

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2024 at 7.30pm in PORTICO VINE RUGBY CLUB, SCHOLES LANE,
ECCLESTON PARK**

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

24.84 APOLOGIES

Cllr Haw

24.85 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 24.96 – Planning Applications.

24.86 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8 OCTOBER 2024

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

24.87 MATTERS ARISING

None.

Cllr Hemus joined the meeting.

24.88 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The resident attending the meeting mentioned the overgrown shrubbery that was obstructing the footpath on Mill Brow. He felt it was a safety issue. It was reported that St Helens Council had contacted the resident. Cllr Sims would take a look at the boundary of the property.

He asked if there had been any progress with the parking on the grass verge near the Griffin pub. He said the signs that had been put on the grassed area were advisory and not mandatory. He asked whether it would be possible to put yellow lines on the access road making it illegal to park on the grass to avoid the yellow lines. Cllr Sims would meet with Cllr G Pearl to discuss.

He also mentioned that although most litter bins had been changed to enclosed bins there was still an old one on Watery Lane that the litter blows out of when full.

Cllr Johnson reported that, since the parcel collection/drop off had been put in Eccleston Park railway station, cars and vans were parking dangerously on the bridge. Cllr Sims asked Cllr Johnson to email her the details.

Cllr Johnson also reported that there was no dropped kerb at Portico Court. Again, Cllr Sims asked Cllr Johnson to email her the details.

24.89 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Jackson had sent the latest crime figures. It was noted that anti-social behaviour had increased this year.

24.90 PARISH COUNCIL EMAILS

All Parish Councillors had been given a new email address for Parish Council business. The Clerk gave out instructions of how to access their email and how to change the password.

24.91 VILLAGE HALL

One of the radiators at the hall had developed a leak. The Caretaker would contact the plumber.

24.92 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Eccleston Library, Thursday 5 December 2024, 11am. The tree would kindly be donated again by Rainfords and delivered to the library by 26 November to be decorated by the library staff. It was requested that as many Councillors as possible attend and take along mince pies to donate as refreshments. Library staff would provide tea and coffee. Bleak Hill School would attend to provide the carols.

There would be no carols at the tree on St Helens Road as Eccleston Lane Ends School **could not attend** the tree lighting.

24.93 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 10 November 2024, Councillors G and C Pearl attended the Remembrance Service at St Helens Cenotaph.

Other Councillors attended the War Memorial to lay a wreath and say prayers. Cllr Johnson thanked Councillors that had taken the time to cut back the shrubbery and make the area tidy. Cllr Ashcroft explained that permission had been given by everyone that was on any photographs taken for the Parish Council to publish the photographs.

24.94 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY AGREEMENT 2024-25

The Society of Local Council Clerks had advised that an agreement on the Local Government Pay Claim had been reached. With effect from 1 April 2024 an increase of £1,290 pro rata should be paid. Agree by Councillors.

24.95 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

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

- Heritage Open Days – the Curators had submitted an event evaluation. They had also received positive feedback.
- Keeping up Appearances – the objects would remain on display. A follow-up talk event would be arranged.
- 2025 – the Smithy season would begin on Easter Saturday, 19 April 2025.

Cllr G Pearl report that Lester Drive Centre held a tea party in November which was well attended. They planned to hold another one after Christmas.

24.96 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

Applications

37 Park Avenue

Conversion of a detached garage/workshop into an annexe for living accommodation

N/O

Decisions

1 Clay Lane

Erection of 1no detached dwelling with associated works

Refused 8/10/24

St Berthold Gate

Works to Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order to fell 1no beech tree

Granted 23/10/24

4 Villiers Crescent

Works to Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order to crown lift 1no Lime tree

Granted 22/10/24

20 Howards Lane

Works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order to crown lift 1no beech tree

Granted 22/10/24

Land at St Berthold Gate

Works to 2no beech trees under TPO

Granted 23/10/24

Cllr Ashcroft asked why a planning application for a detached dwelling on Park Avenue, Eccleston Park, that was submitted in May this year, was taking so long. Cllr Sims would contact the Planning Officer to check.

24.97 ACCOUNTS

Received: Village Hall Hire £294; R Kelsey Salary + PAYE £455.83; Interest 0.57 and £98.62; WPC phone £12.51; HMRC – VAT £2736.65; Ecclesfield grounds maintenance £8803; Smithy HOD £213.50.

TOTAL

£12614.68

Payments:

GPS Telecom – clerk phone – Sept	45.05
Water Plus	32.53
BT – Smithy phone	207.00
C F Corporate – photocopier lease	124.80
SSE – gas	658.59
Chris Barber – VH grounds maintenance x 3	240.00
St Helens Council – open spaces grounds maintenance and VH cleaning	5229.05
Our Time – refund for return of key	25.00
Portico Vine ARLFC – room hire	20.00
R Kelsey – November	364.63
L Poole – November	502.86
J Anderson – November + PC	1532.77
J Chamberlain – November	332.72
V Griffiths – November	197.52
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	586.22
Chubb Fire and Security – service of fire equipment	220.77
Total Payments	£10319.51

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that at 31 October 2024 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £82,157.84 and Capital Deposit Account £479.48.

PETTY CASH – Expenditure for the month of October 2024	£0.00
Balance at the end of October 2024	£18.63

24.98 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) An invitation from Windle Parish Council to the Chair and guest to attend the Christmas tree lighting event at Bleak Hill School on Monday 2 December at 2.15pm.
- b) Information from Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) that the Government would consult on allowing councils to use virtual attendance at meetings.
- c) Information from SLCC that the Government would consult on removing the requirement for Councillors’ home addresses to be published.
- d) Information from SLCC on the increase in employer’s NI contributions from 13.8% to 15% announced in the recent budget. Town and Parish Councils would not be included in a package to compensate public sector bodies for the rise.

24.99 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 3 December 2024	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield Management Ctte	Village Hall
Tuesday 10 December 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

SIGNED DATED