

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

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, G Pearl, Spencer, N Taylor, V Taylor and Williams
2 residents
Janet Anderson (Clerk)

23.83 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Haw, Johnson, Madine and C Pearl

23.84 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllrs G Pearl, N Taylor and V Taylor declared an interest in item 23.92 – Planning Applications.

23.85 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10 OCTOBER 2023

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

23.86 MATTERS ARISING

None.

23.87 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

One resident attending the meeting felt that St Helens Council did not want to resolve the issue of parking at the Griffin. He felt the statement read out at the last meeting did not address the issue fully. He reported that the area was looking unsightly due to vehicles parking on the muddy ground and leaving pieces of wood that he feels had been used to get cars off the soft ground. He also says that suggesting that vehicles would be displaced to Saleswood Avenue near the school would not apply as most of the parking is at the weekend.

Cllr Williams asked whether it would be possible to add the land to the by-law that covers Broadway to prevent vehicles parking on the grassed area. Cllr N Taylor explained that it would need to be included in an Act of Parliament and could take a number of years.

Cllr Sims agreed to raise the issue again with the Highways engineer.

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 Clerk had reported it to St Helens Council after the last meeting. There was no update to report.

A second resident enquired about the opening of a bistro at Eccleston Mere and that all access to around the Mere had been closed. He felt that a community asset and wildlife area had been lost. Cllr Sims explained that the purchaser of Eccleston Mere and St Helens Council were in debate regarding the area. Cllr Sims had recently contacted the Legal Department at St Helens Council but there had been no developments.

The resident also reported that 14 years ago he had made an enquiry to St Helens Council's Planning Department asking whether a neighbour's large shed had breached planning regulations. An officer from St Helens Council had visited the neighbour and told the neighbour to take the shed down. The resident that made the enquiry had experienced harassment. The resident would

like it made clear that if someone makes an enquiry to Planning, and it is then considered a breach, St Helens Council's Planning Department consider it to be a complaint not just an enquiry. Cllr Cass suggested that a small paragraph be included in the Parish Newsletter then it would get to all Eccleston residents. This would be considered.

A resident had contacted Cllr Ashcroft to report that a street light in Park Avenue was covered by a tree blocking the light. It was unclear whether the tree was on private property. Cllr Sims would take a look and report back to Cllr Ashcroft.

23.88 POLICE REPORT

The latest crime figures were given to Councillors.

23.89 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The event would be on **Thursday 7 December at 11am**. The Clerk had contacted Rainfords and they would kindly donate the tree for the library to decorate. St Julies School had confirmed they would 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 arrange a meeting with the school. Cllr Sims had arranged for Father Christmas to attend.

23.90 REMEMBRANCE DAY

A wreath laying ceremony, by the Chair and other Councillors, had been held at the War Memorial on Sunday 12 November at 11am. The gates were opened for the day to allow any residents to mark the occasion. The gates were also opened on Saturday 11 November – Remembrance Day. Cllr Spencer had attended St Helens Council's Remembrance event at St Helens Town Hall.

23.91 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

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

- St Helens Borough of Culture – Shared Prosperity Fund – the Curators had completed the evaluation of the Heritage Day activities that were funded via St Helens Council and the final invoice had been submitted. The activities came in under budget by £51.96. St Helens Council approved the spending of the remaining grant on resources for the Smithy. It had been spent on printer ink.
- School enquiries – conversations were ongoing to accommodate school visits possibly before Christmas.
- 2024 Season – the Curators had begun work on identifying objects to feature in next year's exhibition looking at 1940s clothing.
- Alarm – the Smithy alarm had been repaired but there had been another call out on Saturday morning. The alarm had not been activated but the monitoring service had lost contact with the Smithy alarm.

23.92 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

1C Albany Avenue

Amendments to front boundary wall and new electric gate

N/O

19 Forest Grove

Single storey rear extension

N/O

61 Brookside Avenue

Erection of a part two storey part single storey side and rear extension

N/O

9 The Woodlands

Conversion of the existing garage including a single storey front extension and alterations to the existing roof

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

Decisions

Hiltons Farm, Green Lane

Change of use from agricultural land to residential garden (retrospective). Change of use from existing barn to habitable accommodation, with two storey link extension to farmhouse and external alterations

Withdrawn – 10/10/23

160 Kiln Lane

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

Granted 23/10/23

18 Bleak Hill Road

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

Granted 26/10/23

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

Granted 2/11/23

6 St Bethold Gate

Works to trees at site under TPO

Granted 7/11/23

1 Oak Tree Road

Front and rear dormer extensions

Refused 6/11/23

23.93 ACCOUNTS

Received: Village Hall Hire £477; R Kelsey Salary + PAYE £433.60; Interest 0.60 and £111.33; WPC phone £12.66 HMRC – VAT £233.38.

TOTAL

£1268.57

Payments

GPS Telecom – clerk phone – Sept

45.59

BT – Smithy phone

195.26

SSE – gas

25.79

SSE – electricity

527.59

C F Corporate – photocopier lease

124.80

Water Plus

33.22

Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions

558.30

V Griffiths – November

188.17

J Anderson – November + expenditure	1463.96
L Poole – November	462.66
R Kelsey – November	347.00
J Chamberlain – November	188.17
GPS Telecoms – clerk phone Oct	45.24
St Helens Council – open spaces grounds maintenance	4187.61
Chris Barber – VH grounds maintenance x3	240.00
Total Payments	£8633.36

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that at 31 October 2023 the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £80,003.46 and Capital Deposit Account £472.57.

PETTY CASH – Expenditure for the month of October 2023	£0.00
Balance at the end of October 2023	£16.13

23.94 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- An invitation from Windle Parish Council to the Chair and guest to attend the Christmas tree lighting event at Bleak Hill School on Friday 1 December at 1.50pm.

23.95 DATE OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 5 December 2023	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield Management Cttee
Tuesday 12 December 2023	7.30 pm	Parish Council

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

SIGNED DATED