

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on TUESDAY
8 DECEMBER 2015 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston**

PRESENT: Cllr Ashcroft (Chair)
Cllrs Broughton, Dawson, Duncan, Gray-Williams, Haw, Kempself, G Pearl and
Skepper
Janet Anderson (Clerk)
One Resident

APOLOGIES

15.92 Cllrs C Pearl, Sims and Watmough

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

15.93 Cllr G Pearl Item 15.103 – Planning Applications.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD

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

MATTERS ARISING

15.95 There were no matters arising.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

15.96 Cllr Duncan reported that a grid in Valencia Grove was higher than the road and water was not running away. Cllr Haw would look into the matter. She also reported that a dangerous pavement on St Helens Road which had previously been reported had now been repaired.

Cllr Skepper had been asked by a resident why the war memorial could not be left open to the public as the town centre memorial was. Cllrs replied that it was closed for the protection of the statue from vandalism and theft. Cllr Pearl commented that it was a secluded spot and would not be protected fully. Cllr Ashcroft reported that the town centre memorial was in a much busier location and was covered by CCTV.

Cllr Duncan commented that the lights on the tree on St Helens Road, Eccleston Park seemed fewer and were quite dim. Cllr Haw would look into the matter.

POLICE REPORT

15.97 PCSO Green was unable to attend. He sent a report comparing the crime figures for November 2015 with the same period last year. Several categories were reported as increased this year. PCSO Green's report advised residents to be vigilant about home security and to check on elderly neighbours. He advised that residents should contact the police if they were concerned about anything suspicious or out of character. Call 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-emergencies.

REPORTS

15.98 **Resolved to note the following:**

Eccleston Old People's Welfare Ctte Friday 27 November 2015 – Cllrs Duncan and Skepper attended the meeting at Lester Drive Centre. It was reported:

- Anne Marie Lawrenson was continuing with the process of changing to charity status
- The fashion show was a success
- Groups continue to do well
- Money was received from Rainhill Gala to buy a freezer
- Treasurer's A/c £7,781.63, Building and development £24,686.41, Deposit A/c £3924

Ecclesfield Tuesday 1 December 2015 at 7pm – Cllrs Ashcroft and Broughton along with the Clerk attended a meeting of Ecclesfield Management Committee in the Village Hall. The following items were discussed:

- Caretaker reported there were no issues with the changing facilities. He had removed the graffiti from the changing rooms but it was more difficult getting it off the flags. He would also grout the tiles in the shower area in January when there were fewer teams. Cllrs thanked Bob for his hard work.
- Teams were asked to remind players not to bang the mud off their boots in the car park area.
- Mike Horton, Ecclesfield FC, reported the changing rooms to be in good condition and pitches were not too bad considering the heavy rain recently. He commented that it was the referee's decision to call off a game.
- Cllr Ashcroft asked teams not to train on the pitches in the week in order to help protect them
- Proposed budget for 2016/17 presented to Councillors – in summary: no increase in Parish contributions; no increase in caretaker's salary or secretary's hono; pitch fees – no increase for seniors £440, juniors £85 or under 10's £25
- Cllr Broughton reported that 2 trees from a resident's garden had been blown down onto Ecclesfield but not on the pitches. It had also been reported to the Clerk who had contacted St Helens Council and was awaiting a response.

Smithy 9 December 2015 Village Hall at 6.45pm – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report. The following points were discussed:

- Shakespeare Week Event – Smithy's museum mentor, Rosemary Tyler, would give a talk about Shakespeare on Thursday 17 March 2016. It would be a ticketed event serving cheese and wine to attract visitors. Any profits would go to the Smithy income fund.
- Murder Mystery Evening – date confirmed as Saturday 25 June 2016, which is the night after Midsummer. Again profits would go to the Smithy income fund.
- ACE Grant – Curators delighted that the grant money had now been paid
- Parish Magazine – Curators were happy to provide articles for the 2016 Parish magazine
- Cllr Ashcroft on behalf of all Councillors thanked Vicky and Joanne for all their hard work. She said the Parish Council was proud of the Smithy and proud of the Curators' work.

SMITHY POINTING

15.99 **It was resolved that the Parish Council would pay for the pointing of the Smithy. It was agreed that if any unexpected extensive work was required before the end of the financial year the money may be needed to carry out the necessary repairs and the matter would have to be reconsidered.**

PENSIONS

15.100 The Clerk reported that the law on workplace pensions had changed and all employers had to automatically enrol employees for a pension scheme. Employees could opt out if they preferred. The employer would only contribute to the pension scheme for eligible

employees. All Parish Council employees except the Clerk fall into the band where they have a right to join a pension scheme but the Parish Council is not obliged to make employer contributions. The Clerk would have to be automatically enrolled and both employee and employer would have to make contributions into the scheme.

The Clerk's SLCC contract of employment/conditions of service states that the Clerk was eligible to join Local Government Pension Scheme (Merseyside Pension Fund). To join the scheme, Merseyside Pension Fund need to instruct the Fund Actuary to calculate the employer contribution rate which is a percentage of the member's pensionable pay. The fee to do this is £2,058 plus VAT. This would be a one-off payment.

Future costs for pension contribution – this would not be known until the Actuary had calculated the contribution.

It was resolved that the Clerk join the Merseyside Pension Fund. Cllr Dawson would look into the cost of the actuary services and report back to the Clerk.

CHRIST CHURCH GRANT APPLICATION

15.101 **Resolved that Christ Church be awarded a grant of £650 for work on their churchyard as budgeted.**

ANNUAL MAGAZINE

15.102 The Clerk requested articles to be sent in by the end of January 2016. A quote had been obtained which was the same cost as last year for 4,700 magazines. **Resolved to continue with the same printers as last year.**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

15.103 **Resolved to note the following:**

Delegated

60 Brookside Ave First floor rear extension **N/O**

ACCOUNTS

15.104 Received: Village Hall Hire £535.00; R Kelsey PAYE £77.80; Interest £1.47 and 0.02; Smithy ACE Grant £7,800; Windle PC phone £9.22

Total Receipts **£8423.51**

Payments

United Utilities – November 9.86

United Utilities – November 18.68

GPS Telecoms – Clerk's telephone - Oct 33.20

J Chamberlain – Smithy expenses for Heritage Open Days 97.77

Southern Electric – electricity Aug-Oct 335.40

St Helens Council – cleaning Oct 298.60

J Chamberlain – December including bonus 228.86

V Griffiths – December including bonus 235.06

J Anderson – December, plus petty cash 1292.42

L Poole – December 416.25

Paul Potter Garden Services – VH ground maintenance (Dec visit) 18.75

Total Payments **£2984.85**

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that, as at 30 November 2015, the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £37,952.78 and Capital Deposit Account £464.85.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of November 2015 £6.32
Approximate balance at the end of November 2015 £3.46

CORRESPONDENCE

15.105 **Resolved to note the following:**

- **St Helens Council** – proposed precept payment dates, 21 April and 23 June 2016
- **St Helens Council** – Community Governance Review in respect of boundary change to Eccleston Parish Council (old Triplex site)
- **Village Hall Grounds Maintenance Tender**
- **Christmas card** from Mayor Cllr S Glover and Mayoress Cllr L Glover
- **Magazine article** from Prescott and Odyssey Cricket Club Bowling Section

DATES OF MEETINGS

15.106 **Resolved to note the following:**

Tuesday 12 January 2016	6.45 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

Finance Sub Cttee to be arranged in January 2016

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SIGNED

DATED