

USEFUL CONTACTS HIGHWAYS

Street lights, pot holes, standing water, footpaths issues and many highway matters can be reported online:-

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit

It is important that residents report issues so that it is logged with an enquiry number and assigned to an County Council officer for inspection and assessment.

General enquiries can be directed to:

highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

The Customer Service Centre can help with issues in logging new reports and providing advice and guidance.

RIGHTS OF WAY

There is a new reporting system for issues with the public rights of way, which can be found at:

<https://prow.staffordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx>

BOROUGH COUNCIL

To report problems associated with grass cutting, play areas, fly tipping, street sweeping and name plates:

Street Scene - 01785 619401

Recycling collection - 01785 619402

email: info@staffordbc.gov.uk

Dogs - dog fouling and stray dogs:
01785 619000

Email: dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk

REFUSE LORRY

The Civic Amenity Lorry will be on Stone Road opposite the Methodist Church from 9 - 11am.

November 16th, 2019

January 18th, 2020

March 21st, 2020

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

November 20th 2019 - Community Centre

January 22nd 2020 - Community Centre

February 19th 2020 - Community Centre

March 18th 2020 - Community Centre

Residents of Eccleshall parish are welcome to attend meetings and may address the members during the Public Participation session at the start of the meeting. All meetings commence at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

HIGH STREET NOTICE BOARD

If you have flyers for any community events that you wish to be posted up on the Parish Council noticeboard in High Street, there is a tray located in I.Tech in Stafford Street where notices can be left.

SUSPECT A CRIME?

This is a general reminder to everyone to report any suspicious activity you witness to the **police on 101** at the time of the incident.

Please obtain as much information as you can, i.e. description of person involved, vehicle registration, make and model. If these incidents are not reported immediately the police can take no action.

There is also the option to report a crime via Facebook and Twitter, by sending a direct message. Messages will be logged in the same way as a 101 call, and the service is manned from 7am until midnight.

Please still call 999 if it is an emergency and an urgent response is needed.

Eccleshall Parish Council



Winter Newsletter 2019

www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

TOWN WARD

Mrs Eileen Amos
6, St. Chad's Road, Eccleshall.
Tel: 851827
eileen.amos@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr Peter Jones (Chairman)
25, Wheelwright Drive, Eccleshall.
Tel. 851381
peter.jones@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Mrs Joy Jones
25, Wheelwright Drive, Eccleshall.
Tel. 851381
joy.jones@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

VACANCY

Mrs. Libby Dale (Vice -Chairman)
74, High Street, Eccleshall.
Tel: 850124
libby.dale@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr. Philip Stenning
1, Shaw's Lane, Eccleshall
Tel: 01785 859984
philip.stenning@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Mrs. Ros Taylor
1, Southlands Court, Eccleshall
Tel: 01785 859068
ros.taylor@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr. Martin Watson
4, Bishops Court, Eccleshall
martin.watson@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

CROXTON WARD

Mr Bryan Delanchy,
5, Highfields, Croxton.
Tel. 07837 296472
bryan.delanchy@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Mrs Ros Langford
Ferndale, Woodwall Green
Croxton
Tel: 01630 620545
ros.langford@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Mr. Stuart Mifflin
Church Cottage
Church Lane, Croxton
stuart.mifflin@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

HORSLEY WARD

VACANCY

SLINDON WARD

Mr John Leather
Ankerton House, Eccleshall
Tel: 850888
john.leather@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

County Councillor

Mr Jeremy Pert
Bank Farm, Croxton
Tel: 01630 620274
Email: jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

Borough Councillors

Mr Peter Jones (details as opposite)
Mr Jeremy Pert (details as above)

Clerk to the Council

Mrs Stacey Worden
16, Newport Road
Great Bridgeford
Stafford ST18 9PR

Tel: 01785 282296

Email: eccleshallpc@gmail.com

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

In addition to the full Parish Council there are five main committees ~ Planning, Enhancements, Policy & Resources, Traffic Management and Footpaths. There are also two smaller committees which meet as and when they are needed, the Staffing Committee and the Newsletter team.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee meet every two weeks to consider planning applications in the parish supplied by the Stafford Borough Council. The committee is chaired by Bryan Delanchy and submits its findings to the Borough Council Planning Department.

