

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2008, at 7.30 pm in Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane, Eccleston

PRESENT: Cllr Perry (Chair)
Cllrs Bain, Broughton, Duncan, G Pearl, Skepper
Sgt Gary Bradley, Mrs L Scott – Clerk

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Evans, Gleave, Maloney, C Pearl, Gray-Williams, & Sims

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

08.69 Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in the Planning Applications.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9 SEPTEMBER 2008

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

MATTERS ARISING

08.71 **08.39** – Village Hall Painting re water damage in the corridor and Smithy storeroom due to the leaking roof. The insurance company has sanctioned repairs costing £680 using a lead substitute, plus re-painting costing £275. Cllr Bain informed Councillors that the roof was repaired yesterday.

08.55 - 18 Millbrook Lane and 21 Long Meadow - overhanging trees and nettles - requested costings made to St Helens Council still to be received.

08.57 – Hoyles Fire & Safety – enquiries made re discount for a new extinguisher in the Education Room and 3 fire warning signs. This **has** been included in the £442.20 price. The order has now been placed.

08.59 - Open Space Boundaries – The work of re-planting hedges on Kiln Lane will commence in November 2008.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

08.72 The Clerk read out an e-mail received from a resident in Cranston Close objecting to the closing of gaps in the hedges on Kiln Lane open space and questioning the effectiveness of the drainage work previously carried out.

Resolved that the Clerk writes to the resident giving the reasons for maintaining the boundary, enclosing an explanation from Frank Gallagher on the work done.

POLICE REPORT

08.73 Sgt Gary Bradley has recently been moved to Eccleston and reported on the crime figures over the past month. He explained that some initial reports of crimes are not always substantiated once officers have investigated. There have been 5 burglaries, 7 reports of criminal damage and 19 incidents of youths causing annoyance initially reported – some have since been re-classified. In response to the report made by Cllr Bain last month regarding speeding on Kiln Lane, this has been investigated.

PARTNERSHIP WITH DE LA SALLE SCHOOL

8.74 This has been deferred to the November 2008 meeting.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

- 08.75 **Resolved that we ask St James's Church whether the Parish Council could attend their morning service on Sunday 9 November 2008 and afterwards at Eccleston War Memorial. Councillor Evans is to be asked whether she would be willing to obtain a wreath for a donation of £40.**

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

- 08.76 This is due to take place on Thursday 4 December 2008 at 11.00 am in Eccleston Library.
Resolved to ask Bleak Hill School to provide the entertainment.

RENEWAL OF VILLAGE HALL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

- 08.77 **Resolved to renew the Grounds Maintenance Contract for the Financial Year 2009/2010 with Paul Potter. Councillors expressed their appreciation of the work Paul has put in this year.**

PROCEEDS OF CRAFT FAYRE REFRESHMENTS

- 08.78 **Resolved to credit the Smithy budget with the £26.60 proceeds from the refreshments served during the Heritage Weekend.**

REPORTS

- 8.79 **Resolved to note the following:**

Smithy Working Party - All Councillors received a copy of the Curators' Report for October. The following points were discussed:

- Heritage Open Day – poor advertising by St Helens Council
- Archery Group Leaders' visit
- Village Hall Central heating problem
- Visit from 15th Scouts

Resolved the Clerk contacts Tony Atherton with regard to the heating problem

Clerk's Meeting – The Clerk reported on a meeting at St Helens Town Hall on Friday 3 October 2008. There were 4 Clerk's in attendance together with Peter Blackburn and John Skinley. The following points were discussed:

- Standards Committee update – new process of reporting and assessing complaints
- Code of Conduct – Applications for Dispensation to Ward Committees
- Ward Committee feed back – Panel Member or Representative to report back to Parish Councils. There is no conflict of interest if District Councillors do this
- Independent Review of Scrutiny Arrangements – this has been reviewed by a Professor Leach who has made recommendations for change. The District Council considered these in July
- Next meeting – probably January or February 2009

