

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on  
TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2024 at 7.30pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE, ECCLESTON**

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

24.100 APOLOGIES

None

24.101 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 24.110 – Planning Applications.

24.102 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12 NOVEMBER 2024

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

24.103 MATTERS ARISING

None.

Cllr Johnson joined the meeting.

24.104 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The resident attending the meeting enquired about the overgrown shrubbery that was obstructing the footpath on Mill Brow. He felt it was a safety issue. He had reported it 2 months ago to St Helens Council but nothing had been done. Cllr Sims and Cllr Pearl would take a look at the boundary of the property and would update the meeting and the resident.

The resident also mentioned 2 grid covers in Springfield Lane that had missing bars on them that could be dangerous. Cllr Sims and Cllr Pearl would look in to this.

24.105 POLICE REPORT

Crime figures had been requested but not received. A new PCSO had been allocated the Eccleston area.

24.106 REPORTS

**Resolved to note the following:**

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

- The alarm had gone off several times on 30 November. Vicky had been called out but found no sign of anything. The zone that had been triggered each time was in the Smithy. Best Security had been called and they said it would be a faulty sensor. The sensor had been replaced on 6 December.
- The Curators raised the fact that their names were the only ones on the 'call out' list.
- 2025 – the Curators were planning the next exhibition – Lost Businesses of St Helens.
- Blacksmith's Day 2025 – the Curators were in the process of booking craftspeople.

Ecclesfield – Tuesday 3 December 2024 at 7pm at Eccleston Village Hall – Cllrs Sims, Ashcroft, Cass, C Pearl and G Pearl attended along with the Clerk. The following items were discussed:

- The Caretaker could not attend. He had reported no problems with the changing rooms.
- Mr T Lee, new Chairman for Bleak Hill Rovers attended. No issues from BHR teams. Play had not been disrupted by recent bad weather.
- Proposed budget for 2025/26 was presented to Councillors – in summary: Parish Council's contribution to cover the running of the changing rooms would increase by £400; a 5% increase in caretaker's salary, up by £274pa; 3.75% increase to Secretary's honorarium; a 10% increase in hire fees – under 10s £53, juniors £133 and open age £615 per team.

#### 24.107 VILLAGE HALL

The plumber could not repair the bracket that had broken on the radiator that was hanging off the wall. Two others needed re-hanging. The plumber stated that a new radiator could possibly be £400 + parts and labour, meaning £2,500 for all. As the same radiators were no longer made, the plumber would try to get brackets made to re-hang the radiators.

#### 24.108 OPEN SPACES

Costs for annual maintenance had been received from St Helens Council for 2025/26 £14,373.57 excluding Ecclesfield £9,168.62 – up approximately 7%. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from another company for the same work.

#### 24.109 ANNUAL MAGAZINE

It was agreed that the magazine would not be delivered to every house in the Parish but would be published on the website. Some copies would be printed and handed to shops and to Eccleston library.

Cllr Johnson suggested students from Carmel College be asked to produce the magazine. A discussion took place and it was agreed to consider this.

#### 24.110 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Resolved to note the following:**

##### **Applications**

**None**

##### **Decisions**

##### **74 Rainhill Road**

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

**Granted 27/11/24**

Cllr Hemus left the meeting.

Cllr Ashcroft asked if there had been a decision made on the planning application for a dwelling in Park Avenue. Cllr Pearl explained that no decision had been made by St Helens Council.

Cllr Ashcroft said that the time it was taking was not good enough as the application had been made in May.

24.111 ACCOUNTS

Received Village Hall Hire £378; R Kelsey Salary + PAYE £455.83; Interest 0.51 and £83.93; WPC – phone and copier £46.79.

**Total Receipts** **£965.06**

**Payments:**

Water Plus – water – Nov	32.53
GPS Telecom – phone	43.62
SSE – electricity	1694.78
Water Plus – water – Dec	32.53
R Kelsey – December	444.63
J Anderson – December + backpay	1875.09
L Poole – December	498.36
J Chamberlain – December	257.52
V Griffiths – December	257.52
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	754.10
St Helens Council – grounds maintenance £4407.91 and VH cleaning £821.14	5229.05
Best Security – replacement PIR in Smithy	170.21
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£11289.94</b>

**RECONCILIATION** - The Clerk reported that as at 30 November 2024 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £71,975.12 and Capital Deposit Account £479.99.

<b>PETTY CASH</b> - Expenditure for the month of November 2024	£30.13
Balance at the end of November 2024	£8.50

24.112 CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from a parent of Eccleston Lane Ends school asking about any funding from Parish Council for the school to provide equipment, treats and supplies for the children. She would like Parish Council to match fund their Christmas raffle. Clerk replied to explain that Parish Council gave £50 to each school annually but unfortunately at the moment, there was no Parish Council funding for individual groups.  
A lengthy discussion took place and it was agreed to add an agenda item each month that would keep a list of requests from the community for funding. It was also agreed to consider including funding in the yearly budget that could be allocated on an individual basis.
- Resignations from Ginny and Neil Taylor – they had moved away from the area.

24.113 DATES OF MEETINGS

**Resolved to note the following:**

**A BUDGET MEETING WOULD BE ARRANGED FOR JANUARY 2025 TO DISCUSS THE PRECEPT REQUEST**

Tuesday 14 January 2025	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
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The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

SIGNED ..... DATED .....