ENHANCEMENTS COMMITTEE

This committee has a wide remit, and is chaired by Libby Dale. Its work includes grounds maintenance, management of the play area at Croxton, and open spaces such as Elford Heath and Bishops Court. It is also responsible for procurement of the Christmas Trees, in conjunction with the Ecclesian Society. The committee is concerned with the appearance of the parish and the delivery of any projects that aim to enhance the local area. The committee also is responsible for surveying all assets in the Parish and ensuring they are up to a suitable standard. This includes all the parish owned benches and noticeboards.

POLICY & RESOURCES

As the name suggests this committee considers all matters financial and policy oriented and makes recommendations to the full council, including adoption of key policy documents, budget updates and on what your taxes are used for in the parish. The committee is traditionally chaired by the Chairman of the council.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This committee deals with all things to do with roads and pavements in the parish, including transport, parking, speeding, to name just a few. Members of the committee have regular meetings with officers from the County Highways Department. The committee is chaired by Libby Dale.

FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE

There are over 130 public footpaths in the parish, that are the responsibility of the County Council. Unfortunately, County Council Rights of Way do not have the resources to maintain all footpaths to standards seen previously. The committee aims to provide support in the maintenance and upkeep of them with the help of a local handyman, with footpath marshals reporting issues as they see it.

Christmas Markets ~ The Little George will be holding a Christmas Market event from 12pm - 7pm on the 7th December. This will include craft stalls, Carol Singers, Santa, German Beers, mulled wine, and roast chestnuts.

REPORT FLOODING!

Only two reports of the recent flooding were registered with Severn Trent Water after the last period of heavy downpours and flooding.

It is vital that as many people as possible report any flooding that they see so that Severn Trent Water cannot ignore the problem. To report flooding, contact the Customer Operations Service Centre on 0800 783 4444 or the Severn Trent Website:- "Report a Problem"

<https://www.stwater.co.uk/my-supplies/report-a-problem/?text-only=show>

Eccleshall has a Flood Action Group but they need our help to report the problems as they occur. To contact the Group ring Chris Archer on 01785 850100 or Kath Lynch on 07474 463906.



Eccleshall Library Community Managed

When faced with the choice of losing our library or becoming Community Managed members of the Eccleshall Mercia Rotary Club stepped up and took over the reins of managing it.

With the support of over 60 volunteers and the County Council they are able to operate the library.

We are grateful to those volunteers which enable the library to stay open for the same hours as previously and provide an important community resource.

Eccleshall Parish Council is on Facebook

For updates on meetings, community events, Parish projects, refuse lorry collection dates, upcoming consultations and much more, like us at:

www.facebook.com/EccleshallIPC



CHRISTMAS TREES

As usual the town will be decorated with Christmas trees and lights throughout December. The trees and lights will be erected by Ecclesian Society members on Sunday, 1st December and if you are able to help you will be made very welcome. Meet at 10am at Church Lodge, 72, High Street. The job usually takes just over two hours.

The lights will be switched on at 5pm on Sunday, 1st December. As usual Santa and his sleigh, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Eccleshall Mercia, will arrive at the lych gate at 4pm for the younger children to tell him what they would like for Christmas. The Little George will be serving mulled wine and hot chocolate, and carols will be sung round the Stone Road tree at 5pm.

The trees will be removed on Sunday, 5th January starting at 10am-your assistance would be appreciated.

The Parish Council wishes to thank the Ecclesian Society who will be erecting the 68 small Christmas Trees in the town and checking brackets, Woods Christmas Tree Farm at Solihull for supplying and delivering all the trees, A.S. Electrical Services for installing the lights on the large trees and Traction Equipment for the loan of a cherry picker.



Carols around the Christmas Tree

Get into the Christmas Spirit, come and join us on Monday December 23rd 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.

Music will be provided by Stafford Brigades Youth Marching Band and we will be doing the singing!

Meet at the cross roads of Castle Street, Stone Road, High Street and Stafford Street at 7pm where we will start the night off with two carols and then move to the Millennium Clock and John Pershall Court. Eventually we will reach the Holy Trinity Church lychgate and from there into the church, where mulled wine will be supplied and served by members of the Ecclesian Society.

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

Don't forget to bring a lantern or a torch and have a lovely evening.



Speed Indication Devices

For some time the Parish Council has been working towards to installation of speed devices in the parish in response to the many concerns of residents to 'do something' about vehicles speeding through the parish

Following negotiations with the Highways Department of the Staffordshire County Council and a site inspection with them the originally proposed 13 locations was reduced to eight.

