

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on TUESDAY
14 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston**

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

21.52 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Barton, Gray-Williams, Haw, Kempself, and Watmough

21.53 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in item 21.64 – Planning Applications.

21.54 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 JULY 2021

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

21.55 MATTERS ARISING

None.

21.56 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

None reported.

21.57 COUNCILLOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

It was agreed that 6 months' leave of absence be granted to Cllrs Gray-Williams and Watmough on medical grounds, and Cllr Kempself for family reasons.

21.58 POLICE REPORT

The latest crime figures were discussed and most compared favourably with the same period last year.

21.59 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Ecclesfield – 7 September 2021 at 7pm in Eccleston Village Hall

Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, Sims and Skepper attended along with the Secretary. As the meeting had not been quorate the following points are reported:

- No one from Windle PC had been able to attend. Cllr Greatorex (WPC) had emailed to confirm his agreement that Eccleston PC should continue with the Chairmanship for another year.
- Caretaker had reported that the boiler had been serviced and the changing rooms were now open again to players.
- A planning application for the storage container had been submitted by St Helens Council on 27 July 2021. A discussion took place regarding charging for the use of the container. The Secretary was asked to draft terms of use.

- Eccleston PC, as lessee of the land, had received a letter from St Helens Council consenting to a container being placed on the field subject to St Helens Council's Building Surveyor overseeing the necessary work.
- No reports had been received from user groups.

Smithy – All Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' report and the following points were discussed:

- The Curators had reported that the Smithy had received a steady flow of visitors. The Smithy would be closing at the end of September.
- The Curators had used the opening hours as an opportunity to back catalogue items and tidy the stores.
- 2022 season – the Curators were hoping the Smithy would be able to go back to usual open hours at the beginning of next season with planned events such as Blacksmiths' Day and Heritage Open Days. This would need discussing further nearer to the time.

21.60 CHRIST CHURCH GRANT

Resolved that Christ Church, Eccleston be awarded a grant of £450 for work on their churchyard as budgeted.

21.61 VILLAGE HALL

- The Clerk presented 3 quotes, as required, for the maintenance of the Village Hall grounds. Councillors considered all 3 and agreed to accept the quote from C Barber. The Clerk would contact the gardener and ask him to start as soon as possible. The Clerk would also contact the neighbour to update him.
- Since July, Cllr Ashcroft, along with her partner Liz, had carried out a lot of grounds maintenance including cutting back bushes, tidying the grounds and removing the rubbish.
- Cllr Ashcroft and Liz also repaired and painted the Smithy windows.
- The Caretaker had reported a leaking gutter/downspout, concerned it could leak inside. Cllr Ashcroft had cleaned all the gutters and downspouts around the hall and Smithy so that water was running freely and not overspilling.
- The Caretaker had also reported a crack in the outside wall. The Clerk reported the recent monitoring of the building, by Lawrensons Associates, indicated the building to be safe with minimal movement.

21.62 INSURANCE

The quote for insurance with Hiscox for this year would be £2393.79 (inc Ecclesfield) – down £23.11 on last year. **Agreed to go ahead with insurance with Hiscox.**

21.63 CODE OF CONDUCT

St Helens Council had adopted a new Code of Conduct for members in July 2021 and it was reported that most local authorities across Liverpool City Region had adopted this version. Parish Councils usually adopt the same Code as the Borough Council to aid consistency. Eccleston Parish Councillors had been emailed an electronic copy of the Code, with paper copies available on request. **All Councillors signed agreeing to adopt the revised Code of Conduct.**

21.64 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

17 Wildcherry Gardens

Erection of a detached garage

Refer to Planning Officer

46 New Road

Works to tree covered by a Tree Protection Order to crown lift 1no sycamore tree

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

10 Carmelite Crescent

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension

N/O

30 Crocketts Walk

Single storey side extension

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

35 Church Walk

Demolition of existing conservatory and the erection of two storey side extension with external alterations

