

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009, at 7.30 pm in ST JAMES'S CHURCH HALL, St Helens Road, Eccleston Park

PRESENT: Cllr Perry (Chair)
Cllrs Broughton, Duncan, D Evans, S Evans, C & G Pearl & Skepper
Anne Robinson, Steve Williams
Mrs L Scott – Clerk

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Bain, Gray-Williams, Maloney & Sims

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

08.127 Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 08.137; Cllr S Evans declared an interest in Item 08.128.

COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

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

Councillor Evans signed the Declaration of Office and the Notification by Member of a Local Authority of Financial and Other Interests form. A pocket Code of Conduct had been issued last month.

ARCHERY GROUP

08.129 Anne Robinson and Steve Williams, Senior Education Welfare Officers at St Helens Council, gave a presentation, outlining the proposed collaboration between the Smithy Heritage Centre and the Archery Club. The Club will be joining in with the Smithy in celebrating International Blacksmith Day on 23 May 2009, along with a Blacksmith and Silversmith.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 JANUARY 2009

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

MATTERS ARISING

08.131 08.117 – Police Report – The Clerk confirmed Ecclesfield Caretaker's contact details had been sent to PSCO Laura Taylor, as requested.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

8.132 We are still waiting for a reply to the e-mail sent by Cllr Sims to Paul Sanderson regarding the drainage problem on Ecclesfield.

Cllr Broughton reported that an outlet pipe in the brook at the corner of Ecclesfield has silted up and water is not able to drain out effectively.

Resolved to contact Brian Johnson to ask whether the Environment Agency could look into this.

POLICE REPORT

08.133 In the absence of a police representative at the meeting, CSO Laura Taylor arranged for a report to be e-mailed to the Clerk. Over the past month there have been 2 incidents of criminal damage reported with 2 males arrested, 4 burglaries and a suspicious male arrested for exposing himself to schoolgirls. Anti social behaviour is continuing in the Gillars Green area and the police will be speaking to schools regarding the graffiti. Six youths are being considered for ABCs. Two males have been arrested and charged for the criminal damage/graffiti and been put on ABCs.

KILN LANE OPEN SPACE

08.134 The Clerk has received a quotation of £658.00 covering re-planting all the missing hedges on Kiln Lane Open Space.

Resolved to wait until Cllr Bain returns from holiday to find out whether there are funds available for this work and, if so, ask St Helens Council to proceed with the planting.

PARISH MAGAZINE

08.135 The Clerk reminded Councillors that articles must be submitted by the week commencing 24 February 2009 in order to meet the printers' deadline. The Explorer Groups have agreed to carry out the delivery at a cost of £250.00.

REPORTS

08.136 **Resolved to note the following:**

Art Competition Working Party – The Art Competition Working Party met with Mr Fred Leather at 6.30 pm before Parish Council when the following was discussed:

- 3 Themes
- 3 Age Categories
- Time-Scale
- Venue for artwork
- Information Sheet/Brief
- Prizes – Fred Leather is to e-mail approximate cost of a commissioned portrait
- Prize Giving Ceremony

Resolved to hold the Prize Giving Ceremony on Saturday 23 May 2009 – the same day as we are celebrating International Blacksmith Day.

Smithy Working Party – Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report for February. The following topics were discussed:

- Curators' nomination for St Helens Cultural Award
- Confirmation of Smithy insurance
- Collaboration with Broadway Archery Club on International Blacksmith Day
- Smithy Telephone
- Visit of Andrew Backhouse
- Rubbish Skip
- Visit of Sue Wright to discuss grants etc

Resolved that the Curators purchase a new telephone/answering machine and that the Clerk arranges for a small skip to be delivered on Saturday 21 February 2009.

The Councillors discussed the list of hours the Curators worked in the Smithy from January 2008 to October 2008. Councillors were appreciative of all the work the Curators were doing but it was agreed that a change of designated working hours was not possible at this time.

