

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2024 at 7.30pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE**

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

23.109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Haw and Spencer

23.110 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl Item 23.119 – Planning Applications.

23.111 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12 DECEMBER 2023

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

23.112 MATTERS ARISING

None.

23.113 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The resident attending the meeting asked if there had been any update on the blocked drains on Church Lane. The Clerk reported there had been no update on St Helens Council's site. The resident reported that the drain cleaner had been along Chapel Lane and Church Lane recently and had cleared the grids that seemed blocked but they were still flooding in the heavy rain. Cllr N Taylor explained that the problem may be further down the drain system. The resident added that 2 grids near the roundabout at the Griffin pub had not been cleared. The resident reported that there had been no vehicles obstructing the grids. The resident also reported that one of the 2 potholes on Mill Brow that he reported at the last meeting, had been repaired. Cllr Ashcroft explained that the other pothole may need repairing by one of the utility companies, not St Helens Council. Cllr N Taylor added that over the coming cold spell, potholes would be worse as ice breaks up the road surface.

23.114 POLICE REPORT

The latest crime figures were given to Councillors.

23.115 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Finance Sub Cttee, 5 January 2024 – Cllrs G Pearl and Ashcroft along with the Clerk met to discuss the budget and the proposed precept (See Item 23.116).

23.116 BUDGET FOR 2024/2025

The budget was approved and it was resolved that a precept of £77,985.34 for 2024/25 would be requested. This would result in a cost to residents of £19.94 per year.

Payment dates of 11 April and 13 June 2024 were approved.

23.117 ANNUAL MAGAZINE

Articles were requested for the next magazine. Emails would be sent to all schools, churches, local groups and the library, inviting articles. Articles should be sent to the Clerk by the end of January 2024.

23.118 RISK ASSESSMENT

The annual risk assessment was carried out. A security review had taken place on 4 February 2022 with no issues raised. **It was agreed to sign the risk assessment.**

23.119 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

67 Springfield Lane

Erection of porch

N/O

8 Nottingham Close

Single storey side and rear extension

N/O

66 Springfield Lane

Demolition of conservatory with increase in ridge above garage and side extension with two front dormers and rooflights, side dormer and additional windows to front and bi fold doors to rear with additional rooflights; render to all elevations

N/O

Decisions

61 Brookside Avenue

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

Granted 21/12/23

9 The Woodlands

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

Granted 21/12/23

69 Springfield Lane

Removal of 1no beech tree under TPO and replace with new tree species at new location

Granted 3/1/24

23.120 ACCOUNTS

Resolved to note the following:

Received: Village Hall Hire £544; RK Salary + PAYE £567.22; WPC phone £12.01; interest Dec 0.55 and £85.15; remainder of Smithy grant £79.63

Total Receipts

£1288.56

Payments

GPS Telecoms – clerk phone Nov	43.24
R Kelsey – January	346.80
J Anderson – January	1459.91
L Poole – January	461.31
J Chamberlain – January	188.17
V Griffiths – January	188.17
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	558.30
St Helens Council – grounds maintenance £4187.61 and VH cleaning £1281.60	5469.21
Mitchells Industrial Services – blocked drain at VH	108.00
C Barber – VH grounds maintenance	160.00
Total Payments	£8983.11

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that as at 31 December 2023 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £72,177.92 and Capital Deposit Account £473.68

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of December 2023	£0.00
Balance at the end of December 2023	£5.23

23.121 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- **Letter from St Helens Council** – calculation of tax base. 3911 band D equivalent properties with proposed payment dates of 11 April 2024 and 13 June 2024.
- **Email from Lester Drive** – fees charged for hiring the centre.
- **Email from resident** – an update on the fundraising activities and requesting support for the campaign to prevent the closure of the allotments in Alder Hey Road. Cllr Johnson had forwarded a link to the National Allotment Society.

23.122 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13 February 2024 7.30 pm Parish Council Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

SIGNED

DATED