

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

Attendance

Councillors: - B. Ridgway (Chair); J. Austen; S. Beecher; K Deffley, A Dye, C Gare; C. Harper (left at 8.45pm); C Hunt, L Kirton (left at 9.25pm); J Marsh (left at 8.45pm), J.S. Ridgway; G Roberts; C Tite (left at 9.25pm).

Others: R. Bullimore (Clerk); M. Gazur (RFO) C. Mitchell (Marketing) 1 member of the Public and 2 Police representatives.

- 16/246 Apologies for Absence
RESOLVED apologies received from Councillor Renwick.
- 16/247 Declarations of Members Interest
Councillors Austen, Hunt, J Ridgway and Tite declared a personal interest in Minute 16/271 Planning applications they stayed in the room whilst this item was discussed.
- 16/248 Members of the Public

A member of the public asked for his request for permission to metal detect in a field adjacent to Eckington Cemetery favourably.

A member of the police reported on crimes reported during November 2016, there was 15 theft related and 5 violent crimes.
- 16/249 Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held 1st & 17th November 2016
RESOLVED to approve Minutes 16/228 – 16/243 of a Parish Council Meeting held 1st November 2016. RESOLVED to approve Minutes 16/244 – 16/245 of a Parish Council Meeting held 17th November 2016.

The Chair duly signed the Minutes.
- 16/250 Minutes of an Open Spaces Meeting held 7 November 2016
RESOLVED To note Minutes 30/16 – 41/16 of an Open Spaces meeting held 7 November 2016.
- 16/251 Minutes of a Community Hall and Premises Meeting held 11 November 2016
RESOLVED To note Minutes 41/16 – 47/16 of a Community Hall and Premises meeting held 11 November 2016.

Councillors were reminded to attend Committee Meetings.
- 16/252 Update on the Civic Centre
Clerk reported on the progress of the renovation work at the Civic Centre. Councillors thanked Councillor Beecher for his assistance with the renovation project.
- 16/253 Marketing and Events
The Marketing & Events Co-ordinator informed the Council that the Social Media sites had an increasing number of followers. The Civic Centre website is

still in its infancy but there have been a few booking enquiries. Active Eckington, a campaign to encourage people to get active is to start in January. Councillors are invited to attend the Christmas Singalong event Friday 16 December. 30 tickets have been sold for the Disco Fever event to be held 16 February. The co-ordinator is considering arranging a 60's evening in March and is in discussion with a company to put a play on in the main hall at some point. A wedding package is available for potential customers.

It was suggested that events should be advertised in the Doorsteppa, the Events & Marketing Co-ordinator agreed to get costs. Councillors agreed that events should not be held on the same day as other events held in the Parish.

Councillors were asked to promote the events as much as possible.

16/254

Council Vacancy

The clerk informed the Council that there has been no request to call an election following the notice of casual vacancy occurring in the office of parish councillor RESOLVED to move to co-opt the vacancy. Applications will be considered at the February Council meeting.

16/255

Dog Bins

The Council has received requests and complaints regarding litter and dog bins. RESOLVED Clerk to check how often the bins are being emptied and to see if they could be emptied more frequently. Open Spaces Committee to consider the request to relocate the dog bin that is near the shops at Ravencar Avenue to the end of Staniforth Avenue.

16/256

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

The Council considered an email from Shirland & Higham Parish Council regarding their concerns about the withdrawal of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams presence at Parish Council meetings and Neighbourhood Watch Group meetings. RESOLVED Councillors are interested in attending a seminar with local police representatives and interested groups to clarify the current situation and explore ways in which partnerships can be maintained. RESOLVED to note the Parish Council is having difficulty obtaining crime figures from the Police website.

16/257

Local Council Award Scheme

The Local Foundation Award Scheme shows that a council is delivering to a national professional standard. There are three level of awards, Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold. Eckington Parish Council is currently only in a position to apply for the Foundation Level RESOLVED Clerk to apply for the Foundation Level in April 2017 and to continue to work for Quality criteria for a submission later.

16/258

Community Hall & Premises Committee

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Hunt on the Community Hall & Premises Committee to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Councillor Herring.

16/259

Public Conveniences

The District Council are proposing to demolish the public conveniences at Eckington bus station. RESOLVED to note the Parish Council made no comment on the proposal and has no interest in taking on the lease of these

facilities.