Clerks' Meeting - The Clerk attended a meeting at St Helens Town Hall on Friday 6 February 2009 when the following topics were discussed:

- **Freedom of Information Act** – All Towns and Parish Councils should have a new Scheme ratified and in place by January 2009. These can be put on notice boards or libraries.
- **By Elections** – Parr and Rainhill District & Rainhill Parish elections to take place on 12 March 2009.
- **Standards Committee** – a councillor from Billinge died over the Christmas period and the appointment of a new representative is necessary
- **Community Empowerment Network** – St Helens Council has received an enquiry from CEN regarding the creation of new Parish Councils in the Borough. The Clerks have also received requests for maps showing parish boundaries. CEN has been invited to attend a meeting with Peter Blackburn in order to clarify their remit.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Rushen Elm Grove Planning permission refused 19/1/09

22 Park Ave Resubmission of P/2008/0876 – 2 storey side ext – **N/O**

7 Ingleholme Gns Demolish dwelling & outline permission for 2 5-bed detached houses & 1 bungalow - **Concern proposal is for 3 dwellings with potential for 8 extra vehicles from Ingleholme to Central Ave; plot 2 could overlook rear of properties on Park Ave & West Close - ? boundary treatments; overdevelopment of site. If granted, permitted development rights should be removed**

24 Brooklands Rd Erect 2-storey side ext, detached garage & new vehicular access for new dwelling - **Object – see letter attached**

81 Portico Lane 2 storey side ext - **? sufficient off-street parking**

28 Swisspine Gns Single storey front ext – **N/O**

22 Brookside Ave Change existing grassed area to hard standing to create larger drive to front - **declaration of personal interest**

ACCOUNTS

8.138 Received Hall Hire £412.00; R Kelsey PAYE February £65.00; VAT reclaimed £474.33; cfasset Finance overpayment £107.70; Nat West Interest £100.80

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| British Gas – February | 30.00 |
| Manweb – February - increased in January by £1 | 83.50 |
| United Utilities – February | 53.01 |
| United Utilities – February | 15.39 |
| St Helens Council – Cleaning December & January | 487.34 |
| J Chamberlain – Salary February | 156.04 |
| V Hirons – Salary February | 156.04 |
| L Poole - Salary – February | 384.08 |
| L Scott – Salary February includes £12.00 travel expenses | 1,084.03 |
| L Scott – Petty Cash February | 20.00 |

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| PAYE – Curators February (Cumulative £156.00 2 nd month Period 4) | 78.00 |
| PAYE – Clerk February (Cumulative £535.80 2 nd month Period 4) | 267.80 |
| EPC NI contribution – Clerk February (Cumulative £227.02 2 nd month Period 4) | 113.51 |
| PAYE – Ecclesfield Caretaker – February (£130.00 2 nd month Period 4) | 65.00 |
| Griffin Environmental Services – February Invoice 21530 | 49.83 |
| St James – Hire of Hall for Parish Council Meeting | 28.00 |
| Cfasset finance – Photocopier lease | 97.75 |
| Cfasset finance – Photocopier lease – overpayment – see Received | 107.70 |
| BT – Curators’ phone and Internet | 106.78 |
| St Helens Chamber – 3 days’ work clearing Mill Brow Nature Reserve | 849.00 |
| St Helens College – Hire of room at Bobbies Lane for Consultation | 30.00 |
| Ecclesfield Project – 1 st ¼ Contribution | 827.50 |

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| Balance brought forward January meeting £31,074.37+ receipts this month | £32,234.20 |
| Total Payments this month | 4,232.80 |
| Approximate balance | £28,001.40 |

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that, as at 30 January 2009, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500, Reserve Account £18,624.35 and Capital Reserve Account £463.05. Members of the Finance Sub-Committee were given copies of the monthly Reconciliation for January 2009.

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| PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of January 2009 | £17.27 |
| Approximate balance at the end of January 2009 | £ 3.99 |

NEW BT STANDING ORDER – We will save £4.50 a bill by paying by Direct Debit (we already pay the Smithy bill this way). We will also save by opting to use paper-free notification of the bill.

Resolved to adopt the Direct Debit method of paying the Clerk’s phone bill and to use paper-free notification. Councillors signed the Direct Debit Mandate form.

PHOTOCOPIER INSURANCE – B&M notified us we must insure the new copier – their agents quoted £17.50/¼ – our insurers £19.50/year, deferred until the next renewal date in June.

CORRESPONDENCE

08.139 **Resolved to note the following:**

St Helens Council – Minutes of October Ward Committee Meeting – **passed to Cllr Perry Paul Potter** – Planting Design for the Village Hall – **Councillors agreed in principal.**

DATES OF MEETINGS

8.140 **Resolved to note the following:**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING NOW 28 APRIL 2009 AS VILLAGE HALL IS BOOKED ON 21 APRIL

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Tues 3 March 09 | 7.00 pm | Ecclesfield | Village Hall |
| Tues 10 March 09 | 6.30 pm | Finance | Village Hall |
| Tues 10 March 09 | 7.00 pm | Smithy Meeting | Village Hall |
| | 7.30 pm | Parish Council | Village Hall |

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

SIGNED
DATED