

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 10 APRIL, 2007, at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston

PRESENT: Cllr Duncan (Chair)
Cllrs Broughton, Evans, Gleave, Maloney, C & G Pearl, Perry, Skepper
1 Member of the Public, Mrs L Scott (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Bain, Gray-Williams and Sims

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 MARCH 2007

06.145 **Resolved that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

PARISH COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

06.146 Councillor Evans proposed, Councillor Perry seconded and Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to the co-option of Elizabeth Skepper onto the Parish Council.
Resolved that Margaret Elizabeth Skepper be co-opted as of this Meeting.

Councillor Skepper signed the Declaration of Office and was given a copy of the Local Code of Conduct and a Notification by Member of a Local Authority of Financial and Other Interests form to complete for the next meeting.

POLICE REPORT

06.147 There was no Police representative at the Meeting.

CHAIRMAN & DEPUTY CHAIRMAN NOMINATIONS

06.148 Councillor Duncan reminded Parish Councillors that Nomination Forms were put in the packet for tonight's meeting and would be required at the Parish Council Annual Meeting on 8 May 2007.

CARETAKER LEAVE OF ABSENCE

06.149 The Clerk informed the Parish Council it might be necessary for the Caretaker to take time off due to a family illness. It was agreed to discuss the implications of this as and when the situation arose.

KILN LANE OPEN SPACE

06.150 The Clerk read out the reply from John Broomhead regarding our request for costs in moving some of the newly planted willow trees on the open space. This would be £360.00.

Resolved to leave the trees where they are at present as recommended by John Broomhead for the time being. Councillor Evans was asked to visit the resident who was unhappy with the planting position.

GILLARS GREEN

06.151 Councillor Evans reported that she had been given a price of approximately £1,000 to install one floodlight on the Gillars Green play area but would be consulting with residents to find out their opinions before any decision is made.

REPORTS

06.152 **Resolved to note the following:**

Eccleston Lane Ends School – Councillor Gray-Williams attended a full Governors' Meeting on Monday 5 March 2007. Two members of staff made a presentation on their recent educational visit to Argentina. The following points were then discussed:

- The walking bus operates every Friday from the Grapes car park
- The PTA organised Bingo evening had been a good event
- The LEA is hoping that the same person would attend to clerk Governor Meetings
- The School has above average attendance figures but initiatives such as termly 100% certificates are issued
- Various School policies were looked at and ratified

Smithy Working Party – Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report for April 2007 when it was stated there had been 40 visitors to the Smithy Heritage Centre over the holiday weekend. The following was also discussed:

- Fire assessment exercise – Jo Jones, Curatorial Adviser, promised to e-mail a copy of the Risk Assessment form used at Sefton
- Repairs – there were some urgent repairs to the Village Hall flagged up by the Curators
- HLF grants – information was sent to the Curators from Councillor Evans
- Sutton Harriers exhibits – Councillor Sims referral

Resolved that Calder Builders be asked to quote for the urgent repairs, ie front wall, padlocked gate to the Education Room outside area, blocked drainpipe. A Hall & Personnel Meeting is to be scheduled for May.

Merseytravel – Councillor Evans attended a meeting on 16 March 2007 when the following was discussed:

- Cost of repairs to damaged shelters - now a telephone number to use to report vandalism - 0800 917 9997. This will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Reported that they spent £1.3 million on criminal damage
- Extra carriages on the trains on some of the services in Spring
- Merseytravel Team of the Year in tourism awards

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

06.153 **Resolved to note the following:**

Delegated

27 Park Ave Part 2-storey, part single-storey ext to side - **concern may create an architectural imbalance - would totally oppose the rear balcony proposed, as would affect the amenity of the neighbours.**

21 Wildcherry Gns	2-storey ext to side & single-storey ext to rear – concern insufficient parking for 5-bed house & query architectural imbalance
25A Bleak Hill Rd	Loft conversion incorporating an additional window at 1 st floor rear elevation & an increase in existing roof height – N/O
135 St Helens Rd	Loft conversion including changing the hipped roof to a gable end & 2 rear dormers – would proposals have detrimental effect on amenity of residents of New Rd?
Adj 3 Lawton Gr	Change of use from vacant land to form garden ext (retrospective)
86 Fairholme Ave	1 st floor side ext over existing garage – N/O
113 Old Lane	Single-storey exts to shop premises to provide retail area & storeroom, external staircase to 1 st floor flat
13 Ledbury Close	1 st floor ext over existing rear kitchen ext – N/O
7 Tamarisk Gdns	2-storey side ext – N/O
5 Central Drive	2-storey side ext & 2-storey rear ext – Concern would over-develop site – if permission given, please condition no business may operate
65 Foxwood	2-storey side ext & single-storey rear ext – N/O
Higher Barrow-field Farm	Proposed works to protected trees – Refer to Trees & Woodlands Officer
96 Millbrook Lane	2-storey side ext & single-storey rear ext – N/O
13 Cecil Drive	Demolition of rear porch & erection of single-storey, pitched roof ext to side and rear – N/O
21 Springfield La	Replacement of existing dwelling – N/O
Wellington Hotel	Erection of smoking shelter – N/O
30 Ansdell Dr	Demolish existing garage & erect 2-storey pitched roof ext to side – N/O