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Delegated

- 27 The Lodge Works** to trees covered by TPO – **support Trees & Woodlands Officer’s Church Lane recommendations**
- 37 Pinfold Drive** 1st floor ext over existing garage with front/rear dormers – **N/O**
- 37 Pinfold Drive** Conversion of garage to room, erect single storey pitched roof ext to rear with front/rear dormers - **? sufficient off-street parking**
- 13 Selkirk Drive** Alterations to existing boundary fence & tandem parking to front – **N/O**
- 31 Mosslands Works** to trees covered by TPO – **Refer to Trees & Woodlands Officer**
- 70A Broadway** Erect detached dwelling – **Object – side garden to No 70 small plot & vital green space which marries up with garden area to adjacent corner property; would create overbearing architectural imbalance with negligible garden area; Broadway narrow road & additional traffic from this proposal would put pressure on traffic flow**
- 63 Daresbury Rd** Rear conservatory – **N/O**

ACCOUNTS

08.81 Received Hall Hire August £110.00; September £590; NatWest Bank Charges refunded £68.00; R Kelsey PAYE October £65.00; Bank Interest £237.95; Refreshments Heritage Weekend £26.60

| | |
|---|------------|
| St Helens Council - Rates October | 95.00 |
| British Gas – October | 30.00 |
| Manweb – October | 81.50 |
| United Utilities – September adjustment | 4.91 |
| United Utilities – October | 50.91 |
| United Utilities – Direct Debit for Surface water/drainage – October | 15.39 |
| J Chamberlain – Salary October | 156.04 |
| J Chamberlain – Req 25– Stamps, batteries, ink cartridge, photocopies | 31.76 |
| V Hirons – Salary October | 156.04 |
| L Poole - Salary – October | 384.08 |
| L Scott – Salary October includes £9.60 travel expenses | 1,081.63 |
| L Scott – Petty Cash October | 20.00 |
| PAYE – Curators October (Cumulative £78.00 1 st month Period 3) | 78.00 |
| PAYE – Clerk October (Cumulative £267.80 1 st month Period 3) | 267.80 |
| EPC NI contribution – Clerk October (Cumulative £113.51 1 st month Period 3) | 113.51 |
| PAYE – Ecclesfield Caretaker – October (£65.00 1 st month Period 3) | 65.00 |
| Inland Revenue – PAYE, NI Period 2 all employees – already notified monthly | (1,573.13) |
| Griffin Environmental Services – October | 50.91 |
| B&M Office Machines – Copies 4/9/08 - Inv not yet received | 15.64 |
| NatWest - Bank Charges | 6.50 |
| Christ Church PCC – Grant towards upkeep of their churchyard | 700.00* |
| Ecclesfield Project – 3 rd Contribution to running costs | 582.50 |
| BT – Clerk’s phone & Internet | 166.95 |
| BT – Curators’ phone & Internet | 118.39 |
| St Helens Council – Cleaning August/September | 497.94 |
| Balance brought forward September Meeting £44,022.48 + receipts this month | £45,120.03 |
| Total Payments this month | 4,770.40 |

Approximate balance £40,349.63

* 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 September 2008, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500, Reserve Account £32,379.87 and Capital Reserve Account £463.05. Members of the Finance Sub-Committee were given copies of the monthly Reconciliation, together with copies of the bank statements for September 2008.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of September 2008 £22.58
Approximate balance at the end of September 2008 £4.31

CORRESPONDENCE

08.82 Resolved to note the following

Merseyside Police – Replies to our letter to Chief Supt Armitt from Chris Armitt & Tim Kelly – read out by the Clerk

Communities & Local Gov – Consultation re enforcement of byelaws – **passed to Cllr Perry**

Standards Board – September 08 issue of Standard publication

East Lancs Rail Action Partnership – request for support – **passed to Cllr Perry**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 08.83 | Tues 11 November 08 | 7.00 pm | Smithy Meeting | St James |
| | | 7.30 pm | Parish Council | St James |

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

SIGNED

DATED