

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on TUESDAY
12 SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Haw, C Pearl and G Pearl
1 resident
Janet Anderson (Clerk)

23.55 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Cass, Johnson, N Taylor, V Taylor and Williams

23.56 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in item 23.65 – Planning Applications.

23.57 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 JULY 2023

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

23.58 MATTERS ARISING

None.

23.59 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The resident attending the meeting asked whether there had been any developments in preventing cars parking on the grassed area at the side of the Griffin Inn as he felt the situation was getting worse. Cllr Sims explained that there had been meetings with Highways, the police and Councillors and ideas were being discussed. The resident asked about the sign on the grassed area at the end of Broadway. Cllr Sims explained that it was an old by-law preventing parking on the grassed verge.

The resident reported that the hedges on Mill Brow had been cut back but there was a section, near to the brook, that had not been. He explained that pedestrians had to step into the road to get passed and he felt it was a matter of safety. Cllr Sims would take a look and would follow the maintenance procedure.

The resident raised the issue of blocked grids in Church Lane. Cllr Sims explained that grid cleaners carried out maintenance on a regular basis. The resident explained that the grids had been blocked for at least 2 years. Councillors would report it to St Helens Council.

23.60 POLICE REPORT

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

23.61 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Ecclesfield – 5 Sept 2023 at 7pm in Eccleston Village Hall. Cllrs Ashcroft and Sims attended along with the Secretary. Report as follows:

- Cllr Barton offered to remain in the Chair for another year – unanimously agreed.
- Caretaker had reported that he had repaired a leak on one of the toilets.
- BHR reported that they do not want their team to use the changing rooms because of possible safeguarding issues taking children to the toilets in the changing rooms.
- BHR reported that as they now had use of the container, they would like to install a fence around the container.
- BHR also informed the meeting that their club make running repairs to the pitches. The Chair said these should be reported to the Committee.
- BHR requested pitch changes. The Secretary was asked to find out the cost as BHR would be willing to pay.
- BHR were having a successful season with 380 youngsters – although there were less girls. They had 54 coaches that all had DBS checks, first aid training and introduction to football course.
- It was agreed to continue with paper-based booking system.

Since the meeting, the pitch changes had been sorted. BHR had requested 2 pitches marking over pitch 4. The Clerk emailed BHR to remind them that there was already a 9v9 on this pitch. They were happy with this and therefore did not require other pitches marking.

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

- Heritage Weekend would be taking place Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September from 12-5pm.
- On the Saturday, reenactors Angela and Frank would set up a field kitchen to demonstrate how soldiers ate and survived in the field. There would also be traditional Polish crafts.
- On the Sunday, the theme would be around the Polish war hero, Wojtek the bear, along with the Eccleston Bake-off.
- Curators had been in touch with a teacher from St Julies who would like to work with the Curators to deliver lessons about how children lived, including household tasks and technology along with how they learned in the past.

23.62 INSURANCE

The quote for this year was £2928.98 (inc Ecclesfield) which was up £154.02 on last year. Parish Council were in a long-term agreement until 2025. It was agreed to continue with the agreement.

23.63 VILLAGE HALL

Two groups had recently finished – Art on Tuesday morning after 30+ years and a meditation class on Wednesday evening.

22.64 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The second consultation would be running until Monday 9 October. Paper copies of surveys were handed out.

23.65 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

104 Broadway

Single storey rear extension with garage conversion to habitable room

N/O

St James Church Hall

Proposed 3no dropped kerbs

N/O

18 Broadway

Proposed rear dormer extension with alterations to roof from hip to gable

N/O

6 St Berthold Gate

Works to trees at site under TPO

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

20 Howards Lane

Works to Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order to reduce secondary branches on 1no beech tree

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

4 Villiers Crescent

Work to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order to reduce and reshape secondary branches on 1no lime tree

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

Decisions

Land North of Houghtons Lane

Outline planning application for up to 6no dwellings with all matters reserved other than details of the access from Houghtons Lane (amended description)

Granted 10/7/23

Valencia Stables

Change of use of land from agricultural use to garden attached to property (re-submission of P/2023/0113/FUL)

Refused 13/7/23

38 Gunning Avenue

Single storey rear extension and rear dormer

Granted 25/7/23

82 Fairholme Avenue

Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension

Granted 4/8/23

Land at Pykes Farm, Clay Lane

Demolition of existing barn and associated structures, erection of 1no dwelling.

