

**MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held**  
**TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021 at 7.30 pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chairman)  
Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, C Pearl, G Pearl and Skepper  
Janet Anderson – Clerk

20.70 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Gray-Williams, Haw, Kempself and Watmough

20.71 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl item 20.78 – Planning Applications

20.72 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9 MARCH 2021

**Resolved that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

20.73 MATTERS ARISING

None

20.74 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

Cllr Ashcroft raised the issue of traffic travelling at dangerously high speeds along St Helens Road. Residents had reported to her that they had contacted Highways Department of St Helens Council and had been promised a meeting but nothing had been arranged. Cllr Sims informed the meeting that officers at St Helens Council were currently being re-deployed to help staff the vaccine centre.

Cllr Ashcroft added that although data collection points had been put on the road, no action had been taken. She felt that displaying the speed of vehicles had not been enough to slow traffic down. She felt the road should have a 30mph limit and possibly a speed camera. Cllr Cass agreed it was increasingly difficult to cross the busy road because of the speed of vehicles, including buses.

Cllr Sims asked the Clerk to contact St Helens Council's Highways Department to enquire when the meeting that had been agreed with residents would take place to look at the issue.

Cllr Skepper enquired when the post box that was removed from the corner of Kiln Lane would be replaced. Cllr Sims would contact Cllr Haw for the latest information.

20.75 POLICE REPORT

Councillors had received the latest crime figures. Most figures compared favourably with the previous year.

## 20.76 VILLAGE HALL

An email had been received from the gardener explaining that extra visits may be needed to prevent overgrown bushes. Councillors agreed that the grounds were looking untidy. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the gardener to request a detailed schedule of work for each visit. They would then visit the Village Hall grounds and hold a maintenance review meeting with the gardener.

The Clerk had received several enquires as to when the Village Hall would be re-opening. Councillors would be guided by all Government restrictions and guidelines on the opening of public buildings along with which groups would be allowed to run classes. They agreed for the Clerk and Caretaker to carry out a risk assessment of the Village Hall with a view to groups possibly being able to begin no earlier than 17 May as Government restrictions possibly lift.

## 20.77 REPORTS

Ecclesfield – the Management Committee met on 17 March and 30 March.

- It was agreed that pitches would remain the same
- The adult team that had recently enquired would be allocated a pitch
- The arrangements for midweek use of the pitches would remain unchanged with teams able to use the open space without booking. If any team wished to book a pitch then they would have to pay to reserve the pitch.

Finance Sub Ctte – 13 April 2021, 6.30pm – Cllrs Sims, G Pearl and Skepper along with the Clerk met to discuss the end of year finances.

- Overall there had been an underspend because of the closure of the Village Hall and Smithy
- There had been an overspend on electricity because a payment that should have gone out the previous financial year had been taken in April 2020 (falling into this financial year).
- The Clerk explained that a few smaller overspends were due to increase in costs.
- Income had been considerably below budget because no groups had hired the hall and the Smithy had not been able to hold events.
- The Parish Council had received a Small Business Grant of £10,000 which had gone some way to address the shortfall in income.

Smithy Working Party – 13 April 2021, 6.45pm – Councillors had been given a copy of the Curators' report. The following was discussed:

- A detailed plan of how and when the Smithy could re-open had been put forward by the Curators and agreed by Councillors.
- New opening times had been agreed – Sunday only from 12pm-4pm.
- The online virtual tour had been successful and had had 50 plus views in first few days.
- It had been agreed that loan boxes could not be loaned out as it was felt they could not be sanitized before and after loans.
- A draft statement would be compiled and once approved would be included on the Smithy website to advertise the potential opening under Government guidelines.

**Resolved to note the following:**

**St James Church Hall**

Outline application with some matters reserved except access and layout for the demolition of the existing church hall and the erection of 3 No 2.5 storey dwellings

- 1. These outline proposals would seriously affect the setting of St James' Church and additionally the Garden of Remembrance, which is very close to the adjacent households and would also be very close to any new build.**
- 2. The proposals also appear to be higher than the existing Church building.**
- 3. Any vehicles accessing the site, for both Church parking and parking for the proposed domestic properties, would not have sufficient turning space within the site.**
- 4. Residents are additionally very concerned at the loss of a Church Hall and side rooms which many local groups have hired over the years.**

