

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2007, at 7.30 pm, in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston

PRESENT: Councillor Duncan (Chair)
Councillors Bain, Broughton, Evans, Gleave, Maloney, C & G Pearl,
Perry and Sims
Constable L Taylor
Mrs L Scott (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gray-Williams and Skepper, Inspector Kavanagh

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

07.91 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 NOVEMBER 2007

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

MATTERS ARISING

07.93 - Matters Arising – 07.64 - Fencing at the rear of The Paddocks – The Resident queried the planting of a hedge and Terry Deveney has been asked to find out whether the existing railings could be secured.

07.68 - No Parking Sign – this has been ordered from 1st Northern Sign Company and will be secured on one of the gates.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

07.94 Councillor Duncan raised a complaint she had received about the removal of a hawthorn hedge in Church Lane. Councillor Evans has investigated this and reported that it is a civil matter.

POLICE REPORT

07.95 Laura Taylor deputised for Inspector Kavanagh and gave a brief report on crime in the Eccleston area over the past month. There have been 3 burglaries in the last month with ongoing problems at the Triplex Works where materials have been left inside. There have been more attempted car thefts than actual thefts.

Councillors were informed that Delta 3 is to be re-structured to give better control of the area. Operation Christmas has been launched from 3 December to 4 January which involves checking vulnerable premises such as the Library in Eccleston, late shops, etc. Youth workers are to concentrate on the area of Walmesley Road, Christ Church and the Trapwood Estate. Councillors raised problems with speeding cars in Kiln Lane and Portico Lane. Laura promised to take recommendations made by Councillor Sims to Inspector Kavanagh.

REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS' INTEREST – NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

07.96 All Councillors present completed revised forms registering Members' Interests. There are 2 forms outstanding from absent Councillors. Once received the forms will be sent to Peter Blackburn.

PARISH MAGAZINE

07.97 The Clerk reminded Councillors the articles for the next Annual Parish Council Magazine should be forwarded by the end of February 2008. Councillor Bain suggested that we might like to consider a smaller quarterly newsletter rather than the current format. This could be considered next year.

Resolved that 4,200 magazines be printed this year.

Councillors suggested we hold an Art Exhibition with a prize being awarded for the best entry. A Sub-Committee was set up consisting of Councillors Duncan, Gleave, Maloney, Perry and Sims. Councillor Duncan agreed to extend an invitation to all residents in the Parish Magazine Chairman's Address.

REPORTS

07.98 **Resolved to note the following:**

Smithy - See Curators' Report attached. The following points were discussed:

- Craft Fair and Christmas Exhibition
- Smithy Alarm
- Article for the Annual Magazine

Ecclesfield Management Committee – A meeting of the Committee took place on Monday 3 December 2007. The following points were discussed:

- Key for Watery Lane entrance to Ecclesfield for ambulance entry
- Youth activity all night at the entrance to the Changing Rooms
- Repairs
- Graffiti Shield trials
- Pitch Protocol
- Urgent attention to goal posts and pitch holes
- Bleak Hill Trophy
- Budget for 2008/09 – contribution £2,330 (reduction of £700)

Meeting of Clerks to Parish Council & St Helens Council – This took place on Friday 16 November 2007. The main points for discussion were as follows:

- Election Charges – after discussions there was no alteration to the charge for any of the Parish Councils. These charges could treble for Eccleston next time as only 2 wards were contested in May
- Code of Conduct Training – 2 more dates were set to accommodate those councillors who were unable to attend the previous sessions
- Declaration of Interest forms were given out with a request to return these completed as soon as possible

- Ward Committee Grants – A request must be made to the Standards Committee for a dispensation to allow councillors to vote for grants which may be beneficial to the parish

Development Services Consultation – This was held on Thursday 22 November 2007 and attended by the Clerk. The main points for discussion were:

- Electronic planning consultation via the Planning Portal – this is a Government body currently working with all councils to bring planning on line
- Implications to Parish Councils of introduction – on line facilities need to be available at Parish Council Meetings as plans will not be sent out in hard copy format
- Local Development Framework – Principal Planning document explained. Residents urged to get involved now in consultation stage – 4 weeks left from date of meeting. Council Officers will be available in local libraries every Monday from 3 – 7.00 pm.

