

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**September 23rd, 2015**

Eccleshall Community Centre

**October 21st, 2015**

Offley Hay Village Hall

**November 18th, 2015**

Eccleshall 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.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Street lights, pot holes, standing water or highway matters** - contact the Highways Hotline 0300 1118000 email:-

highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

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

**Recycling collection** - 01785 619402

email: info@staffordbc.gov.uk

**Dogs** - dog fouling and stray dogs - 01785 61900

Email: dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk

**CIVIC SERVICE** - The Civic Service will be held at Holy Trinity Church in Eccleshall on November 22nd, 2015 at 10am. This is a non-denominational service and all are welcome.

## REFUSE LORRY

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

**September 19th, 2015**

**November 14th, 2015**

## SEATS

Two seats obtained from Stafford Borough Council, which were surplus to requirements have been refurbished by Drake Hall prison. One will be located by The Burgage and the other at the corner of Gaol Butts and Churchfield Road.

The blue metal seat on the corner of Stafford Street and Stone Road will be repainted when the road works have been completed.

## CROXTON AND BROUGHTON JUBILEE FUND

The Croxton and Broughton Jubilee Fund has grants available for local groups in Broughton, Croxton, Fair Oak Wetwood and adjoining areas to enable them to undertake projects of benefit to the local area. Expressions of interest should be submitted before the end of September 2015.

Further information is available from Jeremy Pert 01630 620274 or email:- jeremy@jeremypert.co.uk or Henry Palmer 01630 620314.

# ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL



**CROXTON WELL DRESSING - JULY 4TH, 2015**



QUALITY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

**Newsletter**  
**SEPTEMBER 2015**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

### TOWN WARD

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

Mr P. Baskerville, 'Church Lodge',  
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Mrs B. Davies  
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Mr P. Jones,  
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Mr G. Garner (Vice-Chairman)  
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### CROXTON WARD

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Mrs R. Langford  
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### HORSLEY WARD

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Mr D. Pimble (Chairman)  
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### SLINDON WARD

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### County Councillor

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

### Borough Councillors

Mr P. Jones (details as opposite)

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

### Clerk to the Council

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

## CROXTON WELL DRESSING - SATURDAY JULY 4TH, 2015

By all accounts the 2015 Croxton Well Dressing was a success. The weather was kind again and the sun shone all day despite the weather forecasters predicting rain. The 5 well dressings were transported from the pole barn at Blorepipe on a flatbed trailer pulled by Rob Unsworth's shiny red tractor. All arrived safely, and then were unloaded and a team of strong men manhandled them into position, - where for the first time we could really see the beautiful pictures created during the previous 6 days. The theme for the well dressings in 2015 was 'Legends of the Langot'.

Stalls were set-up in the Millennium Wood; Eccleshall Scouts served up their legendary BBQ fare, and the Tern Valley Tinkers serenaded us with folk music at the well. People started gathering and photographed the well dressings, and the Bishop of Stafford and the Mayor of Stafford were welcomed to the event. At 11.45pm, Cllr. David Jacques officially opened the 2015 Croxton Well Dressing Festival and told us some of the ancient history of the local area.

Rev. Jonathan Eades then introduced the Bishop of Stafford who conducted the traditional blessing of the well, and the Church choir, accompanied by Ellen Butter on her guitar, led everyone in singing two hymns.

Ros Langford thanked everyone for coming and hoped they would walk the Croxton wells trail to see all 5 of the well dressings, visit the stalls and displays in the Millennium Wood and then go down to St Paul's Church for the afternoon music and poetry concert. Everyone had a wonderful time and the concert was the best yet.

Thanks to all those people who have helped in anyway - it has involved many people over many months, but the end result was worth it. The well dressings remained on display for a week, and were added to mid week with some smaller well dressings created by the Faraday Road Stafford Stroke Club with the help of Carol Benbow and Ros.

A lovely community event.... and the next will be on 1st July 2017. If you would like to be involved with the next Croxton Well Dressing, - please use the Contact page on the web-site - <http://croxtonwelldressing.weebly.com/> or call Ros on 01630 620545.



older generations, to get out and about in the town, be active and then enjoy a well-deserved reward at the end of each session....Yes that means tea and cake!!

**Would you like to be one of the team?  
Yes!**

Then you are warmly invited to come along to a short formative meeting from 6pm until 7pm on Wednesday September 16th, at Eccleshall Community Centre.  
For more information please contact Councillor Becky Davies  
Tel - 07973 661967  
Or Email:  
[beckydavieslitmon@btinternet.com](mailto:beckydavieslitmon@btinternet.com)

### NATWEST BANK



The mobile bank will be in Eccleshall on The Smithy car park every Wednesday between 10.45 and 11.45am. It was good to see a good number of people queueing to use the facility on the first visit on August 19th, 2015. Whether the service continues, or indeed increases in regularity will depend on the number of people who use it.

### BUS SERVICES

The Parish Council is disappointed that it was not made aware of the proposed changes to the services and did not have the opportunity to provide any input into the revisions made.



Subsequent discussions with the provider and Staffordshire County Council secured a visit from D & G Buses to Eccleshall to give advice and information regarding the upcoming service changes. Hopefully the visit, expected to have taken place on September 3rd, 2015 was well advertised and members of the public were able to go along to collect leaflets and timetable booklets.

Members of the Parish Council are also hoping to arrange a meeting with the operators and representatives of Staffordshire County Council very shortly to ascertain whether some of the concerns raised locally can be addressed.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The six week consultation period undertaken by Stafford Borough Council ended on July 13th, 2015. All the responses received have now been collated by the Borough Council and submitted to the appointed examiner, Mr Nigel McGurk. The Neighbourhood Plan together with all the submitted documents is currently undergoing examination.

