

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2007, at 7.30 pm in ST JAMES'S CHURCH HALL, St Helens Road, Eccleston Park**

PRESENT: Cllr Duncan (Chair)  
Cllrs Bain, Broughton, Evans, Gleave, Gray-Williams, G Pearl, Perry, Skepper, Sims  
Con G Harper, 1 Resident  
Mrs L Scott (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Maloney and C Pearl

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8 MAY 2007**

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

**MATTERS ARISING**

07.22 07.15 - Hall & Personnel Report – The Clerk received confirmation that Lisa Poole is currently entitled to 27 days paid holiday a year from St Helens Council as Cleaner of the Village Hall. It was stated that everyone is entitled to paid holidays and recently the law was changed resulting in all employees being given 20 days at the start of employment.

**POLICE REPORT**

07.23 Constable Harper reported on the crime figures for the last 30 days when there has been one burglary to residential property with 4 houses, the library and St James's hall sustaining damage to windows. There have been several incidents connected to cars and an arrest made regarding the assault of a bus driver. Police also made an arrest regarding an assault with a paint gun. Incidents of theft of garden furniture, ornaments and trellis were also recorded. There have been reports of youth disorder at Walmesley Road, Gillars Green Drive, Bobbies Lane and Summerfield Avenue.

Councillor Sims reported on a meeting held at the library that morning with the police, library service and District and Parish Councillors in attendance. It was reported that 2 local high schools met on Ecclesfield recently when the police monitored the situation on quad bikes, turning away anyone trying to get on the field. Councillor Sims stated that because of the Section 30 orders currently in operation in the surrounding areas, youths are converging on Eccleston. Measures to counteract further damage were suggested to the library staff and residents of the area are to be kept informed of the situation by letter.

Councillors reported that the Village Hall had lately become the target for a gang of youths who are climbing on the roof and generally using bad language whilst the Smithy Heritage Centre is open to visitors. Police had been called and attended on two occasions recently. The District Council Parks Department has been asked to cut down all bushes to a maximum of 1 metre and Councillor Sims offered ensure this was carried out immediately. Councillor Sims also offered to arrange for anti-vandal paint to be applied to the top of the Education Room side gates and railings.

## DEPUTY CHAIRMAN/ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

07.24 Councillor Bain had been proposed as Deputy Chairman at the Annual Meeting, which he was not able to attend but was pleased to confirm his acceptance of the position. Councillors Bain, Broughton and Sims completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms which the Clerk countersigned.

## KILN LANE OPEN SPACE

07.25 Councillors Bain, Perry and Sims stated that the open space was in a good condition at present although it was felt that some work was needed to maintain this in the future. Councillor Perry reported that there were still 2 Willow trees that had not been staked. The Clerk was asked to contact John Broomhead in order to get the remaining trees staked.

**Resolved that the Clerk asks David Bielowski and Frank Gallagher to carry out a site visit with Councillors Bain and Sims in order to talk through suggestions for the open space.**

## REPORTS

07.26 **Resolved to note the following:**

Ecclesfield – The Clerk reported on a meeting of the Ecclesfield Management Committee held on Tuesday 5 June 2007 in the Village Hall. The following is a brief summary of the main points:

- Plumber to attend to the broken shower
- Roofing tiles again dislodged
- Price for removal of storage shed to be obtained – to prevent access to the changing rooms roof
- John Walsh from Bleak Hill Rovers retiring
- Bleak Hill Rovers club expanding and councillors asked to attend Committee Meeting on 20 June
- Copies of Bank Statements and Account Book pages for 2006/2007 given to Cllrs Bain and S Barton
- Suggested that a trophy be given to Bleak Hill Rovers to commemorate 30 years anniversary
- Play equipment on Ecclesfield

**Resolved to recommend to the Ecclesfield Management Committee that we purchase a trophy for around £50 in total to be presented to Bleak Hill Rovers Football Club. The question of play equipment on Ecclesfield is to be deferred to an Open Space Sub-Committee meeting next month.**

Finance – The Finance Sub-Committee convened at 6.30 pm when the following was discussed:

- A Risk Assessment was carried out using the recommended format taken from “A Practitioners’ Guide” and according to Audit regulations.
- Appendix 7 – changes to the last Annual Audit issued by the External Auditors. There was insufficient time left to discuss these in detail and another meeting was convened for 10.00 am on Friday 29 June 2007 in the Village Hall.

