

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2013 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Ecclestone

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Broughton, Duncan, Haw, C Pearl, G Pearl & Skepper
Mrs J Anderson (Clerk)
Mr and Mrs Manley (Residents)

APOLOGIES:

13.70 Cllrs Almond, Gray-Williams, Maloney and Watmough

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

13.71 Councillor G Pearl declared an interest in Item 13.83 – Planning Applications.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10 SEPTEMBER 2013

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

MATTERS ARISING

13.73 There were no matters to discuss.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

13.74 Mr and Mrs Manley attended the meeting and reported the following:

- Pavements around Bobbies Lane were uneven for wheelchair use. Cllrs Sims reported that they were inspected every 6 months but would make enquiries at St Helens Council and arrange for them to be inspected.
- Grids in the same area needed clearing of leaves in order for heavy rain fall to run off the field and down the grids, otherwise water runs into houses. Cllrs Sims, Pearl and Haw to investigate.

POLICE REPORT

13.75 No one available from Police to attend. Statistics comparing the period 8 July-7 October 2012 and 2013 were issued to Councillors and discussed. It was noted that there was a significant increase relating to anti-social behaviour in Gillars Green area. Also an increase in theft from sheds across Ecclestone.

VILLAGE HALL BOILER

13.76 On Sunday 15 September 2013 during Heritage Weekend activities the smell of gas was reported. An emergency call was made to the National Grid and the boiler was shut down. Two quotes were obtained and the leaking valve on the boiler was repaired on Thursday 19 September. The plumber recommended that the boiler be replaced within the next couple of years as it is only a domestic boiler that does not have the power to heat the hall and all other rooms efficiently (13 radiators). **Noted and resolved to consider this when budgeting for the following year(s).**

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

- 13.77 Mr Steve Clisby, a resident of Eccleston, who works for a fire extinguisher company, has donated a replacement fire extinguisher to save the Parish Council having to pay to replace one that has obsolete parts. **Noted and resolved to send a thank you letter. Clerk to send letter.**

STRUCTURAL SURVEY

- 13.78 As a result of having to pay out for repairs to the boiler the structural survey has been postponed. **Noted.**

VILLAGE HALL SANITATION QUOTE

- 13.79 A second quote has been received to provide hygiene services to the Village Hall. **Clerk requested to obtain references for the company.**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

- 13.80 The Parish Council will be represented at St Julie Church this year on Sunday 10 November 2013 at 9.45am with prayers and wreath laying afterwards at Eccleston War Memorial. **Councillors requested to arrive at St Julie Church at 9.30am**

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

- 13.81 Bleak Hill School has been asked to provide the choir at Eccleston Library on Thursday 5 December 2013. The Library has been contacted and is in agreement. Rainford's Farm confirmed they will donate the tree. Cllr Sims confirmed that she had arranged for the Christmas tree on St Helens Road, Eccleston Park to be lit on the same day.

REPORTS

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

Smithy Working Party – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report for October 2013. The following points were discussed:

- Closed season – current exhibition being removed and office items being decanted into Smithy and Education room whilst work is carried out in the office
- All Our Stories – project coming to a close. Selected items will be chosen to be included in a local history publication and a travelling exhibition
- Printing – Kenneth Burnley, who is using an old printing press as part of a project at Bluecoat in Liverpool is keen to work with the Smithy during next year's crime and punishment exhibition. Potential for printing posters or cards
- Keep Calm and Carry on at the Smithy – very successful event with lots of activities arranged and organised by curators and volunteers
- Cllrs thanked curators for all their hard work

Finance Sub Cttee – 8 October 2013, 6.30pm, Village Hall. Cllrs Sims, Duncan, Haw, G Pearl and Skepper attended along with the Clerk. The current budget position was monitored. Both expenditure and income were discussed including action to be taken for hall users' arrears.

Update on Mill Wood and Mill Brow from Adam Graham, Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Mill Brow:

Path and boardwalk work complete. There is an issue with the step off the far end of the boardwalk which the contract team will address.