**This site is totally unsuitable for these proposals**

**9 Villiers Crescent**

Extension of existing side dormer to form en-suite **N/O**

**Portico Panthers ARLFC**

Erection of extension to clubhouse to form function room/community building, additional car parking, floodlighting to training pitch, and added access on to Scholes Lane **EPC would ask for additional car parking to be a priority within this Planning Application. Scholes Lane is an extremely busy lane, with traffic calming measures - so more off street parking would help considerably**

**18 Broadway**

Two storey side extension, front porch, and hip to gable conversion with dormer window to the rear **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

**79A Portico Lane**

Proposed first floor extension to existing dwelling house **N/O**

**14 Oaktree Road**

Single storey side extension **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

**3 Forest Grove**

Demolition of existing garage and erection of a two storey side/rear extension, single storey front extension along with alterations to driveway **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

**Catchdale Moss Farm**

Retrospective partial change of use from agricultural building to retail and cafe (class E) **N/O**

**168A Kiln Lane**

Erection of canopy structure to side elevation terrace area **N/O**

**116 St Helens Road**

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension and a first floor rear extension **N/O**

**2 Catchdale Moss Cottages**

Erection of a single storey rear extension **Ensure this does not contravene the green belt policy**

**29 The Avenue**

Two storey side extension along with a single storey rear extension **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

**10 Berthold Gate**

Works to trees covered by a tree preservation order to fell 1no beech **Refer to T & W Officer**

**8 Ecclesfield Road**

Single storey rear extension **N/O**

## Decisions

### **Pykes Farm, Clay Lane**

#### **Withdrawn 18/3/21**

Demolition of existing barn and partial demolition of former tile works, erection of 2no. dwellings; demolition of existing stables and erection of new stables, storage and midden building and relocation of existing sand paddock and retention of menege

### **Corporation Yard, St Helens Road**

#### **Refused 22/3/21**

Erection of a single storey storage building to be used as a construction contractor's storage compound, replacement entrance gates, and associated soft landscaping (Amended Proposal)

## 20.79      ACCOUNTS

### **Resolved to note the following:**

Received: Village Hall Hire £0, RK PAYE £79.20, Windle phone and copier £35.51, HMRC Oct-Dec £562.41, NatWest interest 0.76

**Total Receipts** **£677.88**

### **Payments:**

Water Plus	16.84
GPS Telecoms – phone Feb	47.54
Screen Positive Ltd – Smithy prints	96.00
St Helens Council – trade waste 20/21 – 2 collections	13.22
P Gregson – travel to Smithy to collect the plough for conservation	16.20
SSE – gas	106.66
M Dodd – travel to scan the Smithy	15.30
V Griffiths – Smithy – laptop, MS Office, smart TV and bracket	686.48
Masterprint Ltd – magazine delivery	597.60
CF Corporate – photocopier lease	93.60
PC Print – printing Parish magazines	717.00
J Chamberlain – April	175.78
L Poole – April plus telephone	458.45
V Griffiths – April	175.78
J Anderson – April	1349.98
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	481.18
HMRC – PAYE and NI Jan-Mar	1548.42
SLCC – membership	138.67
A Scott – internal audit 20/21	175.00
Ecclesfield Project – first ½ contribution	1749.50
Water Plus	16.84
St Helens Council – open spaces leases	9.50
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£8685.54</b>

**RECONCILIATION** – the Clerk reported that as at 31 March 2021 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £40,618.57 and Capital Deposit Account £466.96.

<b>PETTY CASH</b> – Expenditure for the month of March 2021	£16.72
<b>Approximate</b> balance at the end of March 2021	£11.14

20.80 CORRESPONDENCE

**Telephone call** from neighbour to Village Hall. Fence panel between their garden and Smithy patio had broken. He had replaced it for security. Also, the bushes around the front and along his property now growing back again. Clerk informed the gardener.

**St Helens Council** – non-domestic rate demand – nil until 31 March 2022

**Email from resident** interested in the vacancy of Councillor – Clerk corresponding with St Helens Council

**Email from resident** thanking residents for taking part in the recent litter pick along Gillars Lane and Catchdale Moss Lane. Cllr Sims explained that this had been organised by Eccleston Litter Pickers.

20.81 DATES OF MEETINGS

**Resolved to note the following:**

Tuesday 27 April 21	7.30 pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Via Zoom
Tuesday 11 May 21	7.30 pm	Parish Council	To be arranged

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

SIGNED ..... DATED .....