

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024 at 7.30pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, Hemus, C Pearl, G Pearl, Spencer and Williams
1 resident
J Anderson – Clerk

24.25 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Haw, Johnson, N Taylor and V Taylor

24.26 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 24.32 – Planning Applications.

24.27 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14 MAY 2024

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

24.28 MATTERS ARISING

None.

24.29 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The resident attending the meeting asked if there had been any progress made with the parking on the grassed area near the Griffin pub. Cllr Sims reported that the situation was still being monitored.

He also explained that the footpath at Watery Lane would be changing to a bridle way and asked how the horses/riders would access the path. He said if the gate was taken away then vehicles would be able to access the field. Cllr Sims explained that Councillors were aware of the proposed change and she would update residents as soon as anything further was known.

24.30 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Jackson had sent the latest crime figures which compared favourably with the previous year.

24.31 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Ecclesfield – 4 June 2024, 7pm, Eccleston Village Hall. Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, C Pearl and G Pearl attended along with the Clerk.

- The Caretaker reported the inside door had been left unlocked on one occasion recently. He also said that the hot water was not put on each weekend. It was put on occasionally to keep the system working and for cleaning.
- Bleak Hill Rovers (BHR) reported a busy season with a waiting list of children to join the club. Mr Barratt added that their team did not need the hot water as they did not use the changing facility.
- Mr Barratt reported that someone was using the field for junior football training and was using the pitch areas. The Secretary was asked to contact the group to ask them to use an area of the field that was not marked out as a pitch.

- It was agreed to increase the pitch fees by 10%: open age to £557; juniors to £121 and U10s to £48 per team for the season.
- The FA's Service Level Agreement was looked at for the grant application for pitch maintenance. It was agreed the Secretary would complete and forward a copy to all Councillors for confirmation.
- Finances were reported.

Smithy Working Party – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report for June. The following points were discussed:

- Blacksmith's Day – the Curators reported the event had been a success with regular visitors and new ones.
- St Helens Heritage Festival – the Curators had attended with information about the Smithy and the Memories of Eccleston project.
- The Curators had reported that they thought there may be pigeons in the roof space above the Education Room and would keep an eye on the situation.
- A group had booked a tour of the Smithy on 11 July with refreshments in the hall afterwards.
- Further to the Curators asking why the recycling containers were not used, the Clerk had contacted St Helens Council who had explained the waste from trade bins was used to make energy and they did not provide a separate collection for recycling material.

24.32 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

Applications

69 Clarkes Crescent

First floor side extension incorporating a rear dormer

N/O

74 Rainhill Road

Change of use from dwelling to 3no. flats (Class C3) and associated external alterations

There appears to be insufficient off-street parking for potentially 3-6 vehicles on this busy main road.

3 Brookside Avenue

Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension and alterations to existing rear extension roof

N/O

7 St Berthold Gate

Single storey rear extension

N/O

Decisions

St Berthold Gate

Removal of 1no. Beech tree (T1) and 1no. Ash tree (T90) and works to 1no. Beech tree (T2) covered by TPO

Granted 14/5/24

50 Fairholme Avenue

Two storey side extension, alterations to existing driveway and raised patio to the rear

Granted 31/5/24

68 Old Lane

Single storey side extension

Granted 30/5/24

24.33 SCHOOL PRIZES

Resolved to award £50 to each of the 4 schools – De la Salle, St Julie, Eccleston Lane Ends and Eccleston Mere to be used for pupil prizes.

24.34 MONITORING OF VILLAGE HALL CRACKS

A report from the structural engineer stated that current movement was negligible. The building was safe to use and would remain safe for the immediate future. It was recommended that monitoring does not need to continue each year. An advisory note was made that door and window lintels were corroding and would require renewal in the future.

24.35 ACCOUNTS

Received: Village Hall £790, RK Salary + PAYE £455.83, Nat West interest £96.40 and 0.59, Windle PC phone and copier £34.69, refund from Golden Hygiene £349.44

Total Receipts £1726.95

Payments:

Water Plus	33.22
R Kelsey – June	364.63
J Chamberlain – June + expenditure	343.54
V Griffiths – June	197.52
J Anderson – June + phone top-up	1533.67
L Poole – June	498.36
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	586.22
HMRC – PAYE and NI Apr-June	1632.84
P Gregson – demo x 2 Blacksmith’s Day	300.00
P Keary – demo Blacksmith’s Day	150.00
C Barber – VH grounds maintenance x 3 visits	240.00
Southport Brewery – beer for Blacksmith’s Day	162.00
Lawrenson Associates – monitoring of VH cracks	204.00
De La Salle School pupil prizes	50.00*
Eccleston Lane Ends School pupil prizes	50.00*
St Julie School pupil prizes	50.00*
Eccleston Mere Primary School pupil prizes (paid to St Helens Council)	50.00*
Total Payments	£6446.00

* Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 & 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that as at 31 May 2024 the balance in the Current Account was £7095.00, Reserve Account £76,800.56 and Capital Deposit Account £476.59.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of May 2024	£6.80
Balance at the end of May 2024	£19.03

24.36 CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from Traffic Dept St Helens Council notifying of installation of parking restrictions – Kiln Lane/Alder Hey Road

- Email from Business Waste, St Helens Council – explaining that waste from trade bins was used to make energy. They did not provide a separate collection for recycling material.

24.37 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 9 July 2024	7.00pm	Smithy	Village Hall
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall

CLlr Cass asked if meetings would begin again at Our Lady’s Church Hall in Eccleston Park. CLlr Sims would ask at church who to contact to book the room.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

SIGNED DATED