

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 12 MAY 2009, at 7.30 pm in ST JAMES'S CHURCH HALL, St Helens Road, Eccleston Park

PRESENT: Cllr G Pearl (Chair)
Cllrs Bain, Broughton, Duncan, D & S Evans, Maloney, C Pearl, Perry, Skepper and Sims
Sgt Gary Bradley, Con David Brown
Mrs L Scott, Clerk

APOLOGIES: Cllr Gray-Williams

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

9.1 Cllr Pearl declared an interest in Item 09.18 - Planning Applications.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14 APRIL 2009

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

MATTERS ARISING

09.03 08.161 – Ecclesfield Drainage – Cllr Broughton carried out a site visit with John Boden on 29 April 2009. The Brook bank has collapsed and is silted up in places. John is arranging a meeting with the Environment Agency. Joanne reported later that the District Council had carried out verti draining treatment on the field.

08.164 – Smithy Report – The MLA were informed of our decision to appoint Rosemary Tyler as Curatorial Adviser. They requested evidence. This was sent – no further correspondence has been received.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

09.04 **The Clerk opened, and counted the nominations for Chairman, and it was unanimously resolved that Cllr Pearl be elected Parish Chairman for the year 2009/10. Cllr Pearl was pleased to accept.**

On behalf of all Parish Councillors, Cllr Sims wished to thank Cllr Perry for the past year as Chairman of the Parish Council when he has worked extremely hard and fulfilled the role courteously and attentively at all times.

Cllr Pearl took the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

09.05 **Councillor Skepper was unanimously nominated for the office of Deputy Chairman. Cllr Skepper was pleased to accept.**

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

09.06 **Resolved that the committees be constituted as follows:**

Planning - Cllrs S Evans, C & G Pearl, Perry, Sims – this is to meet on a separate occasion prior to the Parish Council meeting, when possible.

Finance - Cllrs Bain, Duncan, S Evans, G Pearl and Perry

Hall & Personnel - Cllrs Bain, Duncan, D & S Evans, C Pearl, Sims, Skepper

Open Spaces - Cllrs S Evans, C & G Pearl, Sims, and Skepper

Editorial – Cllrs Bain, S Evans, G Pearl

Procedures – Cllrs Bain, S Evans, G Pearl, Sims

Smithy Working Party – all Councillors to attend before the Parish Council meeting

Ecclesfield Management – Cllrs Bain, Broughton, S Evans, Sims

War Memorial Working Party – Cllrs Duncan, S Evans, Gray-Williams, Perry and Skepper

Art Competition – Cllrs Duncan, S Evans, Perry, Skepper & Sims

Chain of Office WP – Cllrs Bain, Broughton, Duncan, G Pearl, Perry, Skepper and Sims

Eccleston Ward Committee Representative – Cllr Skepper

REPRESENTATION OF OUTSIDE BODIES

09.07 **Resolved that the following be noted:**

Merseyside Playing Fields - Cllr S Evans
District Sports Council - Cllr G Pearl

CVS - Cllrs Duncan & Maloney

BANK MANDATE & DIRECT DEBITS

9.8 **Resolved that the present mandate specifying any 2 Councillors and the Clerk to sign cheques should continue. Resolved also that we continue with the direct debits for St Helens MB BT.**

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER & INTERNAL AUDITOR

09.09 **Resolved that the Clerk continues to carry out the duties of Responsible Financial Officer with Cllr Bain as Finance Committee Chairman and Mr A Scott to continue as Internal Auditor for 2009/10.**

Resolved that in order to comply with the current Audit requirements the Parish Council would request the Internal Auditor to undertake on a regular basis a review of the financial procedures adopted by the Council in connection with payments and receipts, insurance and other such matters as may be identified from time to time as part of ongoing assessment of the Council's activities.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – OFFICIAL LIST

09.10 **Resolved that these be updated with “nothing new to add”.**

STANDING ORDERS & QUORUM

9.11 **Resolved to continue to use the NALC model of Standing Orders and Chairmanship. Meetings will take place with a quorum of 5, as decided at the September 2000 Parish Council Meeting.**

Councillor Broughton joined the meeting

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

09.12 Kiln Lane Open Space – Councillor Sims explained the situation regarding a complaint received from a Kiln Lane resident with relation to anti-social behaviour on the open space. The Police and Youth Workers are dealing with the matter. The Clerk has been informed that planting to re-instate boundaries is to take place within the next 2 weeks.

Mill Brow Nature Reserve – The Clerk was asked to contact Peter Bishop again regarding the cost of removal of debris on the nature reserve.

POLICE REPORT

9.13 Sgt Bradley reported on the crime figures over the past month, comparing these with last year's figures. There have been 26 incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour this year – last year 39; Burglaries – 3 this and last year; Attempted Burglaries 4 this – 3 last year; Arson and Damage 11 this – 4 last year; Drugs 2 this – 1 last year; Taking of Motor Vehicles 3 this – 10 last year; General Theft 13 this – 15 last year; Violence 1 this – 7 last year; Alcohol 5 this (figure not believed to be up to date) – 4 last year. From the beginning of the year there have been a number of incidences of Indecent Exposure and the Police made an arrest on 27 April 2009. Four Acceptable Behaviour contracts have recently been issued to youths from the Eccleston area.

ART COMPETITION

09.14 Councillor Skepper offered to pick up the 4 paintings submitted to Eccleston Library and take them to De la Salle School.

