

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 21st, 2011
Eccleshall Community Centre

October 19th, 2011
Offley Hay Village Hall

November 16th, 2011
Eccleshall Community Centre

All meetings commence at 7.30pm
and Public Participation is the first
item on the agenda.

POLICE

Non-emergency number
0300 123 4455

PC4989 Karl Green - email:
Stnenpt@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Dianne Lutwyche
Mobile: 07977706611

Eccleshall Police Station
01785 234832

PCSO Louisa Bromley and PC Bev
Tomkins have left Eccleshall and
been replaced by PCSO Ricky Hunt
and PC Kate Hardt.

The Parish Council has been
assured by Chief Inspector Paul
Trevor that the vehicle sponsored by
5 local towns including Eccleshall,
has been replaced by a new Ford
Focus, which is located at Eccleshall
for the use of local PCSOs.

FOOTPATHS LEAFLETS

The Footpaths Committee is to
undertake a review of the 12 Walk
Leaflets and Favourite Walks
Booklet with a view to updating
them. The leaflets 1 - 10 were
designed and printed in 1997 and
the booklet was first published in
2004.

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you notice any problems with
Street lights, pot holes or standing
water please contact the Highways
Hotline 0300 1118020 or email:-
highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

For highway related emergencies
out of hours call pager no. 0844
8222888 and quote Area 2 for
defects in Stafford Borough.

To report problems associated with
grass cutting, play areas, fly tipping,
street sweeping and name plates
contact - Street Scene - 01785
619401

Complaints regarding dog fouling
and stray dogs should be directed
to the Borough Council's Contact
Centre on 01785 619000 or email:
ehadmin@staffordbc.gov.uk

To report illegal or inconsiderately
parked vehicles call Clear Streets
01785 619000 or email:
carparking@staffordbc.gov.uk

Recycling collection
01785 619402
email: info@staffordbc.gov.uk

REFUSE LORRY

The Civic Amenity Lorry will be on
Stone Road opposite the Methodist
Church from 9a.m. to 12 noon:-

September 17th, 2011

November 19th, 2011

January 28th, 2012

Minutes of the Parish Council
meetings can be found in Eccleshall
Library. Details of Councillors,
committees and minutes are on the
Parish Council website



ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011



PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

TOWN WARD

Mr J. Allen
'Wickets End', Church Grove,
Eccleshall. Tel. 850456

Mrs E. Amos
6, St. Chad's Road, Eccleshall.
Tel. 851827

Mr P. Baskerville, 'Church Lodge',
72, High Street, Eccleshall.
Tel. 850764
Email:
philandwendybaskerville@btinternet.com

Mr G. Dale (Chairman).
74, High Street. Eccleshall.
Tel. 850124
Email:gordon.gordondale@tiscali.co.uk

Mr P. Jones,
28, The Burgage, Eccleshall.
Tel. 851381
Email:peterwjones@btinternet.com

Mr G. Garner
9A, Newport Road, Eccleshall.
Tel. 850110

Mr M. Starkey
24, Claremont Road, Eccleshall.
Tel: 850502
Email: mike.starkey@talktalk.net

Mrs L. von Elbing
'Muirfield' Pershall, Eccleshall.
Tel: 859026
Email: lindsay.vonelbing@virgin.net

CROXTON WARD

Mr B. Delanchy, 5, Highfields,
Croxtton. Tel. 07837 296472
Email:
bryan.delanchy@staffordshire.gov.uk

Mr D. Jacques
Sugnell Hall, Sugnell.
Tel: 851711
Email:dj@sugnell.co.uk

Mr B. Apps
6, Fox Hollow, Eccleshall.
Tel: 851127
Email: bbapps@btinternet.com

HORSLEY WARD

Mr P. Allsop.
12, Mere Rise, Copmere End.
Tel. 851917
Email: petninja2000@yahoo.co.uk

Mr P. Mullee
Johnson Home Farm, Eccleshall
Tel: 851500
Email: paulmullee@btinternet.com

Mr D. Pimble (Vice-Chairman)
Cobbler's Cottage,
Kerry Lane, Eccleshall.
Tel. 850116
Email:davidpimble@tinyonline.co.uk

SLINDON WARD

Mrs M. Dodkins
11, Usulwall Close, Eccleshall.
Tel: 850345
Email: mdodkins@aol.com

Borough Councillors

Mr F. A. Chapman
17, Redhills, Eccleshall.
Tel. 850838
Email: frankachapman@btinternet.com

Mr P. Jones (details as opposite)

Mr J. Pert
Bank Farm, Croxtton
Tel: 01630 620274
Email: jeremy.pert@lineone.net

County Councillor

Mr H. Butter, 'Longfield', Wetwood,
Eccleshall.
Tel. 01630 620280
Email:henry.butter@staffordshire.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council

Mrs C. Heelis, 42, Badgers Croft,
Eccleshall.
Tel. 850989
Email: eccleshallpc@btinternet.com



LOCALISM BILL

On August 24th, 2011 the Parish Council arranged a meeting with a small consultation company, Counter Context. The company specialises in undertaking consultations for the public and private sector. The meeting was open to local residents and representatives from groups within the Parish.