- 16/260 North East Derbyshire Electoral Review Consultation
The Council received the North East Derbyshire Electoral Review consultation. RESOLVED The item is to be deferred until the draft report is received in February 2017.
- 16/261 Public Payphone Consultation
BT intend to remove 45 public payphones from within North East Derbyshire, 3 from Eckington Parish. Two of these payphones have not been used over the last 12 months and the one at Ridgeway Moor has been used 8 times. The payphones at High Lane, Ridgeway and the one at Marsh Lane have been out of order for over six months which BT are aware of. This explains why there have been no calls made from there in the last twelve months. RESOLVED the Parish Council would like to request that the decision to remove the payphones at Ridgeway Moor and Marsh Lane are deferred until a true a figure of the usage is provided.
- 16/262 Metal Detecting
RESOLVED to approve a residents' request for permission to carry out metal detecting in fields adjacent to Eckington cemetery before the areas are given over to burials.
- 16/263 Variation of Deed Ducksett Lane Allotments
The Council considered a Variation of Deed to the lease of the allotments at Ducksett Lane to grant access for a new sewer pipe to be laid under the central footpath on the allotments. As a good will gesture the land agent has offered to give each allotment holder £100 as a good will gesture. Works are likely to take place in June/July 2017 RESOLVED Moved to sign the lease if the Council is financially compensated.
- 16/264 Leased Vehicles
RESOLVED to note £250 insurance excess has been paid towards the cost of repairs to one of the leased vehicles due to a member of staff reversing into a bollard.

Members considered a request from a member of staff to use the leased vehicle out of working hours. RESOLVED leased vehicle not to be used for personal use.
- 16/265 Marsh Lane Community Hall
Members considered quotations for repairs, a new door and replacement windows at Marsh Lane Community Hall. RESOLVED to accept the lowest quotation, providing that the company is an approved tradesman and registered with the local authority.
- 16/266 Complaint
The Clerk informed the Council of a complaint received about a Councillors attitude towards a member of staff. RESOLVED to note the Clerk has spoken to both parties and the matter is now closed.
- 16/267 Grant Application
RESOLVED to award £275 towards Eckington Town Team's Christmas event

and £200 towards the cost of the room hire at the Civic Centre.

16/268 Items for Information
RESOLVED to note the December items for information were made available.

16/269 Cemetery Report
RESOLVED to note the Clerk reported that there were 3 new graves and 7 new Memorials.

Members considered a request for the installation of a 4-foot-high headstone in the new part of the cemetery which is against the Council's policy. The maximum height allowed is 3-foot. The Clerk informed Members that there are some 4 foot headstones already installed in the new part of the cemetery. RESOLVED Chair of the Open Spaces Committee and the Clerk to view the site, review the regulations and make a recommendation to Council.

Clerk reported on a communication issue between the cemetery staff and a customer regarding the purchase of a plot. The customer requested a plot at the end of a row. The plot sold to the customer is in the middle and he has had to purchase the plot directly in front to allow him wheelchair access. The additional plot purchased will not be required as he intends to be buried with his spouse. Members were asked to consider waiving the cost of the second burial plot. RESOLVED to agree to refund the customer or purchase the plot if the deeds have already been signed. The Chair of the Open Spaces Committee and the Clerk to visit the site and see what accessibility options are available.

16/270 Market Attendance
RESOLVED to note Market attendance figures;
Week ending 28th October - 7
Week ending 4th November - 8
Week ending 11th November – 6
Week ending 18th November - 2

16/271 UFI
The UFI group are no longer in existence. There are volunteers available to facilitate the Blue Box Scheme. Councillors suggested that the UFI Scheme should be relaunched in September 2017.

16/272 Suspension of Standing Orders
RESOLVED to suspend standing orders at 9pm and to continue with the meeting.

16/273 Finance
RESOLVED to approve:
a) October 2016 Account/Bank reconciliation.
b) October 2016 Receipts and Payments Schedule.
c) October 2016 Accounts Overview.
d) Payments by cheque since the last meeting.
e) Cash Flow Projection.
f) Budget Summary.
g) September 2016 Internal Audit carried out by Councillors Hunt & B. Ridgway.

- h) RESOLVED: that the Precept for 2017/2018 be set at £259,590 subject to the subsequent rise in the Parish Council portion of the Council Tax not exceeding 1.9%. The Clerk is authorised to inform the NEDDC of this decision, however, as the NEDDC has not yet published the tax base for 2017/2018 the notification be delayed until such a time as the information is published. If the alteration to the tax base results in the Parish Council's portion of the Council Tax rising above 1.9% then the Clerk be authorised to reduce the precept by up to £1,000 to achieve that level. If such a reduction is not sufficient to achieve the 1.9% target, then the matter be brought back to the Council in January 2017.
- i) Council reviewed the insurance reserve figure and set it at £15,000.
- j) To approve staff Christmas bonus of £120 for full time staff and £60 for part-time staff.

16/274

Planning

RESOLVED to note the Planning applications received 2nd November 2016 – 6th December 2016.

RESOLVED to note the Planning decisions received 2nd November 2016 – 6th December 2016.

Members considered reports from meetings regarding Shale Gas and Fracking
RESOLVED Clerk to arrange a separate meeting to discuss Shale Gas and Fracking.