

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

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, C Pearl, G Pearl, N Taylor, V Taylor and Williams
1 resident
Janet Anderson (Clerk)

23.70 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Haw, Johnson and Madine

23.71 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllrs G Pearl, N Taylor and V Taylor declared an interest in item 23.79 – Planning Applications.

23.72 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

23.73 MATTERS ARISING

None.

23.74 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 read out an email received from Traffic Department with a response from St Helens Council. In summary – *all options had been considered at a meeting with a Council Officer, Merseyside Police and local Councillors. There currently were no parking restrictions in place, but if parking restrictions were in place concerns were raised regarding displacement of parking onto Millfields, The Avenue and Saleswood Avenue. Merseyside Police and St Helens Council do not condone the parking on the grass verge but a decision not to install parking restrictions or physical measures to prevent parking on the grass verge was made.*

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. The Clerk would report it to St Helens Council.

23.75 POLICE REPORT

The latest crime figures had been requested but not received.

23.76 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 12 November 2023 – it was agreed there would be a wreath laying ceremony at 11am by the Chair and other Councillors at the War Memorial, similar to last year. An order of service had been produced. The gates would be opened as usual for the day to allow any residents to mark the occasion. The gates would also be opened on Saturday 11 November – Remembrance Day. The wreath had been given to the Chair.

United Utilities had been contacted to request the area be tidied up and made safe for visitors on Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday.

23.77 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Library Officer at Eccleston Library had confirmed they would be able to hold the event this year on **Thursday 7 December at 11am**. The Clerk would contact Rainfords to ask if they would kindly donate the tree for the library to decorate. St Julies would be asked if they would like to provide the carol singing.

It was suggested that Eccleston Lane Ends school be invited to sing carols at the tree on St Helens Road, Eccleston Park the same day. The Clerk would contact the school.

23.78 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Finance – 10 October, 6.45pm – Cllrs Sims, Ashcroft, C Pearl and G Pearl attended. The Clerk reported the latest budget position, including the Smithy. The Clerk advised that some payments may go over the budget due to prices increasing since the budget was sent last December. There were no other issues to report.

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

- Heritage Weekend had taken place on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September from 12-5pm.
- On the Saturday, re-enactors Angela and Frank had 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. Photographs were shared of the weekend.
- The Curators had decided the theme for next year's exhibition would be looking at WW2 fashion and working with Pegasus re-enactment group.
- Two schools had been in touch with the Curators to come along for some history sessions.
- The alarm had gone off on Saturday but no call had been received from the monitoring company. Vicky attended and rang the monitoring company who explained that they had not received a signal. The alarm company explained that BT lines were changing to digital and therefore the current signalling equipment was not compatible with digital lines. A new piece of equipment had been ordered by the alarm company to be installed as soon as possible.

23.79 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

160 Kiln Lane

Single storey rear extension (re-submission of application P/2023/0336/HHFP)

N/O

18 Bleak Hill Road

Single storey side and rear extension and loft conversion with rear dormer window

Ensure not over-bearing the houses in Brookside Avenue

1 Oak Tree Road

Front and rear dormer extensions

Ensure in-keeping with the area

St James Church Hall

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and removal of condition 7 (garages) on approval P/2022/0367/RES to allow for the garages to be converted into habitable rooms

As these homes only have 2 parking spaces, conditions should be retained

Decisions

18 Broadway

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

Granted 26/9/23

20 Howards Lane

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

Refused 28/9/23

4 Villiers Crescent

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

Refused 28/9/23

23.80 ACCOUNTS

Received – Village Hall hire £483; R Kelsey Salary inc PAYE Sept £440.18; Windle PC phone £13.11; NatWest Interest 0.54 and £111.73; Smithy Heritage Weekend £172.50; Ecclesfield insurance £277.10; repayment for photocopier £198.00

Total Receipts **£1696.16**

Payments

GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone	47.20
SSE – gas	20.87
Water Plus	33.22
V Griffiths – October + expenditure HOD	559.68
R Kelsey – October	346.80
L Poole – October	459.36
J Chamberlain – October + expenditure HOD	290.87
J Anderson – October + expenditure	1455.47
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	558.30
Frank Brown – HOD WW2 display	450.00
St Helens Council – open spaces grounds maintenance	4187.61
Ecclesfield Project – second half contribution	4195.00
Total	£12604.38

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that as at **30 September 2023** the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £92,006.03 and Capital Deposit Account £471.97.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the months of August and September 2023	£6.00
Approximate balance at the end of September 2023	£16.13

23.81 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- Email from Traffic Department, St Helens Council with a response to any resident contacting Parish Council regarding parking on the grass verge. *All options had been considered at a meeting with a Council Officer, Merseyside Police and local Councillors. If parking restrictions were in place concerns were raised regarding displacement of parking. Merseyside Police and St Helens Council do not condone the parking on the grass verge but a decision not to install parking restrictions or physical measures to prevent parking on the grass verge was made.*
- Email from Electoral Services – review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations commenced 2 October until 13 November 2023. Final proposal presented to St Helens Council on 17 January 2024.
- Email from caretaker who had noticed that the gutters needed clearing around the Smithy and Hall.

23.82 DATE OF MEETING

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 14 November 2023 7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

SIGNED DATED