All the sites needed the approval of the Highways Department who looked at the suitability of the sites and considered the safety of the person erecting the cameras and logging the information obtained from them. Certain sites were not considered appropriate for several reasons and the Parish was not allowed to site cameras on those positions.

Additional sites may be added at a later date, once information from these eight sites is studied and residents' suggestions for additional sites are examined. Initially there are two devices which will be rotated around the sites every so often which will show the vehicle speed approaching them.

Each device will supply the Council with details of the speed each vehicle was doing. The display will alert motorists to their speed. The devices are powered by batteries charged by solar panels.

The work of the Speed Watch volunteers in the parish is recognised and applauded by the council.

The Parish Council acknowledged with thanks the financial support of County Councillor Jeremy Pert's Community Fund and the Safer Roads Partnership grant without which this project could not have been delivered.



Libby Dale, chairman of the Traffic Management Committee, Peter Jones, chairman of the Parish Council and Jeremy Pert, County Councillor.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (CSW)

The police across Staffordshire and the West Midlands are stepping up their monitoring of excessive traffic speeds on many major roads in the area. Most road traffic accidents (RTA's) are caused by drivers going to too fast where speed limits are in force. Eccleshall's speed watch group have continued to monitor the traffic along all the major roads in and out of the town and they have recorded some startling speeds within the 30mph zones, the highest being 54mph.

Many motorists and local residents have been expressing their concerns for some time about speeding traffic through the town at certain times of the day. There are many new families moving into Eccleshall with young children out playing and/or attending local schools and some fear for their safety.



Police statistics show that it cost the taxpayer nearly 2 million pounds every time someone is fatally injured in a road traffic accident caused by excessive speed. That includes NHS fees, police, fire brigade, local authorities and the cost of repairs to vehicles and the infrastructure.

The objective of all the speed watch groups is not to punish drivers but to educate them to drive more responsibly within our built-up areas and adhere to the national speed limits.

If anyone has an hour to spare and would like to assist the local group in their endeavors then please contact Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership on 01785 232702 or email community.speedwatch@staffordhire.pnn.polic.uk for further information.

BUS TRANSPORT

The Parish Council, in conjunction with County Councillor Jeremy Pert, is subsidising the Monday to Friday 8am bus to Stafford for students and workers to ensure that the service continues. With your support, the service can continue after the initial 12 months trial sponsorship. The council is also supporting a student fare of £9 a week for Monday-Friday, reducing the fare by £5. Simply show your student card on Monday morning and the D & G driver will issue a weekly ticket at the reduced price.



Elford Heath Project continued...

Removal of the dominant reed mace will hopefully encourage the increase in less dominant marginal plants such as the yellow flag iris, of which a small number were seen this summer.

Once the pool works have been completed, it is planned to commission a survey of the pool in order to determine if it is a habitat for Great Crested Newts, as well as reporting on other inhabitants. This will need to be completed within the breeding season, mid-March to mid-June.

Alongside the initial pool works there will also be further tree works, looking at thinning out the Goat Willows and other vegetation on the far side of the pool to ensure they do not encroach on the road and reduce visibility for road users.

Longer term it is proposed to consider what further works can be completed to improve the wider area as well as the implementation of a rotational maintenance plan for the area.

Support from Local Residents

The Parish Council are committed to conserving a key natural habitat in Eccleshall and ask that residents also treat the area with respect. **It is politely requested that the area is not used as a site for tipping of excess garden waste**, and that landowners look to dispose of their excess vegetation at the local tip.

Volunteer Opportunities

A number of residents have expressed an interest in helping with the works to Elford Heath, and the Parish Council would be delighted to work with residents in order to look at other smaller scale works that can be completed to enhance the area. The plan is to complete the larger scale works and then assess the results in order to determine the next steps to take. If anyone is interested in becoming part of a volunteer group for Elford, please email the Clerk at eccleshallpc@gmail.com with your contact details, and when we are ready to look at the next stages, the Council will be in touch to arrange a discussion.

Eccleshall Guide

The Eccleshall Guide is online for all your information about Eccleshall.

Guide information can be found at: www.eccleshallguide.org

The 2020 edition of the printed Guide is due out in December 2019

Welcome to your New Councillors

In October two councillors were co-opted onto the Eccleshall Parish Council to replace members who had stepped down. Stuart Perren was new to the council and Paul Mullee had been a member of the council before. We welcome them both into the ranks of the council and look forward to working with them and the special skills that every councillor brings to the table. We hope to welcome another two members to the council soon.

