

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2024 at 7.30pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE**

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

24.70 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Haw and Hemus

24.71 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 24.80 – Planning Applications.

24.72 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

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

24.73 MATTERS ARISING

None.

Cllrs Cass and Haw joined the meeting.

24.74 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The resident asked if there had been any progress with the parking on the grass verge near the Griffin pub. Councillors had no updates to report.

He also mentioned overgrown shrubbery that was obstructing the footpath on Mill Brow. Councillors agreed it was the responsibility of St Helens Council to keep footpaths safe. Cllr Sims would report the obstructed footpath to St Helens Council.

He reported a blocked drain/grid on the service road to the Griffin pub that, in heavy rain, flooded the road and footpath. Cllr Sims and Cllr G Pearl would look into the matter.

24.75 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Jackson had sent the latest crime figures. No comments were made.

24.76 VILLAGE HALL

- a) The boiler had been repaired and serviced.
- b) SSE, the energy provider, had sent a letter explaining they had encountered a technical issue with their billing system. They were addressing the issue, and no action would be needed. Gas DD had been taken on 2 October.
- c) (i) The drama group would be returning on Wednesday evening.
(ii) A martial arts group had asked for an evening booking. As there was already a martial arts group using the hall, it was decided not to have a second group offering the same activity. The Clerk would contact to group to explain.

24.77 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 10 November 2024 – there would be a wreath laying ceremony at 11am by the Chair and other Councillors at the War Memorial. Cllr Ashcroft agreed to open the gates on the day to allow any residents to mark the occasion. The gates would also be opened on Monday 11 November – Remembrance Day. The wreath had been received. An order of service had been produced and United Utilities had been contacted to request a tidy up of the area and to make it safe for visitors. Cllr Cass suggested inviting a member of the team at St James with St Matthews to attend. The Clerk would email an invitation.

24.78 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Thursday 5 December, 11am. Eccleston Library had confirmed they would be able to hold the event again this year. Rainfords had confirmed they would kindly donate the tree for the library to decorate. Bleak Hill School would be invited to sing this year.

It was agreed to invite Eccleston Lane Ends School to attend the turning on of the lights on the Christmas tree on St Helens Road again this year on Thursday 5 December at 2.30pm.

24.79 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

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

- 2024 Season – Keeping Up Appearances Exhibition had been the most popular exhibition. It had been agreed with the owner of the items to keep them on display for any out-of-season visits with another talk to be arranged.
- Heritage Open Weekend – had kept with the WW2 theme.
- 9th Great Eccleston Bake-off – the competition had been well attended with the St Helens WI judging and presenting the prizes.

24.80 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

Applications

None

Decisions

Higher Barrowfield Farm

Works to tree covered by a Tree Preservation to remove and reduce limbs to 1no beech tree

Granted 1/10/24

24.81 ACCOUNTS

Received – Village Hall hire £465; R Kelsey Salary inc PAYE Sept £455.83; Windle phone £46.69; NatWest Interest 0.59 and £113.67; Smithy event £60.85.

Total Receipts

£1142.63

Payments:

GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone	44.22
J Chamberlain – October	197.52
V Griffiths – October	197.52
L Poole – October	498.36
J Anderson – October + expenditure	1552.48
R Kelsey – October	364.63
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	586.22

Chris Barber – VH grounds maintenance	240.00
St Helens Council – open spaces grounds maintenance	4407.91
St Helens Council – cleaning VH	821.14
LR Plumbing and Heating Ltd – boiler repair and service	192.00
SSE – gas	136.29
Ecclesfield Project – second half contribution + second half grounds maintenance	4830.50
Total	£14068.79

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that, as at **30 September 2024** the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £85,425.32 and Capital Deposit Account £478.91.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of September 2024	£6.80
Balance at the end of September 2024	£18.63

24.82 CORRESPONDENCE

- An email from an Eccleston Scout group leader asking about a homeless person sleeping behind the church. Clerk explained that the land did not belong to the Parish Council and they would have to contact Christ Church. Cllr Johnson asked for the information to be passed on to the Hope Centre who may be able to help anyone homeless. The Clerk would inform them.
- Email from resident/coach for BH Rovers with pictures of the flooded pitches.

24.83 DATES OF MEETINGS

The Clerk had visited Portico Vine Rugby Club to look at their room for hire for meetings. It was agreed to hold the November meeting in Eccleston Park at Portico Vine Rugby Club, Scholes Lane.

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 12 November 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Portico Vine Rugby Club Scholes Lane
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The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

SIGNED DATED