Tree work – the majority of the heavy thinning is complete along the brook and behind Mill Brook Lane.

Marsh areas (towards De La Salle) – clearance work is underway here and progressing well.

The main area still needing work is around the site entrance – there is quite a bit of thinning needed here as well as follow up bulb and wildflower planting.

Heavy felling, marsh areas etc hoped to be finished mid November

Mill Wood:

The majority of the rhododendron has been removed and chipped. There is still a reasonable clump in the centre of the site which needs to be taken out and chipped

The next phase of the work is to begin to clear access tracks around the site to facilitate getting a chipper around.

Path work – start the path work here in early October.

Volunteering:

5 committed residents who've been coming out, one also regularly helping with the chipping/heavier site work

Education:

The education team is currently contacting the schools – the plan is to do some site taster activities

Felling at Mill Brow – we've spoken to quite a few residents over fences and in the course of work – comments have been favourable as the work generally gives them more light in their gardens.

Where residents are particularly sensitive to felling we've tried to leave stuff in where they've made us aware of this. Where removing particular trees is likely to heavily expose a garden we've spoken to residents first and generally come to an agreement about what level of work is acceptable.

Adam

Lester Drive Centre – Cllr Duncan attend the meeting on 13 September. Lester Drive Centre is now licensed for events. This is to save applying for a temporary licence each time a group needs a licence for an event.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

13.83 **Resolved to note the following:**

Delegated

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 41 Springfield Lane | Single storey rear extension N/O |
| 14 Walmesley Road | Erection of single storey part rear and side extension. Replacement pitched roof over existing flat roof at rear N/O |

ACCOUNTS

13.84 **Resolved to note the following:**

Received Village Hall Hire £410.00; R Kelsey PAYE £76.20, Ecclesfield Insurance contribution £248.67

TOTAL **£734.87**

Payments

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|--|-----------------|
| United Utilities – Sept | 9.40* |
| United Utilities – Sept | 41.29* |
| GPS Telecom – Clerk telephone Aug | 28.74 |
| Broker Network Ltd – Came Insurance annual renewal (inc Ecclesfield) | 2443.10 |
| Paul Potter – Grounds maintenance 3 visits | 74.16 |
| Best Security – replacement of sensor battery | 71.93 |
| PHS – Sanitation Oct-Dec plus Annual Duty of Care | 292.93 |
| Royal British Legion – poppy wreath | 17.00 |
| Post Office Ltd – PAYE and NI July-Sept | 1458.45 |
| Tina Maddock – hairdressing demo HOD Smithy | 60.00 |
| MC Holker – boiler repairs | 220.00 |
| L Poole – October | 407.50 |
| J Anderson – October – inc £20 petty cash | 1231.97 |
| V Griffiths – October | 165.72 |
| J Chamberlain – October | 273.69 |
| V Griffiths – expenses for HOD | 39.71 |
| Total | £6835.59 |

* Increase in water payments

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that, as at 27 September 2013, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £34,728.29 and Capital Deposit Account £464.29.

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|---|--------|
| PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of September 2013 | £6.90 |
| Approximate balance at the end of September 2013 | £10.22 |

CORRESPONDENCE

13.85 **Resolved to note the following:**

St Helens Council – Call for Sites – map confirming boundaries PC wish to protect **Confirmed**
Merseytravel – Transport Forum, Friday 18 October 1.30pm at Peter Street Community Centre – **Noted**

DATES OF MEETINGS

13.86 **Resolved to note the following:**

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Friday 11 October 2013 | 9.00am | Smithy Sub | Village Hall |
| Tuesday 12 November 2013 | 6.45 pm 7.30 pm | Smithy Meeting Parish Council | Village Hall Village Hall |
| Friday 15 November 2013 | 10.00am | Hall and Personnel | Village Hall |
| Friday 6 December 2013 | 10.00am | Finance | Village Hall |
| Friday 24 January 2014 | 10.00am | Finance | Village Hall |

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

SIGNED

DATED