Smithy - See Curators' Report attached. The main points for discussion were:

- Visit of Pensioners' Group. Curators received information on a possible grant application for the equipment needed to monitor the Smithy conditions of storage
- Vandalism and trespassers in the grounds and on the roof of the Village Hall
- Suggestion that chains be fitted inside the fire doors to provide additional security
- Craft Fayre – the Curators were contacted by a local artist who requested a table for her paintings. Although we had the required number of exhibitors on file, the Curators were asked to find out whether we could exhibit the paintings in the Education Room on Heritage Weekend
- Councillors congratulated the Curators on the Smithy article in the Essential Magazine.

**Resolved the paintings could be exhibited in the Education Room.**

Merseytravel - Councillor Evans attended a meeting on Friday 11 May 2007 but there was nothing to report of interest to Eccleston residents.

Mill Brow Nature Reserve – Councillor Evans reported that she had carried out a site visit with Rick Rogers and the Trees and Woodlands Officer and they recommended tree works be carried out in July/August. An idea of linking the area with Millwood so that they would be become a designated local nature reserve was also discussed.

**Resolved to go ahead with the necessary works to trees and that Councillor Evans liaises with Rick Rogers regarding price and personnel. This item will be discussed in more detail at the July Parish Council meeting.**

#### CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2006/2007

07.27 **Resolved that the Accounts for 2006/07 be signed approved by the Chairman.**

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

##### Delegated

<b>13 Gunning Ave</b>	Demolish veranda & erect single-storey side ext – <b>N/O</b>
<b>20 Griffin Close</b>	Rear conservatory – <b>N/O</b>
<b>Mere View Farm</b>	Single storey side & rear extns – <b>Are proposals appropriate in the green belt?</b>
<b>St Benedicts Wood</b>	Works to trees covered by TPO – <b>Refer to Trees &amp; Woodlands Officer</b>
<b>27 Park Ave</b>	Single storey ext to side as part of re-submission on P/2007/0318 – <b>N/O</b>
<b>21 Wildcherry Gns</b>	2-storey side, single storey rear ext & conversion of garage (slight amendments from P/2006/0321) – <b>Concern at parking provision – conversion of garage makes it 6-bedded</b>
<b>45 Springfield La</b>	2-storey side ext – <b>Please ensure there is sufficient off-street parking, primary school approximately 200 metres away</b>
<b>114 St Helens Rd</b>	2-storey ext to rear elevation with balcony to 1 <sup>st</sup> floor - <b>Do not support balcony element - would intrude into privacy of adjacent neighbours &amp; residents of Hilary Close</b>
<b>3 Fern Gardens</b>	Single-storey rear ext – <b>N/O</b>

<b>59 Daresbury Rd</b>	2-storey side ext with rear dormer window & single-storey rear ext – <b>Architectural imbalance. Is there sufficient off-street parking?</b>
<b>Ivy House Farm</b>	Alteration to existing access & formation of new egress – <b>Object to another access onto Burrows Lane</b>
<b>14 Cranston Close</b>	Single-storey side & rear ext – <b>N/O</b>
<b>Royal Oak</b>	Erection of timber pergola to side – <b>N/O</b>
<b>21 Brooklands Rd</b>	Single-storey side & front ext & alterations to garage to create habitable room – <b>N/O</b>

#### QUALITY PARISH SCHEME

07.29 **Resolved that the Clerk contact John Skinley to find out what the implications would be of not pursuing the Quality Parish Scheme at this time.**

#### CHAIRMAN'S CHAIN OF OFFICE

07.30 Councillor Duncan informed the meeting the Chain of Office was becoming overloaded with medals and that there were only 2 free at present. The engraving for the 2 years of office by Councillor Duncan has still to be carried out.

