

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 10 MAY 2016 at 7.30 pm in OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH HALL, Portico Lane, Eccleston Park

PRESENT: Cllr G Pearl (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Broughton, Duncan, Gray-Williams, Haw, C Pearl, Sims, Skepper and Watmough
J Anderson – Clerk
5 residents and residents' representative

APOLOGIES:

16.01 Cllrs Dawson and Kempself

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

16.02 None

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12 APRIL 2016

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

MATTERS ARISING

16.04 There were no matters to be discussed.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

16.05 **It was unanimously resolved that Cllr G Pearl be elected as Parish Chairman for the year 2016/2017. Cllr G Pearl was pleased to accept.**

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

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

16.06 **It was unanimously resolved that Cllr Sims be elected as Deputy Chairman for the year 2016/2017. Cllr Sims was pleased to accept.**

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

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

Planning – Cllrs Ashcroft, Haw, C Pearl, Sims, Skepper and Watmough

Finance – Cllrs Duncan, Haw, G Pearl, Sims and Skepper

Hall & Personnel – Cllrs Duncan, Haw, C Pearl, Sims and Skepper

Open Spaces – Cllrs Haw, C Pearl, G Pearl, Sims, and Skepper

Editorial – Cllrs Duncan, Haw, G Pearl, Sims and Skepper

Procedures – Cllrs Ashcroft, Haw, G Pearl, Sims and Skepper

Smithy Working Party – all Councillors to attend. Held before each Parish Council meeting

Smithy Heritage – Cllrs Ashcroft, Sims, Skepper and Watmough

Ecclesfield Management – Cllrs Ashcroft, Broughton, Haw and Sims

War Memorial Working Party – Cllrs Duncan, Gray-Williams, Haw, Skepper and Watmough

Eccleston Ward Committee Representative – Cllr Skepper

REPRESENTATION OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

Merseyside Playing Fields – Cllr Haw
District Sports Council – Cllr G Pearl
Observers at Lester Drive Centre – Cllrs Duncan and Skepper

Healthwatch - Cllrs Duncan
Merseytravel –

BANK MANDATE & DIRECT DEBITS

16.09 **Resolved that the present mandate specifying 2 Councillors and the Clerk to sign cheques should continue. Resolved also that the direct debits continue for Southern Electric, Total Gas and Power, United Utilities, B&M Office Machines (photocopier lease), B&M Office Machines (photocopying allowance and machine service), BT (Smithy telephone) and GPS Telecoms (Clerk telephone).**

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER & INTERNAL AUDITOR

16.10 **Resolved that the Clerk continues to carry out the duties of Responsible Financial Officer and Mr A Scott to continue as Internal Auditor for 2016/2017.**

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.

STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS & QUORUM

16.11 **Resolved to continue to use the SLCC model of Standing Orders and Chairmanship along with Financial Regulations. Meetings will take place with a quorum of 4 councillors, as per Standing Orders issued September 2012 and reviewed annually.**

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

16.12 Cllr Pearl reported that a letter to the Chairman had been received from Miss Horrocks, the Manager of Henbury Court, Kiln Lane raising concerns over the safe crossing of Bleak Hill Road and Millbrook Lane at the junction with Kiln Lane. The letter requested that the Parish Council consider suitable alternatives. Cllr Pearl reported that alternatives had been looked at when Mr Houghton, Head of Traffic Engineering, St Helens Council had attended a meeting of the Parish Council in September 2012. Mr Houghton had reported to the meeting then that there had been no suitable solution to resolve the problem. Cllr Pearl reported that since then nothing had changed at the junction.

The Clerk reported that the letter had been forwarded to St Helens Council who had replied stating that an engineer had been booked to investigate by carrying out a technical appraisal. Cllr Haw stated that residents would be updated as soon as this had been carried out.

Mr Seed, a resident, explained the dangers around the junction for pedestrians crossing. Cllr Haw explained that all the Councillors would prefer the road to be safe for crossing and Councillors had, on many occasions, put their concerns to St Helens Council.

Mr Seed read from a letter he had received from Mr Houghton in April 2014 stating that a crossing near the Seven Stars pub would be considered when funding was available. He continued to say the letter stated that Mr Houghton felt the crossing may be underused because of its distance from the junction and the laziness of users. Cllr Skepper stated that she felt the residents of Henbury Court would use a crossing further along the road.

Miss Horrocks asked whether the Parish Council would be able to raise the concerns in her letter with St Helens Council's Highways Department. Cllr Sims explained that Miss Horrocks' letter had been forwarded to St Helens Council. Cllr Sims concurred the Councillors would like the junction to be safe and had previously been to Mr Houghton with suggestions for the junction which had been turned down because they were not feasible.

Another resident explained that it had been easy to cross the road recently when the temporary lights had been in place whilst road works were being carried out. Cllr Ashcroft explained that it was not feasible to put permanent traffic lights at the junction because of the layout of the roads. She also explained that an island or a roundabout were not feasible as the road was not wide enough. She explained that a 'bus cushion', a large speed bump, was also not feasible as the road was a main route to the hospital for ambulances.

Cllr Haw suggested waiting for the engineer's report and explained that if anything could be done by either St Helens Borough Councillors or Parish Council then it would be. Mr Seed asked if there would be a time scale for the report. Cllr Pearl explained that he could not give a date. Cllr Pearl closed the item from further discussion until the engineer's report had been received. He thanked the residents for attending.