Resolved that the Clerk to contacts Fred Leather at De la Salle School to suggest either Monday or Tuesday of next week at 3.30 – 4.00 pm for judging of all art submissions. The Presentation is set for Saturday 23 May 2009 at 3.00 pm.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CONSULTATION

09.15 **Resolved that Councillor G Pearl, E Skepper and the Clerk attend the meeting on Friday 22 May at 10.30 am at St Helens Town Hall.**

KILN LANE OPEN SPACE

9.16 Councillors were in agreement that the price of £600 for installation of a waste bin was much too high.

Resolved that the Clerk contacts Brian Johnson for a cheaper alternative.

REPORTS

9.17 **Resolved to note the following:**

Smithy Working Party – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report for April 2009. The following points were discussed:

- New Curatorial Adviser – evidence supplied to MLA
- International Blacksmith Day – Cllrs Broughton, Duncan, S Evans, Maloney and Skepper offered to help serve tea and coffee in shifts during the day
- St Helens Show – help is needed in manning the Smithy Stall and the Curators will be opening the new Alice in Wonderland Exhibition – Cllr Sims offered help. To be discussed in June.

- Donation of £135 from Mr & Mrs Martlew – to be used to purchased a WW II Loan Box
The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Mr & Mrs Martlew
- Funding – the Curators have been asked to compile a “wish list”
- External storage facility – Cllr Sims suggested consulting a Planning Officer for advice
- Elizabethan Fair – Joanne and Rosemary Tyler to attend on 30 May 2009
- Rugby Memorabilia – Cllr Sims has had rugby books donated – to contact Alex Service

St Helens Senior Voice Forum – Cllrs Duncan, Malone and Perry attended a meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday 29 April 2009. The topic was House for Life/Home for Living Event.

Cllr Duncan reported that there were speakers from the various agencies, Home Improvements, Care & Repair and a new housing option Extra Care. At present there are two of these being built at Haydock and Newton le Willows. Feedback from the groups mentioned what the elderly needed to make life better. The Councillors hope that many of the ideas will be incorporated into homes in the future.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

9.18 Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

Pilkington (Eccleston Works) 2 Crocketts Walk Brook House Fm	Consultation Meeting held 21/4/09 – See attached response letter Demolish garage & erect conservatory & detached garage to rear – N/O Prior notification for erection of agricultural building for grain store – Proposed building looks very large – is it all to be used to store grain?
20 Howards Lane 10 Forest Mead 19 Cecil Drive 16 Central Ave	Demolish garage & erect pitched roof garage to side - N/O 1 st floor side ext, single storey side ext & rear conservatory - N/O Single storey kitchen rear ext - N/O Single storey rear ext - N/O

ACCOUNTS

09.19 Received Hall Hire £505.00; St Helens Council 2nd ½ Precept £24,274.50; R Kelsey PAYE June £68.20

British Gas – May – (Increased in April by £4)	38.00
Manweb – May	102.50
United Utilities – May	48.99
United Utilities – May – (increased in April by 20p)	8.91
St Helens Council	100.00
J Chamberlain – Salary May	160.88
V Hirons – Salary May	160.88
L Poole - Salary – May (includes £1 owing)	396.42
L Scott – Salary May includes £8.40 travel expenses	1,112.40
L Scott – Black Cartridge for Clerk’s Computer	11.72
L Scott – Petty Cash May	20.00
PAYE – Curators May (Cumulative £160.00 2 nd month Period 1)	80.00
PAYE – Clerk May (Cumulative £552.00 2 nd month Period 1)	276.00
EPC NI contribution – Clerk May (Cumulative £231.42 2 nd month Period 1)	115.71
PAYE – Ecclesfield Caretaker – May (£136.40 2 nd month Period 1)	68.20
Calder Builders – Inv 9866 – handrail, toilet roll holder, Gents’ door re-alignment	60.95

BT – Clerk’s Phone Bill No Q049 UH	123.76
BT – Smithy Phone Bill No QO31 7W	119.46
St Helens Council – 3 rd Contribution to Kiln Lane Works	1638.10
A Scott – Internal Auditor Fee	150.00
Christ Church Grant	700.00*
St James’s PCC – Hire of Hall for Parish meeting	28.00
CFAF Ltd – Photocopier Lease	97.75
Balance brought forward April meeting £18,533.44 + receipts this month	£43,381.14
Total Payments this month	£5,618.63
Approximate balance	£37,762.51

* Expenditure incurred by the Council in accordance with the powers under Section 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 30 April 2009, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500, Reserve Account £31,528.51 and Capital Reserve Account £463.28. Members of the Finance Sub-Committee were given copies of the monthly Reconciliation for April 2009.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of April 2009 £22.30
Approximate balance at the end of April 2009 -2.30

CORRESPONDENCE

9.20 Resolved to note the following:

- Telford Construction Ltd** – Request to be put on Tender List
- CPRE** – Fieldwork publication March 2009 – **passed to Cllr Perry**
- Merseybasin Org** – Source publication Spring 2009 – **passed to Cllr Broughton**
- Mike Bond** – Electrical contractor requesting to be put on Tender List
- Rosemary Tyler** – acceptance of Curatorial Adviser position
- Christ Church PCC** – request for grant – **Resolved to grant £700 as stated in the Budget**
- Merseytravel** – Performance Highlights 2009 – **passed to Cllr G Pearl – no need to do so in future as Cllr Pearl receives his own copy**
- Mayor’s Parlour** – Invitation for 2 Councillors to attend Mayor’s Sunday 24 May 2009 at St Helens Parish Church & St Vincent’s RC Church on 21 June – **Resolved Cllrs C & G Pearl will attend**

DATES OF MEETINGS

9.21 Resolved to note the following:

Tues 2 June 09	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield	Village Hall
Tues 9 June 09	6.45 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

SIGNED

DATED