

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

January 18th, 2012
Eccleshall Community Centre

February 15th, 2012
Eccleshall Community Centre

March 21st, 2012
Eccleshall Community Centre

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

POLICE

**Staffordshire Police have recently
launched a new non emergency
number - Dial 101**

Eccleshall Police Station
01785 234832

Alternatively, you can contact the
Officers who work from Eccleshall
Police Station by dialling **0300 123
2345** and when prompted enter their
Airwave number.

PC Karl Green
Airwave Number 04989

PC Kate Hardt.
Airwave Number 00827

PC Danny Lyons
Airwave Number 04885

PCSO Dianne Lutwyche
Airwave Number 06499

PCSO Ricky Hunt
Airwave Number 16760

Further information regarding local
news and Crime Mapping can be
obtained from the Staffordshire
Police website.

In an emergency dial 999

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you notice any problems with
Street lights, pot holes or standing
water please contact the Highways
Hotline 0300 1118000 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 619402 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:-

January 28th, 2012

March 17th, 2012

Photos Front Cover
Top - Bishops Offley looking
towards Bishops Wood
Bottom - Lane from Outlands to
Offley Brook

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

Newsletter
DECEMBER 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,
Croxtan. Tel. 07837 296472
Email:
bryan.delanchy@staffordshire.gov.uk

Mr D. Jacques
Sugnall Hall, Sugnall.
Tel: 851711

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

HORSLEY WARD

VACANCY

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, Croxtan
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

Neighbourhood Plan - Front Runners

The Localism Bill, which has just received Royal Assent seeks to empower local communities to influence decisions made by local authorities, particularly with regard to planning issues. Precise details about the legislation remain to be clarified, but the Bill is expected to enable local communities to create a neighbourhood plan to ensure that residential, commercial and industrial developments reflect the needs of the whole community rather than the wishes of developers.

Following information received from the Department for Communities and Local Government, which indicated that Parish Councils could request the Local Authority to apply for a grant of £20,000 from the Front Runners Scheme, the Parish Council appointed a small group of Councillors to undertake research into the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

A Consultant has been involved to guide the Parish Council and the working party through the process of preparing the Plan. The Government Grant would ensure that no additional financial costs would be incurred by the Parish.

Stafford Borough Council was requested to make an application on behalf of Eccleshall Parish Council before the November deadline. The Parish Council had previously demonstrated its competence by producing the Town Design Statement and in consequence the Borough Council's Forward Planning Manager indicated that Eccleshall would be an excellent choice as the first Parish to work with to develop a Plan. The Borough Council, however, declined to assist.

Mr Manders, Head of Planning and Regeneration, was unconvinced of the worth of a Neighbourhood Plan for Eccleshall at this time and the Borough

Council did not have the resources to take forward a bid. Mr Manders went on to say that the prospect of a Plan for Eccleshall remains entirely possible, perhaps through the next round of bidding in the New Year.

The Parish Council was disappointed by this response and Stafford Borough remains one of the few areas in the country where no Parish Council has successfully obtained funding to create a Neighbourhood Plan in order to match future planning requests to local needs.

Eccleshall Trust - Time moves on



Ladies and Gentlemen - Have you joined that illustrious club whose members are allowed to call themselves "Pensioners"? If so then you are now also eligible to join the Eccleshall Trust's day trips and Christmas Lunch.

The Christmas Lunch is held at The North Staffs Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent with entertainment, Father Christmas, funny hats, good company and transport provided.

In the summer there are day trips to places like Llandudno and Southport. For the less able there is a half day coach trip through beautiful countryside, past Tittesworth Reservoir to the small village of Meerbrook, which has great views of The Roaches where members of the W.I. serve afternoon tea. For further information contact Gordon Dale Tel: 850124 or Ben Lynch 850797

Eccleshall Community Centre

Those of you who attend events at the Centre will appreciate how lucky Eccleshall is to have such an excellent community facility. Although the Parish Council owns the building it is managed by an Association and all the members are volunteers.



Gordon Dale and his wife Libby spend a great deal of their time juggling bookings and Gordon is frequently called to address problems with vandalism and temperamental boilers. Stan Hall and George Simkin can often be found up ladders putting up Christmas decorations and quietly sorting out light bulbs and other issues.

During 2011 the Day Centre Action Charity Committee provided various items including new carpet and curtains and five photographic prints, which adorn the walls of the Jubilee Room. The Association has extended thanks to the Committee for these welcome additions, which are available for all the community to enjoy.

The next task for the Association is to fence off the area outside the new conservatory and the Day Centre Committee has provided a bench which will be installed.

The Association has succeeded in obtaining funding from the Staffordshire Environmental Fund towards double

glazing the windows on the front of the building to match the conservatory, refurbishing of the toilets and the purchase of new curtains for the main hall.

Proposed Enhancements - Castle Street

The Parish Council in conjunction with Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council is hoping to undertake some enhancements to the area outside Selwyn Court, extending as far as the cross roads and possibly round into Stone Road. These improvements will complement the refurbishment of the High Street, which was completed in 2005 and will include parking bays and re-paving.

Various grant applications are being submitted to seek finance to enable the scheme to proceed and evidence of the need for these improvements is required from local residents, businesses and groups. Questionnaires are available in Eccleshall Library and it would be helpful if you could indicate what you consider the benefits would be to the local community. For example the provision of additional parking, encouraging people to use local facilities thereby reducing the carbon footprint or attracting tourism. Alternatively you may respond to the questionnaire on-line by visiting the Parish Council website:- www.eccleshallparishcouncil.org



CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Get into the Christmas Spirit, come and join us on MONDAY December 19th, 2011 for the very popular Parish Council's Carols around the Christmas Tree. Wrap up warm, and come along for an old fashioned Christmas evening singing popular carols under the stars.