The Localism Bill, which is currently going through Parliament, is expected to introduce significant new powers to give local people a real voice to shape development in their area through Neighbourhood Development Plans. These will require extensive public consultation / community participation

A successful Neighbourhood Plan is expected to have statutory status and be able to address any planning related issues in an area. In addition to specifying locations for housing, it could, for instance, tackle road improvements, footpath and cycle networks, specify design and density of housing and safeguard sites from development that are valued as open spaces.

The role of Parish Councils will be strengthened by the Localism Bill and emphasis is placed on grass roots decision making, local priorities and engagement with local people.

The company provides easy to deliver consultations using a common

template bespoke to each Parish, easy to implement and at low cost.

Benefits of a Plan include increased ability to attract funding with evidence of consultation, ownership of decisions, community involvement and building a network of local people.

Various items would need to be considered, especially the structure of the plan and how it would fit in and complement the 2004 Parish Plan and the Town Design Statement.

The Council was urged to act promptly to ensure that the community has the chance to record what is considered acceptable for the area before developers have the opportunity to submit planning applications for major development.

It is necessary to understand the limits and constraints of the Localism Bill. The Bill appears very vague and open to interpretation. It is hoped that it will give local communities more power over development in their area and the Parish Council is following the progress of the bill closely. Members are mindful of the need to be prepared to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to set the context for development in the Parish when further details become available.

It should be noted that the Parish Council has not made any commitment to Counter Context regarding a public consultation exercise.

BUSES

The hourly 432 bus service to Stafford, which was run by D & G Buses, has now transferred to Wardle Transport. Both these companies are owned by Arriva but operate at the moment as stand alone companies. All the local services formally operated by D & G have transferred to Wardle Transport, but the timetables remain the same.



However, changes are anticipated after September when the Staffordshire County Council subsidies have been reviewed. The rule still seems to be that the more people that use the buses, the more likely services will continue running.

Meanwhile, if you are going to Stafford on a return journey, check the timetable for the return service in Eccleshall before you leave. There are no timetables on display at Gaol Square in Stafford.

MILL AND MALTINGS - WALK MILL

The Parish Council was recently approached by a company on behalf of Sugnal Estates, about proposals to repair and restore the Mill and Maltings which are Grade II Listed.

The proposals involved 'enabling development' to finance work to convert the mill and maltings into dwellings. It was noted that eight new houses would be required in and around Walk Mill to provide the necessary finance.

Following a public Meeting held on June 29th, 2011 at Offley Hay Village

several amendments were made to the scheme and the Parish Council was invited to comment on the proposals prior to the submission of a formal planning application to the Borough Council.

Taking into account the views of local residents the Parish Council resolved to advise the Planning Department of the following comments:-

The Council considers that the proposed dwellings would be out of keeping with the street scene and three storey houses are inappropriate and uncharacteristic of the settlement.

The new development would give the impression of a suburban street without pavements in the countryside. It would also generate yet more traffic on the narrow country lanes.

The Parish Council considers that it would be more acceptable to demolish the mill and maltings, rather than build some kind of replica, as any benefit to the community from the refurbishment of the mill would not compensate local residents for the impact of the proposed dwellings.

The Listed Building qualities have been lost with the neglect of the buildings over the years and the dereliction that has already taken place.



NEW COUNCILLORS

At the elections in May two new members were elected to the Parish Council, Mrs M. Dodkins representing Slindon Ward and Mr D. Jacques representing Croxton.

The new Councillors were welcomed to the Parish Council at the Annual General Meeting on May 18th, 2011.

MARY DODKINS



Born in Birmingham, I came to Eccleshall when I was 3 years old. My father was a butcher, Stan Greaves, and his shop where I grew up is now Macleod's. I went to Lonsdale School when I was five. I have two sons, Adam and James, who both live in Eccleshall. Until a few years ago I ran a shop in the High Street.