Two residents and the representative left the meeting.

POLICE REPORT

16.13 No one was available to attend from the Police but PCSO Green provided crime statistics which were discussed. Residents had contacted Cllr Sims to report incidents of anti-social behaviour in Watery Lane, Eccleston. It was reported that debris had been thrown into the brook. The Clerk was asked to contact Insp Collins to report the situation.

REPORTS

16.14 **Resolved to note the following:**

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

- Blacksmith's Day – 21 May 2016. Craft demonstrations and hog roast would take place between 12-5pm. Puzzle would collect the beer at 12 noon and arrive at the Smithy at 1pm. Real ale would be served until 10pm.
- Photographer – Simon Critchley from Rainford had kindly offered to take photographs of Blacksmith's Day free of charge. The Curators would use the photographs for promotional material as well as possibly putting them in frames to be displayed in the hall and corridor.
- BBC Radio Merseyside – would visit the Smithy to carry out an interview about Blacksmith's Day.
- Flyers – the Curators thanked Cllrs Haw and Pearl for producing and delivering the flyers. All deliverers were thanked.
- Rainhill Rotary Club – the Curators received £500 towards Blacksmith's Day as part of the Rotary Club's Dragon's Den initiative. The Clerk to send a thank you letter.
- Tea towels – it was agreed that tea towels be bought for the Village Hall kitchen.

- St Julies Primary School – school attended a session at the Smithy on 21 April 2016 on industrial St Helens. St Julies made a donation of £35.
- Loan boxes – Colliers Croft Retirement Home in Haydock had borrowed 4 boxes to carry out reminiscence sessions.
- Alarm – there had been incidences of the alarm not setting on leaving the building and Vicky had been called out once more after the alarm triggered. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the alarm company to check the system.
- Murder Mystery – members of the public had been calling at the Smithy for tickets for the Murder Mystery event. The Curators had taken names until tickets were printed.
- Flower boxes – the Curators purchased some bedding plants to put in the boxes at the front of the Village Hall.
- Any other business – Paul Potter had offered to carry out the work on the path at the side of the Smithy as the driveway company had let the Parish Council down by not turning up. It was agreed that Paul Potter carry out the work as per original specifications.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

16.15 **Resolved to note the following:**

Delegated

1 Clay Lane	Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of part two storey, part single storey side and rear extension along with external alterations to side elevation The Parish Council would like to query whether this would contravene the green belt policy on extensions
Portico Lane Bridge	Further works to modify bridge parapets in connection with electrification of railway N/O
Old Lane Bridge	Further works to modify bridge parapets in connection with electrification of railway N/O
59 Brookside Ave	Part two storey part single storey side extension N/O
27 Old Lane	Demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey rear extension N/O

ACCOUNTS

16.16

Received: Village Hall £462, 1st half precept £27,039.05, HMRC VAT Jan-Mar £1,440.14, RK PAYE £77.80, Windle phone and copier £49.30

Total Receipts **£29,068.29**

Payments:

GPS Telecom – Clerk’s phone	37.09
Total Gas & Power – VH gas Jan-Mar	627.87
BT – Smithy phone and internet	119.07
Screen Positive Signs – Smithy banner	24.00
A Scott – internal auditor	175.00
SLCC – subscription renewal	124.67
Tommy Poole Electrical – Smithy lights and handrail	62.00
B&M Office Machines – photocopies/machine service qtr	46.80
4 th Eccleston Rainbows – delivery of annual magazine	500.00
J Chamberlain – May plus expenses	193.31
J Anderson – May includes travel and petty cash	1291.39
V Griffiths – May	168.86
L Poole – May plus elections cover	440.65
Paul Potter Garden Services – 2 visits May	62.50
Our Lady Help of Christians – hall hire	20.00
Total Payments	£3893.21

INTERNAL AUDIT – Mr A Scott carried out his quarterly audit with nothing to report. He completed and signed the Annual Internal Audit Report for the External Audit – ie Section 4.

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that as at 30 April 2016 the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £35,903.50 and Capital Deposit Account £464.95.

PETTY CASH – Expenditure for the month of April 2016 £7.70
Approximate balance at the end of April 2016 £13.93

CORRESPONDENCE

16.17 **Resolved to note the following:**

St Helens Council – SLA for cleaning of hall £3,143 + VAT

SLCC – notice of extraordinary general meeting regarding the restructuring of the Society

St Helens Council – copy of the sealed Management Agreement for Mill Brow Local Nature Reserve

St James Church – letter requesting this year’s grant. **Will be on June’s agenda**

Merseyside Pension Fund – invoice for Actuary’s fees that was agreed to be paid at January 2016 meeting

BT – email announcing changes to the prices – line rental up £1 per month and £2.60 per month for broadband and calls package

Cllr Sims requested that a welcome letter be sent to the new Vicar of Christ Church Eccleston – Rev Sonya Doragh. **The Clerk to send.**

DATES OF MEETINGS

16.18 **Resolved to note the following:**

Tuesday 7 June 16	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield	Village Hall
Tuesday 14 June 16	6.45 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

Cllr Sims, Cllr G Pearl and all Councillors thanked Cllr Ashcroft for her hard work and dedication over the last 12 months whilst Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

SIGNED

DATED