STUART PERREN

I moved to Eccleshall in December 1984 with my wife Helen, and two young daughters, having originally lived in Suffolk, and subsequently spent four years in Kent; relocating for my then employers Norwich Union. By profession, I was trained as a motor engineer, and subsequently lecturer, and have spent most of my working life as an Insurance Claims Assessor; the last fourteen years running my own consultancy until retirement in 2017. My other interests include membership of Rotary, having served as President, and active participation in Motor Sport and am a long standing member of a National committee.

Having watched Eccleshall develop over the last 35 years, I hope that my skills can help the local community, and feel honoured to represent the residents of Horsley.



PAUL MULLEE

Paul served on the council previously and was able to bring his skills to the chairmanship of the Footpaths Committee amongst other committees during his previous time as a councillor.



THANK YOU

We would like to thank former councillors Chris Marshall and Pete Edwards for their services to the Council following their recent stepping down from the Council. This has resulted in two new vacancies.

Parish Council Elections take place every four years and members of the public are invited to attend the meetings and observe the activities of the council. It is an excellent method of finding out if membership of the council may be something you could consider in the future.

75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Celebrations

During the weekend of the 7, 8, 9 and 10 May 2020

We are hoping to include such events as a World War II Quiz Night, a themed Afternoon Tea, a Children's 1940's Quiz around Eccleshall, a 1940's Variety Show and more.
Further information to follow in the new year.

*If you are interested in being part of the 1940's Variety Show there will be more information about this event and a read/sing through in the Jubilee Room at the Community Centre on Tuesday, 28 January at 7.30pm.
Everyone welcome.*

*For further details please contact Ros Taylor at
ros.taylor@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk*

PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SURVEY

In October the Parish Council distributed copies of their Community Survey making it available online, in store and from local businesses and the library.

It gave residents the opportunity to have their say in what they think the Parish Council should be focussed on, on their behalf. The responses have been rewarding and will give the Council many ideas of what areas of the parish which you think need our attention.

The responses are being analysed and will form part of the council's programme for the forthcoming months.

It has had a large impact on the area initially and we can appreciate this may have concerned local residents. However, regrowth will occur, and the work will greatly improve the quality of the pool water, the outlook of the pool, and increase biodiversity.

The next stage of the works over the next few months will involve the removal of silt and overgrown reed mace from the pool area. The pool has seen a significant decrease in the volume of water over the last few years, and initial surveys have identified a high volume of silt that needs to be removed, alongside works to identify and clear out the inlet pipe that is a source of water for the pool.

Following consultation with the Environment Agency and the local Wildlife Trust, it was identified that the best time to complete these works is between November and the end of January, outside of the breeding season for newts and most invertebrates, who will have left the pool.

An experienced contractor has now been appointed and will be working on the pool during November. Pool water may need to be removed in order to dig out the silt, and care will be taken not to damage any clay lining that we expect to be in place. Once the silt is removed from the pool, it will need to be deposited in a suitable area on the heath in order for it to dry out, which will greatly reduce the volume. The area identified will be under the trees rather than out in the open and will be fenced off securely whilst it dries, so it is not a hazard to visitors. Dependent on what is left after the drying period, the dry silt will either be spread to naturally 'disappear' or will be taken off site for disposal.

It is hoped that the pool works will improve flow of water in the pool and allow the pool to fill to a greater depth and improve water quality. At present, a large proportion of the pool is covered by invasive reed mace, which is also contributing to the reduction in water volume and debris in the pool.



Continued overleaf

ELFORD HEATH PROJECT

The Parish Council are at the start of a large, long term project of enhancements to Elford Heath, which aims to improve the area for local residents by providing a beautiful place to visit, with a natural habitat that will encourage a wide range of wildlife to inhabit and to promote biodiversity of the area.

It is expected that the project will be ongoing over a number of years, as there is much to consider in terms of improving the area. This will need to be delivered with due consideration to the natural environment to ensure any works will not be to the detriment of resident flora and fauna. Costs of the improvements will be high, so this will have to be factored into the planning.

The initial stage of the project is focussing on the pool area and the surrounding trees, and you will have already seen a significant change to this area.

The initial tree works have been a major piece of work and have resulted in a massive change to the outlook of the area around the pool. It is important to note however, that the large trees have not been felled, but coppiced.

