

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2025 at 7.30pm in PORTICO VINE RUGBY CLUB, SCHOLLS LANE,
ECCLESTON PARK**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, Haw, Johnson, C Pearl, G Pearl and Williams
J Anderson – Clerk
Cllr Riley – Windle Parish Council
One resident

24.131 APOLOGIES

Cllr Hemus

24.132 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 24.143 – Planning Applications.

24.133 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14 JANUARY 2025

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

24.134 MATTERS ARISING

None.

24.135 WINDLE BROOK

Cllr Ian Riley from Windle Parish Council attended the meeting to explain work needed on Windle Brook. He had been liaising directly with the farmers whose land borders the brook. He explained that the farmers had been given permission from the Environment Agency to clear the banks of the brook and needed permission from Eccleston Parish Council to go on to the land at Ecclesfield. This permission was needed urgently by the end of February before birds started nesting. Eccleston Parish Councillors had previously agreed (via email) to allow the farmers access to the field in order to clear the embankment of the brook with the proviso that any damage would be repaired and not at a cost to Parish Councils.

Cllr Riley explained that the farmers needed a permit from the Environment Agency in order to clear the brook to enable the water to flow freely, as it was recognised as a main river. A full permit would cost £900 for 3 years. The last permit expired in 2018. The cost of hiring the equipment to carry out the work environmentally would cost approximately £1,000. The farmers had asked whether both Parish Councils would contribute to the cost. They were willing to pay a third each, with the remainder being requested from both Parish Councils, meaning approximately £315 for each Parish Council.

Councillors thanked Cllr Riley and he left the meeting.

It was felt that clearing the brook may help with the drainage of Ecclesfield playing fields, therefore Eccleston Parish Councillors **agreed to pay the contribution** of approximately £315.

24.136 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

None.

24.137 POLICE REPORT

Crime figures had been requested but not received.

24.138 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

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

- Keeping Up Appearances – the exhibition had been on display during the closed season. It would be dismantled in March to make room for the new exhibition.
- Shop Local – the Curators were planning the next exhibition which would focus on local shops and businesses that were part of everyday life in St Helens. Curators asked that if Parish Councillors had any memories or information, they would please contact the Smithy.
- Following last month's alarm activations, the Curators wished to discuss the procedure if, on the off chance, neither of them were available to be contacted for a call-out in an emergency. It was agreed that one other person would be added to the list that the monitoring company had on file. This would be decided at the next Parish Council meeting. Keys and alarm fob would be given to anyone new going on the list. The Clerk would inform the Curators when a decision had been made.

24.139 LESTER DRIVE

An email had been received from a neighbour requesting to put a skip on either the car park or the garden area of Lester Drive Centre to gain access to their rear garden. After discussion, Councillors agreed the skip could be placed on the grassed garden area with conditions. The skip must be managed in order to minimise any damage to the grass; any damage must be rectified; also it must not be placed on any planted area; the length of time the skip would be in position would need to be arranged with the skip company beforehand. Councillors requested a date for the work so that any planted flowers/bulbs would not be coming up; the skip would need filling quickly to avoid any fly tipping. The Clerk would inform the resident.

24.140 COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDING REQUESTS

It was agreed that a sub committee would be established and members would be: Councillors Cass, Haw, Johnson and Sims.

24.141 OPEN SPACES

The costs for the annual maintenance had been received from St Helens Council for 2025/26 – £14,373.57 excluding Ecclesfield pitch maintenance of £9168.62. It was agreed to continue with St Helens Council and to sign and return the Request for Work form.

24.142 PARISH MAGAZINE

An email reminder would be sent out for any remaining articles. A quote for 500 magazines to be printed had been received – 36 pages £267 or 40 pages £296. **Noted.**

24.143 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Applications

9 Forest Grove

Proposed front porch, alterations to existing rear extension roof, proposed decking at the rear and external alterations to dwelling

N/O

Holmecroft

Works to various trees under TPO

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

Decisions

None

24.144 ACCOUNTS

Receipts: Village Hall Hire £456, HMRC £3325.58, RK PAYE £455.83, WPC phone/copier £12.43, interest £68.22 and 0.54.

Total Receipts **£4318.60**

Payments:

BT – Smithy telephone	209.70
HMRC – PAYE& NI Jan	820.93
CF Corporate – copier lease	76.80
SSE – gas	393.17
Water Plus – water	32.53
St Helens Council – VH cleaning	821.14
Netwise UK – website premium support package	528.00
Costco – membership renewal	30.00
L Poole – February	498.56
J Anderson – February + stationery	1574.85
R Kelsey – February	364.63
V Griffiths – February + expenditure	361.21
J Chamberlain – February	197.52
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	604.88
Portico Vine ARLFC – room hire Feb meeting	20.00
Total Payments	£6533.92

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that as at 31 January 2025 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £59,230.96 and Capital Deposit Account £481.10.

PETTY CASH – Expenditure for the month of January 2025	£0.00
Balance at the end of January 2025	£23.33

The internal audit had been carried out with nothing to report.

24.145 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- **Email from St Helens Council** confirming the tax base for the precept as 3929.
- **Email from the Environmental Project Officer, St Helens Council** confirming as part of the additional trees and woodland to be planted, 31 trees would be planted on Ecclesfield open space and 10 trees planted on Saleswood Avenue open space.

24.146 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 4 March 2025	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield Man Ctte	Village Hall
Tuesday 11 March 2025	7.00pm	Smithy	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

SIGNED DATED