I am Chairman of Offley Hay Village Hall and with the support of a strong committee I have been instigating slow but steady changes to make the Hall more attractive to hire. I am Secretary of Eccleshall Bridge Club and Secretary to the Friends of the William Salt Library in Stafford, helping to raise money to keep the collection of books in the library in good condition. I am also Chairman of Staffordshire Heritage, which is an umbrella group for all the Local History and Archaeological Societies in the County.

I love researching local history and beware, I can spend hours telling you what Eccleshall was like in days gone by, particularly the 17th century!

I am an expert on 17th century embroidery and have a collection of pieces I have embroidered that I take all over the country when lecturing on the subject.

On the Parish Council I am delighted to have become the Youth Liaison Representative, helping to support Jessica Wilkes Mellor bring much needed occupation for the youngsters in the town. Her Drop In at the Library on the High Street has become an instant success and I hope she will be able to expand it next term.

Eccleshall has changed so much since I was a child growing up here. I would like to see those changes continue but after a great deal of consultation with the people who live here. By listening to their wishes and views we should be able to help Eccleshall continue to grow in the 21st century, whilst protecting the traditions and heritage that we all enjoy around us.



Following the elections in May two vacancies remained on the Parish Council. These vacancies were duly advertised and at the Council meeting in June three candidates gave a presentation to the Council.

Barry Apps was re-elected to the Council, this time to represent the Croxton Ward and Paul Mullee was elected to represent the Horsley Ward.

All the new members have attended a series of training courses organised by the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association.

PAUL MULLEE



Paul has lived and worked in Eccleshall all his life. He is the third generation of his family to farm in Eccleshall and in addition to his farming and contracting business he also runs a oil heating engineering firm. He is married to Elaine and they have four sons.

Paul has a deep love of the countryside and enjoys ornithology as well as other country pursuits. He is on the committee for Eccleshall Agricultural Society and looks forward to representing the local community on the Parish Council.

THE ROYAL OAK

The Parish Council is pleased to see The Royal Oak refurbished and open again after a lengthy period of closure. Councillors were invited to tour the pub on July 8th, and members also attended the Trade Night Opening on July 27th, 2011.



The Council welcomes the return of a Joules Hostelry to Eccleshall and best wishes go to owner Steve Nuttall and Licensees Neale and Bella Chandler

PARKING IN THE HIGH STREET

The Parish Council has been made aware of instances where people parking in Eccleshall High Street, who have moved off and returned to a different location later in the day, have been booked.

The parking limit in the High Street and Stafford Street is 2 hours with no return within 1 hour. Some people have complied with this restriction, returned after 1 hour and been booked because the enforcement officer has not inspected the area during the period of 2 hours. In fact, they have been booked even though their vehicle has been physically moved to a different location.



These issues have been raised with the Borough Council and the matter referred to the Traffic Management Committee for consideration, together with the fact that cars stopping to pick up / drop off relatives outside John Pershall Court have also been booked.

ECCLESHALL YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE A SUCCESS OF SUMMER



Eccleshall Young People took up the Summer Skills Challenge organised by Jessica Wilkes-Mellor from the Us2 Project which is run by Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services. For two weeks in August the young people took part in a drama and storytelling workshop, a two day residential weekend at Beadesert Camp Site which involved raft building, archery and team building activities, a day trip to Harper Adams University. They are currently planning a celebration event which will take place in September.

The young people involved have been learning the skills required to become ambassadors for Eccleshall and have also been taking lessons in event management, group work, team building and much more!

Project leader Jessica said 'The response from the young people has been overwhelming. The next stage is to work with the community, volunteers and the young people to develop youth provision in the town. The drop-in held at the local library has been a huge success and we are now fast outgrowing the venue. Another venue is currently being secured and the future for the young people of Eccleshall looks bright, with more

things to do and places to visit.

The Us2 project is funded through the Staffordshire 'Communities Mean Business' LEADER programme which forms part of the Regional Development Programme for England (RDPE), managed by Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (defra).

If you would like to get involved or volunteer as a helper at the drop in or at future events contact Jessica on 01785 240378 or email jessica@staffscvys.org.uk



PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

In July two grants were awarded by the Parish Council to groups in the community. The Eccleshall First Responders received £300 towards the purchase of a uniform and personal protection wear for a new member and £300 was given to the Local Student Firefighter Scheme. The cheque will be presented to the Scheme by the Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Gordon Dale, on October 12th, 2011.

Jessica Wilkes-Mellor gave a presentation at the Council meeting on July 20th, about the proposed summer scheme and agreed to attend the meeting on September 21st, to update members. The Councillors commended Jessica for her hard work and enthusiasm.