

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2017  
at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston**

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

**APOLOGIES**

17.90 Cllr Sims

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

17.91 Cllr G Pearl Item 17.100 – Planning Applications.

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14 NOVEMBER 2017**

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

**MATTERS ARISING**

17.93 Ref 17.84 Cllr Pearl apologised for not being able to attend the Christmas tree lighting at Eccleston Library as he had been unwell.

**RESIDENTS' ISSUES**

17.94 Cllr Gray-Williams reported that residents in New Road, Eccleston Park had noticed an increase in vehicles using New Road as a cut through from Burrows Lane to St Helens Road and vice versa. Cllr G Pearl explained that the Highways Department at St Helens Council had checked that all the required signs were in place to indicate "access only". Cllr Ashcroft explained that it would need the police to enforce fixed penalty notices to anyone not conforming to the access only signs. Cllr Ashcroft suggested one possible solution would be to change the junction on to Burrows Lane to a left turn only but this would inconvenience residents and Councillors felt this would not be feasible.

**POLICE REPORT**

17.95 No one from the police was able to attend.

**REPORTS**

17.96 **Resolved to note the following:**

Ecclesfield Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 7pm in the Village Hall – Councillor Broughton along with the Clerk attended. The following items were discussed:

- Caretaker reported no problems with the changing rooms except youths congregating and lighting fires near the doors. Secretary asked to report to the police.
- Ecclesfield FC reported no problems. Bleak Hill Rovers reported that the bad weather had caused problems on some areas of the pitches therefore constantly playing on the good pitches was churning them up. It was suggested that the pitches be changed around possibly yearly to save playing on the same areas of the field.

- Bleak Hill Rovers may change their playing season to September to November 2018 then March to June 2019. This would be determined by their league.
- As Bleak Hill Rovers do not use the changing facilities they wondered whether the Management Committee could make better use of the building. The Committee would consider any suggestions.
- Proposed budget for 2018/19 had been presented to Councillors – even though there would be no increase in caretaker’s salary or secretary’s hono and no money allocated for maintenance, it would leave the account extremely short of money during the year as less teams were now playing. **It was agreed that the Finance Sub Cttee would consider the situation when preparing the Parish Council budget for 2018/2019**

Lester Drive Centre 11 December 2017 Cllr Duncan had attended the meeting at Lester Drive Centre and reported:

- The Centre was still waiting to hear when a date would be arranged for the defibrillator
- It was hoped to hold another antiques event with Adam Partridge, probably in the spring
- The wine tasting evening by a local wine shop had been a success
- Groups were progressing well
- Trustees’ annual report for the Charities Commission had been completed
- Treasurers’ A/c £16,019.92; Building and Development £1,715.37; Deposit A/c £3,929.38

Smithy 12 December 2017 Village Hall at 7.00pm – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators’ Report. The following points were discussed:

- Accreditation documents – Collections Policy required a change of format and to be ratified at Parish
- Security review – arranged with police for Monday 18 December, to include displays, collections, staff, visitors and buildings
- 2018 season – science fiction/fantasy theme to attract a new audience interested in popular culture
- Joanne had been on training regarding museums and the law which had been very informative

#### GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- 17.97 A quote had been received from St Helens Council for the bushes and shrubs at the Village Hall to be cut back before the spring nesting. **It was agreed that the Clerk obtain 2 more quotes for the work.**

#### SUGGESTED MEETING OF PARISHES IN ST HELENS

- 17.98 Councillors agreed in principle to the idea of local Parishes holding meetings to share good practice but felt there could be no financial cost to this and that it should be done by holding structured meetings rather than a dinner. **It was agreed that the Clerk would reply.**

#### ANNUAL MAGAZINE

- 17.99 The Clerk requested articles to be sent in by the end of January 2018. The Clerk asked Councillors to contact groups/clubs to request short articles for the new A5 format.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### 17.100 Resolved to note the following:

#### Delegated

- 15 Howards Lane** Conversion of existing garage to habitable room with monopitch roof, along with erection of first floor side extension **Ensure sufficient off street parking**
- 87 Millbrook Lane** Single storey rear extension following partial demolition of previous side extension **N/O**
- 12 Cecil Drive** Demolition of existing conservatory, and erection of single storey rear extension along with first floor side extension **N/O**

## ANNUAL AUDIT

17.101 BDO had completed the annual audit with one issue arising. The annual return had to be returned for an amendment as Box 4 of Section 1 the annual governance statement had been answered 'Yes' but as the electors' rights period had not given enough opportunity last year (by 3 days) it should have been answered 'No'. This had been amended and the annual audit completed.

## ACCOUNTS

17.102

Received Village Hall Hire £383; R Kelsey PAYE £77.80; Interest 0.31; Windle PC phone £9.48

**Total Receipts** **£470.59**

#### **Payments**

Southern Electric – electricity Aug-Oct	280.95
BDO LLP – annual audit	402.00
Christ Church, Eccleston – churchyard grant	650.00
Best Security – replacement batteries Smithy alarm	9.89
CF Corporate – copier lease	93.60
Water Plus –December	10.91
Water Plus – December	26.61
L Poole – December	393.65
J Anderson – December	1229.80
V Griffiths – December including bonus + event expenses	426.81
J Chamberlain – December including bonus	228.86
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	422.07
St Helens Council – cleaning December	322.20
Paul Potter Garden Services – VH ground maintenance December	20.84
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£4518.19</b>

**RECONCILIATION** - The Clerk reported that, as at 29 November 2017, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £29,998.40 and Capital Deposit Account £465.15.

<b>PETTY CASH</b> - Expenditure for the month of November 2017	£7.94
<b>Approximate</b> balance at the end of November 2017	£25.65

CORRESPONDENCE

17.103 **Resolved to note the following:**

- **Letter from St Helens Council** – update on St Helens Local Plan. Officers had been assessing issues raised in comments received. The next version of the Local Plan known as “Proposed Submission” was expected to be published in summer 2018 followed by at least 6 weeks when the public would be invited to submit comments. The plan and any comments would be sent to a Government Planning Inspector for independent examination
- **St Helens Council** – invitation from the Mayor to the Holocaust Memorial Day Service, St Helens Town Hall Friday 26 January 2018 at 10am
- **St Helens Council** – proposed precept payment dates, 19 April and 21 June 2018 **Dates were agreed and the Clerk would confirm with St Helens Council**
- **Quote** for gas and electricity at Village Hall
- **Tenders** for Village Hall grounds maintenance
- **Thank you** – from Christ Church for grant to maintain church field and graveyard
- **Notification of External Auditors** – for 2017/18 financial year the external audit would be carried out by PKF Littlejohn LLP – **there were no conflicts of interest declared**
- **BT price increase** – as from January 2018 monthly price would increase by £2

DATES OF MEETINGS

17.104 **Resolved to note the following:**

Tuesday 9 January 2018	7.00 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

Finance Sub Cttee would be arranged in January 2018

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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