

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

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

24.38 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Cass and V Taylor

24.39 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Ashcroft and Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 24.45 – Planning Applications.

24.40 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 JUNE 2024

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

24.41 MATTERS ARISING

None.

24.42 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

Cllr Sims asked that any residents' issues be put in writing and either posted through the door of the Village Hall or emailed to the Clerk, a few days prior to the meeting.

The Clerk reported issues that residents had telephoned about:

- a) A resident from Burrows Lane had contacted the Clerk to report a tree at the back of her property. She felt the tree, which was on Saleswood open space, was overgrown and blocking the light. An officer from St Helens Council went out to look at the tree and reported that it was in good health and was not excessively overgrown. St Helens Council do not prune healthy trees for issues involving overhang or lack of sunlight.
- b) A resident from Park Avenue had contacted the Clerk to report vehicles parking on pavements. The resident was advised that if any vehicle blocked the pavement, then it should be reported to the police.
- c) A resident from Ecclesfield Road contacted the Clerk to report that people using the entrance to the field were parking across driveways. The resident was advised that it should be reported to the police. Although it may not be anyone from the football team that use the field, the team would be asked to remind anyone dropping off or picking up children to park giving consideration to the neighbours.

24.43 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Jackson had sent the latest crime figures which were all down on the previous year.

24.44 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

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

- Visitors – the Curators reported this year's exhibition continued to be a success with regular visitors and new ones.
- Evening event – the Curators were planning an informal private visit to the collection on 13 August at 7pm.
- Group visit – the Curators had arranged for a group, Young at Heart, to visit the Smithy on 11 July with refreshments afterwards.
- The Curators reported that a large fan had been fly-tipped over the side gate. It was suggested it be broken up and put in the bin. The Curators would take it to the tip when they took the dehumidifiers that they had put there.
- The Curators suggested that the gates be closed when leaving the car park, as was recommended by Merseyside Police, to prevent trespassing.
- Vicky reported that one of the bolts on the main doors had not been locked by a user group, so when she locked up the door came open meaning the alarm would have gone off. A notice would be put on the door to remind anyone opening both doors, to close both bolts when locking up.

24.45 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

Applications

Woodland, Park Avenue

Creation of 1no dwelling along with associated works

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

Decisions

2 Pike House Road

Part two storey, part single storey side extension along with front porch extension

Granted 24/6/24

69 Clarkes Crescent

First floor side extension incorporating a rear dormer

Granted 27/6/24

7 St Berthold Gate

Single storey rear extension

Granted 5/7/24

24.46 ENERGY PROVIDER

The Clerk reported that the energy provider, SSE, had taken no payments for electricity since October and no gas payments since November last year. The Clerk had contacted SSE several times. They were requesting bank details. The Clerk had asked for a new direct debit mandate to be sent out for signature.

24.47 WEBSITE AND EMAILS

The Clerk reported that mandatory measures for Councils, from Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG), stated that every authority should have an email account that belonged to the council. This ideally would be a .gov.uk or .org.uk address. The website should also be a .gov.uk address. Netwise, who provide the website, offer a Premium Plus package which would

be £512pa for 13 email accounts (£500 was in the budget for this). It was advised that Councillors use an email account for Parish Council rather than a personal account. It was agreed to go ahead with the changes.

24.48 BANK MANDATE

It was resolved that the Authorised Signatories in the current mandate for Eccleston Parish Council account be changed in accordance with Section 5 of NatWest form NWB50101 – to add Cllr Anita Ashcroft, Cllr Phil Cass, Cllr Michael Haw, Cllr John Hemus, Cllr Peter Johnson, Cllr Brian Spencer and Cllr Francis Williams as authorised signatories. The current mandate would continue as amended.

24.49 ACCOUNTS

Received: Village Hall £418, RK Salary + PAYE £455.83, 2nd half precept £39,082.40, Windle PC phone and copier £12.90, Blacksmith's Day takings £744.30, Nat West interest £106.72 and 0.53.

Total Receipts **£40,820.68**

Payments:

GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone	46.42
V Griffiths – July	197.52
L Poole – July + cover for polling day	518.36
J Anderson – July + laptop and accessories, stationery, toilet rolls and hand wash	2010.37
J Chamberlain – July	195.34
R Kelsey – July	364.63
Merseyside Pension Fund – July employer and employee contributions	586.22
Chris Barber – VH grounds maintenance	240.00
St Helens Council – open spaces maintenance	4407.91
L May – refund of key bond	25.00
ABM Fire and Security Systems Ltd – intruder and fire alarms maintenance	347.94
Total Payments	£8939.71

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that as at 30 June 2024 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £111,847.29 and Capital Deposit Account £477.12.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of June 2024 £6.80
balance at the end of June 2024 £12.23

All external audit requirements had been completed. All documents had been emailed to the external auditors on 17 June for 1 July deadline. All documents required to be published on the website by 1 July had been published on 2 June.

24.50 DELEGATED POWERS OVER THE RECESS

It was agreed that the Chair Cllr Sims, Deputy Chair Cllr Ashcroft, in conjunction with the Clerk, be authorised to act on the Parish Council's behalf over the August recess.

24.51 CORRESPONDENCE

- Insurance pre-renewal questionnaire to be completed.
- Quote from Rainhill Handyman for gutters cleared, roof tiles re-fixed, re-cement the mortar on the Smithy and paint white step £250 + VAT. The Clerk had also asked for a quote for the front

doors painted. Councillors also requested the windows of the Smithy Museum be quoted for and also to repair the Smithy notice board.

24.52 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 3 September 2024	7.00pm	Ecclesfield	Village Hall
Tuesday 10 September 2024	7.00 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall

Cllr Sims would contact Our Lady’s and Portico Rugby Club regarding holding meetings in Eccleston Park.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

SIGNED DATED