N/O

48 Clarkes Crescent

Demolition of existing rear extension and erection of a single storey rear extension

N/O

117 Alder Hey Road

Single storey rear extension

N/O

19 Howards Lane

Erection of new porch to front elevation and pitched roof on existing flat roof above garage

N/O

39 Millbrook Lane

Erection of a first floor rear extension, re-roofing of existing single storey rear extension, hip to gable roof conversion with rear dormer window

N/O

541 Burrows Lane

Demolition of the existing conservatory and erection of a two storey rear extension, single storey side/rear extension linking into the existing detached garage (to be converted and extended), with dormers to either side of the existing roof, and alterations to the existing front elevation window openings

N/O

A planning application had been submitted by St Helens Council on 27 July for a container on Ecclesfield playing field. The application had been validated by St Helens Council on 6 August 2021. Awaiting a decision.

21.65 ANNUAL AUDIT

The external auditors had asked that the re-stated figures submitted by the Clerk be initialled by the Chairman. The final report would then be issued by the external auditors and would be reported at the October meeting.

21.66 ACCOUNTS

July and August

Received – Village Hall hire £613, R Kelsey PAYE (July & Aug) £162, Windle phone and copier £59.90, HMRC Apr-Jun £243.98, NatWest Interest 0.63 and 0.69

Total Receipts **£1080.20**

Payments

GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone – June	53.53
ASL – photocopier – service	68.51
BT – Smithy phone and internet	154.12
Paul Harrison – A-Tec Security – DVR for CCTV	396.00
Golden Environmental Services – washroom services	201.60
SSE – gas	14.33
ABM Security – annual maintenance fire and intruder alarms	347.94
Water Plus – August	16.84
J Chamberlain – August	175.78
L Poole – August	383.25
J Anderson – August + petty cash	1359.88
V Griffiths – August + sign and banner	271.78
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	481.18
GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone – July	42.88
J Chamberlain – forms for Smithy	66.00
ABM Security – replacement alarm batteries	67.41
Netwise UK – website upgrade	118.80
SSE – gas	9.16
SSE – electricity	314.53
Water Plus – Sept	16.84
V Griffiths – Sept	175.58
L Poole – Sept	383.25
J Anderson – Sept plus travel	1339.88
J Chamberlain – Sept	175.58
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	481.18
A Ashcroft – items for VH – gardening and painting	37.19
Came and Company – insurance (inc Ecclesfield)	2393.79
HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE and NI July-Sept	1606.92
GPS Telecoms – phone	47.23
Christ Church PCC – churchyard grant	450.00*
TOTAL	£11650.96

* Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections S214 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries.

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that, at **30 July 2021**, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £81, 770.50 and Capital Deposit Account £466.97.

At **27 August 2021**, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £78060.36 and Capital Deposit Account £466.98.

PETTY CASH – expenditure for the months of July and August 2021	£15.69
Approximate balance at the end of August 2021	£19.32

INTERNAL AUDIT – the accounts had been audited in July for the end of the first quarter with nothing to report.

21.67 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- **Email from St Helens Council** – the Council would be moving to elections every 4 years, therefore Parish Council elections would be brought forward to May 2022 instead of May 2023.
- **Email from St Helens Council** – the Council would be undertaking a review of polling districts and polling places under the new electoral ward arrangements of May 2022 elections.
- **Email from Bleak Hill Rovers** – requesting that Ecclesfield Management Ctte start to meet again. The Clerk replied to explain that meetings had not stopped and Eccleston Parish Councillors were attending quarterly meetings even though Windle PC were unable to be represented.

Cllr Williams had enquired whether the public footpath near Eccleston Mere, that was now closed, had been a right of way. Cllr Sims explained that the land had never been owned by St Helens Council but was leased to them from the Pilkington asset company many years ago. The new owners had closed the footpath whilst negotiating the lease. The matter was still on-going.

21.68 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 12 October 2021 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

SIGNED DATED