**Resolved that the Clerk contacts Fattorini for a catalogue of their products so that an alternative means of recording the year of office of Parish Chairmen can be explored and agenda this item in September.**

#### ACCOUNTS

07.31 Received £427 Windle Village Hall Hire; £64.24 R Kelsey PAYE June; £150 HM Revenue & Customs Incentive Payment; £282.96 Ecclesfield insurance

British Gas – June	103.00
Manweb – June – increase of £12.00	66.50
United Utilities – June	42.99
United Utilities – Direct Debit for Surface water/drainage – June (down £39.28)	12.23
St Helens Council - Rates (increase of £43.93/year)	92.00
St Helens Council – Commercial Waste April 2007 – March 2008	241.93
St Helens Council – Cleaning April & May	485.82
L Poole - Salary – June	370.83
L Scott – Salary June includes £ 7.20 travel expenses	1021.81
L Scott – Petty Cash June	20.00
L Scott – Computer Ink cartridge & envelopes	16.91
L Scott – Refreshments Annual Parish Meeting & Stationery	14.24
J Chamberlain – Salary June	147.57
V Hirons – Salary June	147.57
J Chamberlain – Ink Cartridge & Map	19.99
PAYE – Curators June (£249.92 3 <sup>rd</sup> month Period 1)	83.60
PAYE – Clerk June (£858.44 3 <sup>rd</sup> month Period 1)	286.22
EPC NI contribution – Clerk June (£332.49 3 <sup>rd</sup> month Period 1 – up £6)	110.83
PAYE – Ecclesfield Caretaker – June (£192.50 3 <sup>rd</sup> month Period 1)	64.24
Post Office Ltd – Period 1 NI & PAYE payment (already reported)	(1,633.35)
B&M Office Machines – Copies 12/4/07 – 16/5/07	14.22
Calder Builders – Repairs to Wall	89.30
S Coulman – ½ page advert for Smithy – VAT (not on last month's Accounts)	8.40
Zurich Insurance Company – insurance 2007/08 (£1,306.33 saving) Eclfd £282.96	2,665.45

Shaw's – Receipts and Payments book	57.46
Acorn Services UK Ltd – War Memorial grounds maintenance	70.50
St James PCC – Hire of Hall for Parish Council Meeting – June	26.00
Schools Prizes – St Julie, Bleak Hill, Eccleston Mere, Lane Ends, De la Salle	250.00*
Balance brought forward May Meeting £38,846.15 + receipts this month	£39,770.35
Total Payments this month	6,529.61
<b>Approximate balance</b>	<b>£33,240.74</b>

\* In accordance with the Budget for 2007/2008. Expenditure incurred by the Council in accordance with the powers under Sections 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.

**RECONCILIATION** - The Clerk reported that, as at 31 May 2007, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500, Reserve Account £26,339.26 and Capital Reserve Account £462.37. Members of the Finance Sub-Committee were given copies of the monthly Reconciliations and copies of bank statements for May 2007.

**PETTY CASH** - Expenditure for the month of May 2007 £13.15  
**Approximate balance at the end of May 2007** £02.40

**NEW CLEANING SERVICE AGREEMENT** – Charge for April 2007 – March 2008 is £2,480.71 plus VAT – an increase of £106.39. Signature Required.

#### EMERGENCY ITEM

07.32 Councillors discussed a way to mark the opening of Gillar's Green Playground and a celebration for the children of the area. Councillor Evans suggested a bouncy castle and climbing wall and Councillor Sims agreed to make enquiries about a stall serving healthy eating options. The Clerk was asked to find out the necessary legalities from Paul Sanderson of St Helens Council and obtain prices for the bouncy castle and Councillor Sims offered to contact Claire Jones at Wesley House regarding healthy eating options.

**Resolved that arrangements are made to hire a bouncy castle, climbing wall and refreshments for Wednesday 25 July 2007 from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm. The money donated by Gillars Green Residents and Tenants Association is to be used for this.**

#### CORRESPONDENCE

07.33 **Resolved to note the following:**

**St Helens Council** – Request for Parish's involvement in Quality Parish Scheme

**Merseytravel** – TravelSafe Board Meeting 31 May 2007 – **passed to Cllr Evans**

**CPRE** – Fieldwork publication – **passed to Cllr Perry**

**CVS Contact** – See Village Hall noticeboard – **Cllr Duncan has a copy**

**Merseytravel** – Viewpoint publication – **passed to Cllr Evans**

**Gorman Restorations** – request to be added to list of approved contractors – **Clerk applied for references and these have been received**

**Paul Potter** – request to be added to list of approved contractors – **Clerk applied for references**

**Envision Electrical** – request to be added to list of approved contractors – **Clerk requested referees**

**Standards Board for England – New Codes of Conduct – given to all Councillors  
Mayor’s Officer – Invitation to National Veterans Day 27 June 2007**

DATES OF MEETINGS

07.34 **Resolved to note the following:**

Tues 10 July 07	6.30 pm	Open Spaces	Village Hall
	6.45 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED.....