Following the examination, Mr McGurk will prepare a report and recommend whether the Plan can be referred to a public referendum. The Borough Council must then consider the Examiner's report and make a decision on whether to refer the Plan to public referendum or to refuse the Plan.

If the plan is recommended for public referendum, the Borough Council will make the necessary arrangements and it is likely that a referendum will be held early in 2016. If more than 50% of the votes at the referendum are in favour of the Plan it will form part of Stafford Borough's local development plan for the Parish of Eccleshall.

The Parish Council has submitted strong objections to two planning applications for development off Cross Butts and Green Lane, which have been submitted recently involving land outside the Settlement Boundary identified in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. Objections included the fact that the developments constituted an unnecessary expansion of Eccleshall as the Neighbourhood Plan identifies

sufficient land for development to comply with The Plan for Stafford Borough.



View from Green Lane - looking South

### FOOTPATH MARSHALLS

Some years ago a scheme was established whereby volunteers agreed to adopt various footpaths in the Parish and walk them a couple of times per year. Reporting any problems to the Parish Council Clerk so that the Parish Council handyman could carry out any maintenance required - erect or repair stiles gates and fingerposts and remove vegetation. Larger jobs are referred to the Rights of Way Officer to be addressed or issues with Landowners resolved

There are 143 paths in Eccleshall Parish and over the years the system developed in Eccleshall, which was instigated by John Allen, became an example of good practice.

Following John's retirement earlier this year it has become evident that some of the volunteers have moved on or no longer wish to be involved in the scheme. In July, Councillor Paul Mullee

was elected as Chairman of the Footpaths Committee and it was agreed to try to resurrect the Marshalling scheme.

If you enjoy walking and would be interested in helping to monitor a small number of footpaths in the parish, please contact Mrs Heelis :-

01785 850989 or email:  
eccleshallpc@btinternet.com.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAINTAIN  
OUR FOOTPATHS AND ENABLE  
EVERYONE TO CONTINUE TO  
ENJOY WALKING IN THE  
BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE OF  
ECCLESHALL PARISH.**

There are 12 walking leaflets available from Eccleshall library describing popular local walks as well as 2 Bench to Bench walks and a Favourite Walks booklet. The walking leaflets are also available on the Parish Council website:  
- [www.eccleshallparishcouncil.org](http://www.eccleshallparishcouncil.org).

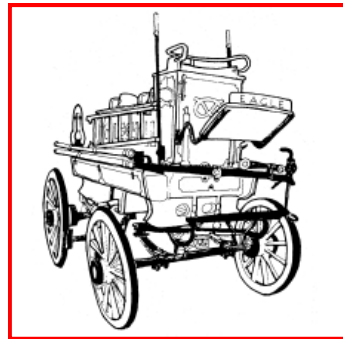


### **FIRE TENDER**

The top of the lectern has been removed from The Washpits as the information was out of date following the relocation of the Fire Tender. An updated sign will soon be fixed to the existing stand.



An information board has also been prepared detailing the history of the Fire Tender and this will be positioned next to the Fire Tender in the display area at the Co-operative store.



### **CHRISTMAS TREES AND CAROLS AROUND THE TREE.**

The Christmas Trees will be erected on Sunday 29th, November and the popular Carols around the Tree will take place on Monday December 21st, 2015. Meet at Eccleshall Cross Roads at 7pm.

### **COMMUNITY ACTION**

Back in May of this year COMMUNITY-SPIRITED Eccleshall residents were invited to help out at a two hour litter pick/ tidying operation around the town. This formed part of a six-week national campaign entitled 'Pride in Our Town', to reduce the amount of litter, dog mess, weeds and general untidiness in Eccleshall and surrounding local towns in preparation for the beginning of summer.

Residents, businesses and visitors were all encouraged to take pride in the area and help keep it looking at its best.

The majority of our public grass and planted areas are maintained regularly by the County, Borough and Parish Councils but recently enquiries have been received from residents regarding the maintenance of pockets of ground in the town that have simply been 'left over' and don't belong to anyone! It was suggested that this area might be addressed by a volunteer group, anyone keen to use up spare time and who genuinely wanted to maintain the appearance of the town!

In consultation with a 'few local folk' it was indeed agreed that this would be a popular approach to this 'grey area of management' and that alongside the obvious hotspots identified in the town, other tasks, for example helping out our older members of the community should they request any help, could possibly be covered.

Indeed the options are endless for a group of proactive participants that

would relish a challenge and simply enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done!!

Some areas of our town could certainly benefit from more regular TLC and without a doubt we have all noticed something that could be attended to! Discounting road works! These are generally small jobs that with not too much effort would improve our environment for the benefit of the whole community.

Would you like to be part of a volunteer group, be it as a regular member or occasional participant that would make up a team to go out and identify opportunities around the town where improvements can be made? We need your ideas to help kick start this initiative and as a group we would aim to complete achievable short term projects.

The taskforce would probably meet on a monthly basis and share a host of common goals:-

- ◆ to protect the beauty of our town for its residents and visitors
- ◆ to recognize areas that need attention
- ◆ to embrace community spirit
- ◆ to welcome anyone to join in
- ◆ to demonstrate Pride in our Town.

As well as being involved in a worthwhile activity to be proud of, it is an opportunity to be part of a team, to make friends or catch up with old friendships, to engage the younger and