Restoration/extension of former tile works building to create 1no dwelling (amended description) (resubmission of application P/2020/0911/FUL)

Granted 10/8/23

16 St Berthold Gate

Works to various trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order

Granted 11/8/23

27 The Spires

Proposed single storey rear extension

Granted 8/8/23

6 Ingleholme Gardens

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

Granted 10/8/23

208 St Helens Road

Proposed single storey rear extension

Granted 10/8/23

Land Broadway

Proposed installation of 15m high Phase 8 monopole, 6no. antennae, 2no. groundbased equipment cabinets, 1no. meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto

Refused Prior Approval

14 Ackers Lane

Single storey rear and side extension with garage conversion

Granted 21/8/23

104 Broadway

Single storey rear extension with garage conversion to habitable room

Granted 8/9/23

Appeal:

21 The Spires

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension, first floor front extension and conversion of part of garage to form office / utility room

15/8/23

23.66 ANNUAL AUDIT

The external audit report had been received with no issues raised. All documents had been published on the website as required.

23.67 ACCOUNTS

July and August

Received – Village Hall hire £1338; R Kelsey Salary + PAYE (July & Aug) £867.20; Windle phone and copier £44.83; HMRC Apr-Jun £592.48; NatWest Interest June 0.44 and £83.37, July 0.53 and £114.98, August 0.56 and £118.31; Smithy grant from St Helens Council £318.53

Total Receipts

£3479.23

Payments

GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone – June	41.89
BT – Smithy phone and internet	192.88
SSE – gas	13.49
SSE – electricity	311.45
CF Corporate – copier lease	76.80
L Poole – August	459.36
J Anderson – August	1458.87
J Chamberlain – August	188.17
V Griffiths – August	188.17
R Kelsey – August	346.80
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	558.30
Water Plus – August	33.22
GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone	46.80
C Barber – VH grounds maintenance x 3 visits	240.00
LR Plumbing and Heating Ltd – boiler service	80.00
SSE – gas	20.46
Water Plus – Sept	33.22
J Chamberlain – Sept	187.97
L Poole – Sept	459.36
J Anderson – Sept plus expenditure	1518.80
V Griffiths – Sept	187.97

R Kelsey – Sept	353.58
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	558.30
P Lawrenson – refund of key bond	25.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP – external audit	378.00
HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE and NI July-Sept	1563.08
Chubb Fire and Security Ltd – fire equipment service	118.77
Gallagher Insurance – inc Ecclesfield	2928.98
C Barber – VH grounds maintenance	240.00
TOTAL	£12809.69

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that, as at **31 July 2023**, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £101,411.68 and Capital Deposit Account £470.87.

As at **31 August 2023**, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £98,991.51 and Capital Deposit Account £471.43.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the months of July and August 2023	£8.35
Approximate balance at the end of August 2023	£2.13

INTERNAL AUDIT – the accounts were audited for the end of the first quarter with nothing to report.

23.68 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- Email – Environment Agency – works on Windlebrook scheduled for August.
- Email – Masterprint were closing and would no longer be able to deliver Parish Magazine.
- Email from Henbury Court in reply to one sent by the Clerk after the gardener reported a resident from Henbury Court slapped his arm in disgust as he would no cut trees down at the back of the Smithy.

Cllr Haw left the meeting.

23.69 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 10 October 2023 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting Village Hall

Cllr Sims asked for comments on the Remembrance Day Service and which church Councillors would attend. As the local churches had shared vicars and priests, that had commitments elsewhere, it may not be possible for them to attend the war memorial. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting in October.

The tree lighting event was also raised as the library were unable to staff the event last year. The Clerk would check with the library and it was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting, including possibly asking Eccleston Lane Ends school to attend the tree on St Helens Road for Christmas carols.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

SIGNED DATED