This is a traditional countryside technique used in the management of trees around a pool, and will increase the amount of light reaching the pool, reduce the contamination of leaf litter/branches in the pool and create a new type of marginal habitat. It is also possible that we may see some new plants/flowers emerging due to the lack of competition from the large trees and increased light levels. Most importantly, the remaining stumps still have a full root system and from next spring they will start to quickly regrow and produce a coppice stool.

These new coppice stools can then be managed on a 5-year rotational basis quite easily by volunteers to the height/spread we choose. Dependant on the tree species, growth from next spring will be quite rapid.

Coppicing can also help to prevent the appearance of dead or diseased wood in the tree, by renewing constant fresh growth and the removal of old wood, allowing the tree to live for a lot longer than if it were left un-coppiced. In conjunction with the retention of mature woodland, it can increase the diversity of trees in the area.

Continued on next page

Geocache Volunteers tidy up!

About two dozen volunteers from a Geocaching group spent a day doing various things to tidy Eccleshall town and the Little George were marvellous hosts during the process.

The volunteers were clearing and tidying footpaths and picking up litter around town.

Footpath 149 had a major tidy up to remove excess vegetation and overhanging tree branches.

On Footpath 17 the stile at the very end was cleared, and the couple who did this also completed a fair bit of litter picking along the footpath and on the Stone Road.

In the Eyeswell and Footpath 13 about three bags of litter was collected, and some pruning was undertaken.



A family group of volunteers from Woodseaves decided that the path between Gaol Butts and The Crescent looked like something they would like to do so they tackled it and filled eight bags with weeds and brambles.

One of the problems seemed to be people who dispose of their cigarette ends. The need for cigarette end bins was evident after their days effort.

If businesses could provide such a bin outside their premises it would greatly help to reduce the littering. During the day a couple of hundred cigarette ends were collected plus loads of other litter.

The Borough's Street Scene arranged to collect the bags from the Little George who had allowed them to be stored on their car park.

So all in all a good job done and the Parish Council is grateful for the effort made by these volunteers, and to Street Scene and the Little George for their support.



Freedom of the Parish Awards

The Eccleshall Parish Council agreed recently that there were a number of residents who deserved special recognition for the things that they had done for our community over the years. It was decided that a Freedom of the Parish Award should be adopted and members of the Council were invited to suggest names of people who they thought deserved this special recognition.

It was thought that in future members of the community could submit the names of people who they thought should be recognised and future awards made to the selected people. 2019 was therefore seen as the beginning of the awards in the Parish.

Phil Baskerville, Retired headmaster and member of the Parish Council for 22 years, Phil received this award in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Eccleshall Parish serving for 22 years as a Parish Councillor and Chair of Enhancements Committee, and for his long standing involvement with the Ecclesian Society and Eccleshall in Bloom.

Gordon Dale, member of the Parish Council for 21 years, Chairman for 18 years, chairman of the Eccleshall Community Centre committee and chairman for over 20 years, was presented with this award in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Eccleshall Parish whilst in these roles and for his involvement in bringing many projects to fruition including the

High Street Millennium Clock, town shield and Village Welcome Sign. He is also recognised for his longstanding involvement with Eccleshall Community Centre.

Graham Garner, member of the Parish Council for 17 years, chairman for 3 years, retired headmaster and member of Stone Lions. The award was given in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Eccleshall Parish as Councillor for over ten years and Chairman from 2016-2019.

Martin Watson, leader of the Eccleshall Community First Responders, was given this award in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Eccleshall Parish in establishing the Eccleshall First Responders and his ongoing role as co-ordinator.

Bev Thompson was presented with this award in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the Parish as an ardent volunteer in keeping the town centre landscaped areas tidy in all weathers over many years.

Our community is rich in people who volunteer and provide things for the parish and this is seen as merely the beginning of regular awards to citizens.

The presentation of the first awards were made on Sunday 27th October as part of the annual Civic Service at the Holy Trinity Church.

The service was attended by regular church goers, recipients of the awards and their families, Parish Councillors, Mayor of Stone Councillor Mark Green and the Mayoress Kristen Green and Sir Bill Cash MP.

The presentations were made by Councillor Peter Jones the Chairman of the Eccleshall Parish Council.

Our thanks to Reverend Jules Walker and the officers of the Holy Trinity Church for allowing the Civic Service to take place in the Holy Trinity Church.

This special service takes place around the same time each year but in different churches in the Parish.



Martin Watson, Bev Thompson, Graham Garner, Gordon Dale and Phil Baskerville.