

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2019
at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Ecclestone**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, Duncan, Skepper and Williams
J Anderson (Clerk)
4 residents

19.65 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Gray-Williams, Haw, C Pearl, G Pearl and Watmough

19.66 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Sims declared an interest in Item 19.76 – Planning Applications

19.67 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

19.68 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

19.69 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

A resident raised the issue of uneven pavements at the junction of Lester Drive and Springfield Lane. She reported that both sides of the road were uneven. **Cllr Sims would look into the matter.**

Another resident reported that a car reversing off Lester Drive Centre had collided with a parked car on the opposite pavement. It was thought that the reversing car bumped off the kerb causing the vehicle to jump back. The resident asked whether the dropped kerb could be extended. Also it was reported that cars were speeding along Lester Drive. The resident asked whether a 'SLOW' sign could be erected. Cllr Sims explained that signs had to be applied for through the Department of Transport. **Cllr Sims would look into the matter.**

Another resident reported problems of flooding in her garden in Springfield Lane. The resident had emailed several people but had not received a reply. **Cllr Sims would look into the problem.**

19.70 POLICE REPORT

No one from the police had been able to attend. Copies of the latest crime figures were given to the meeting.

19.71 VILLAGE HALL

(a) A quote of £58.10 had been received from St Helens Council to remove ivy and bushes from the wall and pavement area around the bench at the front of the Village Hall next to neighbouring property.

Agreed

(b) Cllr Sims along with the Clerk met with St Helens Council on 17 September 2019 after receiving an email from a neighbour requesting the tree in the Village Hall grounds be removed or trimmed. The neighbour also reported that fence panels had been damaged when the gardener at the Village Hall cut back the bushes and removed saplings. The email also mentioned people passing complained about the bushes around the front/bench area. St Helens Council had advised that the tree was healthy and was a comfortable distance from the property and not causing damage. St Helens Council's tree policy is not to prune/remove healthy trees for issues of tree litter (leaves, bird droppings or sap), light, TV reception or overhang. The neighbour is within their rights to prune any branches overhanging which must conform to BS3998 or it would be classed as criminal damage. They would not be able to enter the property to carry out the work unless given permission. The Clerk had spoken to the gardener who was not aware of damage to the fence panels. **It was decided to take the advice of St Helens Council and not take any action with regard to the tree. The Clerk would reply to the resident.**

19.72 TREE POLICY

It was agreed to adopt St Helens Council's tree policy

19.73 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Parish Council would be represented at St James, Eccleston Park on Sunday 10 November 2019 at 10.30am service. **Councillors were requested to arrive at Church at 10.20am.** Prayers and a wreath laying service would take place at Eccleston War Memorial after the church service. It was agreed Cllr Ashcroft would open the war memorial gates. United Utilities had been contacted to ensure the area, including the steps, would be clear for Remembrance Sunday.

19.74 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony would take place at Eccleston Library on Thursday 5 December 2019 at 11am. Rainford's Christmas Tree Land had confirmed they would kindly donate the tree which would be delivered Thursday 28 November. Eccleston Lane Ends were yet to confirm they would provide the choir.

19.75 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Finance Sub Cttee – 8 October 2019, 6.45pm, Eccleston Village Hall Cllrs Ashcroft, Duncan, Sims and Skepper met along with the Clerk. The current budget position was monitored including the Smithy with no issues to report.

Smithy – 8 October 2019, 7.00pm, Eccleston Village Hall All Cllrs were given a copy of the Curators' report and the following points were discussed:

- Viking Exhibition – had gone well
- Viking Finale – Curators reported it had been a huge success
- Bake-off – new winner this year and a young 9 year old baker won best decorated cake
- Plans for 2020 – Curators were looking at a couple of options for next year's exhibition. The Smithy would re-open on Saturday 11 April 2020; International Blacksmith's Day would be Saturday 16 May 2020 and Heritage Open Weekend would be 12 and 13 September 2020.