Meet at the cross roads at 7p.m. where we will start the night off with two carols and then move to the Millennium Clock, John Pershall Court, eventually reaching the Trinity Church Lychgate, where hot punch will be supplied and served by members of the Ecclian Society.

Suitably refreshed and in good voice we will sing more carols, until we can sing no more.

The night is not yet finished, for a very warm welcome awaits you in the Church Parish Rooms, where you can thaw out with hot tea, coffee and mince pies.

Don't forget to bring a lantern or a torch and have an enjoyable time.

VACANCY - HORSLEY WARD

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council representing the Horsley Ward owing to the resignation of Peter Allsop. The Council extended thanks to Mr Allsop for the contribution he made to the Parish Council in recent years as a representative for the Horsley Ward and as Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. Mr Allsop was also thanked for continuing to assist with the work of the Footpaths committee and members wished Mr Allsop and his wife well for the future.

The vacancy has been advertised in the usual manner and no election has been called, therefore the Parish Council is able to co-opt a new councillor. Candidates will be invited to give a short presentation to Councillors at the Council meeting on January 18th, 2012.

If you are interested in being considered for the vacancy please contact Mrs Heelis for an application form before December 21st, 2011.

Thanks are extended to the Ecclian Society for erecting the 62 Christmas Trees and testing lights and brackets, Fosters Breathing Space for providing the Trees, A.S. Electrical Services for installing the lights on the tree by the lych gate and Traction Equipment for loan of a cherry picker



NEW COUNCILLOR – CROXTON WARD

One of this year's new councillors is David Jacques, representing Croxton Ward.

Dr Jacques is a landowner, having lived at Sugnall Hall all his life except for 20 years in London. His father, Greville Jacques, was a parish councillor, and its chairman, for many years.

In professional life he is a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and of the Institution of Highways and Transportation. Much of his career, though, has been as an historian, and he is one of

the foremost historians of garden design nationally, having been the first Inspector of Historic Parks and Gardens at English Heritage and involved in the restoration of gardens at Hampton Court, Kenilworth Castle and abroad.

In recent years, having taken over the running of the Sugnall Estate, he has overseen the restoration of the Sugnall Walled Kitchen Garden. He is currently Chairman of the Eccleshall First Responders, and of the Friends of the William Salt Library.

'Residents of Eccleshall and district are fortunate in having a delightful and historic town at its heart. It must continue to thrive. Many affluent people have bought into the rural areas because of its attractiveness and accessibility, and they need to be welcomed as new members of the community, but public transport and other matters remain issues for others, especially youngsters and the elderly.'

Junior Firefighters



On October 12th, 2011 the Parish Council Chairman Gordon Dale, Vice-Chairman David Pimble and the Clerk, Mrs C. Heelis attended a meeting of the Junior Firefighters at Eccleshall Fire Station to present a cheque from the Parish Council towards the costs of running the club.

The young people demonstrated some of the skills they had learned in previous sessions from the instructors who are serving Fire Fighters. The Club involves physically demanding activities which help to improve the general health and fitness of the young people attending. Elements of the activities the students engage in enable them to learn skills which will keep them physically safe during many activities performed in their everyday lives. The Club is designed to be an enjoyable experience for the young people involved, allowing them to learn new skills that they wouldn't be able to learn anywhere else.

For further information contact Jessica on 01785 240378 or email: jessica@staffsscvs.org.uk

Civic Service - October 23rd, 2011



Above: The Mayor of Stone Councillor Mrs June Price, Consort to the mayor of Stafford Mrs Beverley Davies, the Mayor of Stafford Councillor Stan Highfield, Councillor Gordon Dale chairman Eccleshall Parish Council and his wife Mrs Libby Dale

Members of the Parish Council welcomed the Mayor of Stafford accompanied by his consort and the Mayor of Stone to the Civic Service held at St. Paul's Church, Croxton.

The Reverend Jonathan Eades presided at the service with readings from Chairman Gordon Dale and Vice-Chairman David Pimble.

The service at the 19th century church was well attended by Borough and Parish Councillors together with members of the congregation and guests from the parish's various organisations. County Councillor Henry Butter also took part as a member of the church choir.

The annual civic service moves around the churches of the parish allowing the communities in each area to attend the service in their own local church.

Open Spaces

Picnic Site:- Work has been carried out to clear the dew pond and generally tidy up the site by volunteers from BTCV aged from 16 - 18 years old.

Thanks are extended to the Ecclian Society for the installation of two rustic benches, a six foot one at Elford Heath near the pool and another, a four foot one alongside the Eyeswell footpath The Society has managed and funded the project.

Elford Heath - Comments have been received recently about the condition of the pool. The water level is thought to be low owing to the very dry weather. Other areas of water in the County are experiencing similar problems. The spring has also dried up but hopefully will flow again with the onset of wet weather.



Photograph - courtesy of Mr T. Griffin

Bishops Court - The Parish Council is conducting research into several small pieces of equipment to enhance the site. Once details have been compiled a consultation event will be arranged for local residents and young people to have their say about the proposals.

Web Site: www.eccleshallparishcouncil.org.

The Parish Council is about to launch a new web site designed by a local Company, - ExtraMile Communications. The website contains useful information, councillors contact details, minutes and agendas as well as several Parish Council publications and details of any on-going consultations. When the footpath leaflets have been updated they will be available to download from the site.