

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2008, at 7.30 pm, in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr Bain, Gray-Williams

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

.116 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8 JANUARY 2008

.117 Please note that the venue for the January meeting should have read St James's Church Hall, St Helens Road, Eccleston Park.

Minute number 07.111 – St Benedict's Wood Group – Photographs were taken **by** the children and not **of** the children.

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

MATTERS ARISING

07.118 07.64 Matters Arising – Fencing at the rear of The Paddocks – Terry Deveney has been asked to go ahead with the strengthening work on the metal fence. He is checking on the cost of installing used fencing on the remaining side of the boundary.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

07.119 There were no residents' issues.

POLICE REPORT

07.120 There were no police representatives present at the meeting.

MILLWOOD AVENUE – DEED OF SURRENDER

.121 The Clerk was asked to obtain written confirmation that the terms on the remainder of the lease would not be affected before agreement to the draft Deed of Surrender is given approval.

PARISH MAGAZINE

07.122 Articles for the magazine must be at the printer's by 29 February. Any received after this date can not be included. It was suggested the Clerk contacts St Helens Council for information regarding delivery.

MILL BROW NATURE RESERVE

07.123 The Clerk has received a complaint regarding the wet condition of the boardwalk and bridges on Mill Brow Nature Reserve. The resident suggested that wire netting could be installed. Prices have been obtained for this but it was decided that the netting itself could present further problems. Councillors decided to monitor the situation, in view of the fact that the weather conditions have been unseasonably wet lately.

REPORTS

.124 **Resolved to note the following:**

Art Competition Committee – The Working Party met at 6.30 pm. The main points were:

- Theme – **Eccleston Life**
- Date – Friday 6 June 2008
- Prizes to be given to 3 age groups – to be finalised after consultation with Cllr Bain
- Judges – Cllr Ashcroft and Mr F Leather
- Advertising – Chairman’s Address, notices and website
- Prize Giving – Thursday 19 June 2008 in the Village Hall

Cllr Broughton joined the meeting

Smithy Working Party – Councillors were given a copy of the Curators’ Report for February. Discussions were as follows:

- Recycling – the Clerk to check with St Helens Council re black box, etc
- Broadband Connection – unsuccessful – Curators to get BT in to check the faulty line
- New Smithy Alarm – insufficient time to evaluate the quotations – Curators to check for possible funding
- Additional insurance cover for transporting loans quoted at £35 plus tax – no decision taken

Merseyside Playing Fields - Cllr Evans attended a meeting on Thursday 10 January when it was stated that there were funds available and they would consider any projects involving children with special needs.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

07.125 **Resolved to note the following:**

Delegated

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 34 Long Meadow | Amendments to previous planning permission – changing conservatory at rear to family room - N/O |
| 107 Portico Lane | 2-storey side ext and single storey front & rear extns – Proposals could have overbearing effect on No 109 |
| Holme Close | Works to protected trees – Refer to Trees & Woodlands Officer |
| 113 Old Lane | Installation of 2 roller shutters – Request Planning Officer to clarify the reason behind response at 9B, also object to 2 shutters as they would have detrimental effect on character of area |

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 Sadlers Lane | Single storey rear ext – N/O |
| 15 Hawthorn Drive | Detached garage to side & 2m high timber fence – N/O |
| 53 Walmesley Rd | Single storey side ext -? Sufficient off-street parking |
| 17 Daresbury Rd | Single storey front & side ext -? Sufficient off-street parking |
| 223 St Helens Rd | Rear conservatory – N/O |
| 113 Old Lane | Original application - appeal dismissed 15/1/08 |

ST JAMES HIRE CHARGE INCREASE

07.126 **Resolved to accept the increase of £2.00 - to £28.00 - in hire charge for use of St James's Hall for quarterly Parish Council Meetings.**

INTERNAL AUDITOR

07.127 The Chairman read out a letter of resignation from John Friar. This will take effect at end of this financial year.

Resolved to officially thank John for his work to the Parish Council in the Annual Parish Magazine and invite anyone who wishes to apply for the vacant position of Internal Auditor to contact the Clerk.

ACCOUNTS

07.128 Received Hall Hire £380.00; R Kelsey PAYE £64.24; VAT Refund £495.60; Bank Interest £247.20

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| British Gas – February | 40.00 |
| Manweb – February | 86.50 |
| United Utilities – February | 44.24 |
| United Utilities – Direct Debit – February | 12.23 |
| L Poole - Salary – February | 370.83 |
| L Scott – Salary February includes £9.60 travel expenses | 1,024.21 |
| Petty Cash | 20.00 |
| J Chamberlain – Salary February | 147.79 |
| J Chamberlain – Exhibition items & mileage to courses in Chester & Manchester | 28.95 |
| V Hirons – Salary February | 147.79 |
| PAYE – Curators February (£166.32 2 nd month Period 4) | 83.16 |
| PAYE – Clerk February (£572.44 2 nd month Period 4) | 286.22 |
| EPC NI contribution – Clerk February (£221.66 2 nd month Period 4) | 110.83 |
| PAYE – Ecclesfield Caretaker – February (£128.26 2 nd month Period 4) | 64.24 |
| B&M Office Machines – 4/1/08 – 14/2/08 | 15.64 |
| BT – Clerk's Phone and Internet | 135.18 |
| BT – Curators' Phone and Internet | 83.24 |
| Cannon Hygiene – Village Hall sanitation | 209.74 |
| 1 st Northern Signs – No Parking sign on gates of the Village Hall | 111.63 |
| ABM Security – repair to intruder system in January 2008 | 76.38 |
| Balance brought forward January Meeting £31,360.50 + receipts | £32,547.54 |
| Total Payments this month | 3,098.80 |
| Approximate balance | £29,448.74 |

INTERNAL AUDIT – An internal audit has been carried out on the accounts for the third quarter of the year and John Friar has reported that, subject to a few minor alterations, he has no adverse comments to make. Members of the Finance Committee have been given a copy of his report.

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that, as at 30 January 2008, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £19,354.56 Capital Reserve Account £462.59. Members of the Finance Sub-Committee were given copies of the monthly Reconciliation and copies of bank statement for January 2008.

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| PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of January 2008 | £22.98 |
| Approximate balance at the end of January 2008 | £0.62 |

CORRESPONDENCE

.129 **Resolved to note the following:**

St Helens Council – Call for Sites for re-development – **noted – none at present**

Merseytravel – Agenda for meeting to be held 7 February 2008 – **passed to Cllr Evans**

St Helens Council – Correction to Agenda

Audit Commission – Appointment of external auditor & price list – **fees and auditor the same as last year**

Energy Plus – Hire of Hall for Community Carbon Reduction Event 27/3/08 - **noted**

Communities & Local Gov – Consultation Paper on Orders & Regulations relating to Conduct - **noted**

St Helens Council – Road Safety Plan 2007 – **passed to Cllr Perry**

Eccleston Ward Committee – Agenda and Minutes – **passed to Cllr Duncan**

DATES OF MEETINGS

.130 **Resolved to note the following:**

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| Tues 4 March 08 | 7.00 pm | Ecclesfield | Village Hall |
| Tues 11 March 08 | 7.00 pm | Smithy Meeting | Village Hall |
| | 7.30pm | Parish Council | |

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

SIGNED

DATED