Financial Procedures – Cllr Sims, Carol O'Donnell St Helens Council's audit manager and the Clerk met on Thursday 3 October at 2pm at the Village Hall to discuss financial procedures for Parish Council events. The Clerk would draw up Financial Procedures to be ratified by Parish Council and implemented by all members of staff and the Parish Council.

19.76 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

1 Millwood Avenue	Demolition of 4no existing apartment blocks and erection of 36no dwellings along with associated landscaping and car parking N/O
De La Salle	Removal of Condition 2 - Floodlights and Variation of Condition 3 to extend the opening times of the MUGA pitch to Monday - Friday 09:00 to 21:30, Saturday 09:00 to 18:00 and Sunday 09:00 to 15:00 Any changes to usage times at this facility will cause major environmental issues for the residents who live within the vicinity of, and adjacent to this school. Parking at times is at a premium and extra vehicles would only exacerbate the situation further
De La Salle	Installation of 8no floodlights to the MUGA pitch The current opening times for pupil usage would not necessitate floodlights. Therefore the Parish Council object. Floodlights would cause light pollution. This site is landlocked on all sides by residential properties, many of which have young children
3 The Close	Demolition of existing single storey rear outrigger and erection of single storey extension to side and rear elevation Ensure sufficient off street parking
132 Broadway	Resubmission of P/2019/0497/HHFP for a first floor side extension, single storey front extension along with conversion of existing garage to a habitable room Ensure sufficient off street parking
153 Kiln Lane	Removal of existing sun room and erection of a single storey rear flat roof extension N/O
33 Wokefield Way	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension N/O

19.77 ANNUAL AUDIT

The external audit report had been received with no issues raised.

19.78 ACCOUNTS

Received: Village Hall Hire £509; R Kelsey PAYE £77.80; Smithy HOD £637; Windle PC phone and copier £47.85; Interest 9.32 and 0.08

TOTAL	£1281.05
Payments	
GPS Telecom – Clerk telephone – Aug	38.39
Came & Co Insurance – annual renewal (inc £233.71 Eccfld)	2416.90
RBL Poppy Appeal – wreath	20.00
Water Plus – Oct	12.29
Water Plus – Oct	1.81
L Poole – October	403.45
J Chamberlain – October + expenses	267.94
J Anderson – October + travel	1294.80
V Griffiths – October	168.86
PKF Littlejohn LLP – external audit	360.00
HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE and NI July-Sept	1426.95
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	439.13
St Helens Council – cleaning October	369.25
Ecclesfield Project – second half contribution	1749.50
P & S Landscapes – annual grounds maintenance and cut back of bushes	455.00
Total	£9424.27

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that as at 30 September 2019 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £48,672.85 and Capital Deposit Account £466.22.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of September 2019 £5.92
Approximate balance at the end of September 2019 £36.14

19.79 CORRESPONDENCE

A resident from Mill Brow contacted the Clerk asking if the trees at the back of his property in the nature reserve could be cut back/down as he felt they were too tall and blocking his light. Cllr Sims had contacted St Helens Council to discuss the tree maintenance schedule that was in place paid for by Community Improvement Fund and St Helens Council. St Helens Council suggested that as part of the maintenance work some gradual thinning of trees from this area could take place. **The Clerk would reply to the resident.**

Letter from insurance company – Stackhouse Poland trading as Came and Company would be transferred to Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd. There would be no change to the way business was conducted.

Update on St Helens Borough Local Plan – letter from St Helens Council explaining they were now completing a statutory report setting out the key issues. The Council expect to submit the Local Plan, including supporting documents and responses received, to the Government’s Planning Inspectorate in autumn 2019. The Inspector may hold public hearing sessions in the new year. Following this the Inspector would decide whether the Plan was sound and could be adopted in 2020.

Freedom of information request – the Clerk had received an email on 18 September 2019 requesting copies of agenda and minutes for the last 2 years. Clerk replied on 2 October 2019 attaching the documents.

Official Receipt – had been received from Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for donation for the wreath.

19.80 DATES OF MEETINGS

Tuesday 12 November 2019	7.00pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

SIGNED

DATED