted by the Council staff in colours chosen for by one of the user groups.

RESOLVED to accept quotations from two contractors to restore the wooden floor in main hall. Clerk to offer the work to the contractor who can carry out the restoration work that fits in with the booking schedule.

16/197 Team Building Initiative

There has been a lot of changes in staff during the last six months, to improve working relations and to encourage team building it was agreed that the staff should be invited to attend a social gathering RESOLVED to agree to provide £500 towards the cost of a social evening for members of staff.

16/198 School Street Allotment Tree Works

The Eucalyptus tree growing on plot 16 at School Street allotments is removing moisture out of the soil and creating a shadow over plots 14, 15 & 16 RESOLVED Clerk to obtain quotes for the tree to be removed.

16/199 Land adjacent to Ida's Road Play Area

Members considered a quotation to flail mow a piece of land next to Ida's Road play area. RESOLVED Clerk to seek additional quotations.

16/200 Cemetery Report

RESOLVED to note the Clerk reported that there was 10 new graves and 6 new Memorials.

RESOLVED delegated power given to the Clerk to decide whether the request to install a desk top in front of a head stone is appropriate.

16/201 Market Attendance

RESOLVED to note Market attendance figures;

Week ending 1st July – 7
Week ending 8th July – 4
Week ending 15th July - 5
Week ending 22nd July - 4
Week ending 29th July - 7
Week ending 5th August - 5
Week ending 12th August - 3
Week ending 19th August - 4
Week ending 26th August - 7

16/202 Finance

RESOLVED to approve:

- a) June 2016 Account/Bank reconciliation. Members raised concerns over the costs of the repairs to the mowers and tractor. Clerk to investigate the option of leasing equipment.
- b) June 2016 Receipts and Payments Schedule.
- c) June 2016 Accounts Overview.
- d) Payments by cheque since the last meeting.
- e) Cash Flow Projection.
- f) Budget Summary.
- g) June 2016 Internal Audit carried out by Councillors Hunt & J. Ridgway.
- h) Members were asked to submit proposals for consideration to be included in the 2017/18 budget.

16/203

Planning

RESOLVED to note the Planning applications received 6th July 2016 – 6 September 2016.

RESOLVED to object to 16/00853/OL Application to build 4 shops and 4 flats above the amenity area, Northgate House, Market Street, Eckington. The development is inappropriate it would have an impact on the amenity of residents and local businesses. It is contrary to Eckington Town Frame Work Document. A residential development on this site would severely compromise the aims of the regeneration of the town centre contained in the Supplementary Planning Document.

RESOLVED to note the Planning decisions received 6th July 2016 – 6 September 2016.