COMMERCIAL WASTE AGREEMENT

06.154 **Resolved that Councillor Duncan sign the new agreement for the Village Hall service for the period April 2007 to March 2008. It was noted that this has increased by 20% due to increased charges at landfill sites.**

SLCC RENEWAL

06.155 **Resolved to renew our subscription to SLCC, which has increased by £14.**

INTERNAL AUDITOR

06.156 **Resolved to continue to employ Mr John Friar as Eccleston Parish Council Internal Auditor for 2007 – 2008 Financial Year at a cost of £150.**

EXTERNAL AUDIT

06.157 The Clerk reported that the bill for externally auditing the Parish Council accounts is likely to be at least £400 as compared with £360 last year.

INSURANCE RENEWAL

06.158 The Clerk reported that the new insurance schedule had been received from Allianz Cornhill for £4,011.65, which is an increase of £385.39. Another quote is to be sought from Zurich Municipal, being the company used by St Helens Council.

ACCOUNTS

06.159 Received £391 Users; £25 Bond for new group (Slimming World); £64.02 R Kelsey PAYE April; £120.02 NatWest interest; £301.78 VAT refund

British Gas – April	103.00
Manweb – April – increase of £12.00	66.50
United Utilities – April	41.39
United Utilities – Direct Debit for Surface water/drainage – April (down £39.28)	7.27*
St Helens Council - Rates (up £43.93/year)	87.07**
St Helens Council - 7 Open Spaces leases	9.50
St Helens Council - Grounds maintenance (up £30.48)	1046.41
St Helens Council – Cleaning January (reported in February but was for Dec)	214.60
L Poole - Salary – April	370.00
L Scott – Salary April includes £7.20 travel expenses	1022.23
J Chamberlain – Salary April	147.79
J Chamberlain – payment for photocopying and posting posters	10.44
V Hiron – Salary April	147.79
PAYE – Curators April (£83.16 1 st month Period 1)	83.16
PAYE – Clerk April (£286.00 1 st month Period 1)	286.00
EPC NI contribution – Clerk April (£110.83 1 st month Period 1 – up £6.00)	110.83
PAYE – Ecclesfield Caretaker – April (£64.02 1 st month Period 1)	64.02
B&M Office Machines – Copies 18/2/07 – 15/03/07	14.22
T Poole – Repairs to 2 lights in Hall 28/1/07 & 10/3/07 – Cllr C Pearl authorised	70.00
Acorn Services – March tidy-up on War Memorial	35.25
Merseyside Playing Fields Association subscription renewal	10.00
Society of Local Council Clerks renewal (up £14.00)	135.00
Ecclesfield Project – 1 st ¼ contribution	757.50
BT – Clerk’s phone and Internet	142.40
Mrs D Cairns - Refund of hire deposit on non-use of hall	10.00
P Potter – Village Hall planting	180.00

* 1st payment, subsequent payments £12.23

** 1st payment, subsequent payments £92.00

Balance brought forward March Meeting £26,996.43 + receipts this month	£27,898.25
Total Payments this month	5,173.37
Approximate balance	£22,724.88

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that, as at 31 March 2007, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500, Reserve Account £14,812.01 and Capital Reserve Account £462.37.

Members of the Finance Sub-Committee were given copies of the monthly Reconciliations together with copies of the bank statements for March 2007.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of March 2007	£0.66
Balance at the end of March 2007	0.00

CORRESPONDENCE

06.160 **Resolved to note the following:**

SLCL – Model Contract for Clerk & revisions
SLCC – information on new Code of Conduct

DATES OF MEETINGS

06.161 **Resolved to note the following:**

Tues 8 May 07	6.30 pm	Hall & Personnel	Village Hall
	7.00 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council Annual	Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

SIGNED

DATED