Meeting with Crime Reduction Officer – Cllr Perry, Vicky Hirons and the Clerk met with Dave Devenport on Wednesday 28 November 2007 at the Village Hall in order to discuss our security provision in direct relation to the MLA Accreditation Process. The main points were:

- Extension of alarm system to give the Smithy, Education Room and Store room more security
- Monitoring systems whereby someone is alerted when the alarm is raised ie police. The drawback is that after 2 false alarms, the police will not respond
- The policies Curators need to set up themselves – Loan Worker Policy, Disaster Plan, etc.
- Obtaining another quote for monitoring and extending the system

Councillor Broughton joined the meeting

St Helens CVS – Councillor Maloney attended a Sector Forum on Wednesday 28 November 2007 at Tontine House. Sally Yeoman, Chief Executive gave the introductions and welcome. Bill Holland talked about the Roll of the Voluntary Sector. The organisations at the meeting were asked to mention, and comment, on any disasters and whether there were lessons to be learned, together with suggestions for prevention. Carol Swinton introduced Emergency Planning and Humanitarian Assistance. The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

07.99 Resolved that the following observations be made:

Delegated

9 The Spires	2 storey side ext & alterations to garage - Would side ext prove a problem with visibility on this corner plot?
60 Lester Drive	To retain rear conservatory – N/O
De La Salle School	Disabled access ramp to main entrance – N/O
55 The Avenue	Demolish front porch & rear ext & erect new front porch & single storey side ext – N/O
1 Mosslands	Single storey rear ext & conversion of garage into habitable room with pitched roof - ? sufficient off-street parking provision
38 Griffin Close	Loft conversion with dormer windows to side & rear – N/O
Game Bird	Consent to display illuminated adverts - Concern re size of the sign - could prove to be a hazard to drivers approaching comparatively new roundabout
15 Forest Grove	Retain balcony wall on rear elevation – N/O

VILLAGE HALL SANITATION CONTRACT

07.100 **Resolved to change from Cannon Hygiene to Griffin Environmental at the end of the current contract on 30 March 2007.**

ACCOUNTS

07.101 Received Hall Hire £ 448.00; R Kelsey £86.24 PAYE; City of Liverpool (War Memorial) £14.00

British Gas – December	40.00
Manweb – December	86.50
United Utilities – November – increased by £4.80	4.80
United Utilities – December	49.74
United Utilities – Direct Debit – December	12.23
St Helens Council - Rates - December	92.00
L Poole - Salary – December	370.83
L Poole – cleaning purchases	2.79
L Scott – Petty Cash – December	20.00
L Scott – Salary December includes £12.00 travel expenses	1,026.61
J Chamberlain – Salary December	147.57
J Chamberlain – Purchases Christmas Exhibition & Publicity Postage – Req 16	17.84
V Hirons – Salary December	147.57
V Hirons – Smithy purchases for Heritage Weekend	28.27
PAYE – Curators December (£249.92 3 rd month Period 3)	83.60
PAYE – Clerk December (£858.66 3 rd month Period 3)	286.22
EPC NI contribution – Clerk December (£332.49 3 rd month Period 3)	110.83
PAYE – Ecclesfield Caretaker – December (£214.50 3 rd month Period 3)	86.24
HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE, NI for 3 rd quarter) – already deducted monthly	(1,655.57)
B&M Office Machines – 18/11/07 – 15/12/07	14.22
Christ Church Grant towards upkeep of churchyard	700.00*
Calder Builders – Flagging Education Room patio	681.50
St Helens Council – Election Charges – May 2007	2,332.38**
Balance brought forward November Meeting £39,932.15 + receipts	£40,480.39
Total Payments this month	6,341.74
Approximate balance	£34,138.65

* Expenditure incurred by the Council in accordance with the powers under Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 as being, in the opinion of the Council, in the best interests of the area or its inhabitants.

** To be paid £700 as allocated, £1,134 Insurance & £498 from Printing & Grants underspend.

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that, as at 30 November 2007, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £26,581.11 Capital Reserve Account £462.59. Members of the Finance Sub-Committee were given copies of the monthly Reconciliation and copies of bank statement for November 2007.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of November 2007 £43.84
Approximate balance at the end of November 2007 - £9.91

Resolved to hold a meeting of the Finance Committee on Monday 7 January 2008 in the Village Hall at 2.00 pm in order to discuss the Budget for 2008/09.

CORRESPONDENCE

07.102 **Resolved that the following observations be made:**

Mersey Basin Campaign – Issue 15 of Source publication Winter 07 – **passed to Cllr Perry**
CPRE – Minutes of AGM, Information Leaflet and Annual Report – **passed to Cllr Perry**
Knowsley Council – Interim Policy Statement – Draft November 2007
Christ Church – Thanks for grant
Waste Planning Merseyside – Development Plan Document

DATES OF MEETINGS

07.103 **Resolved to note the following:**

Mon 7 January 08	2.00 pm	Finance Committee	Village Hall
Tues 8 January 08	7.00 pm	Smithy Meeting	St James
	7.30pm	Parish Council	St James

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

SIGNED

DATED.....