

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held
TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2020 at 7.30pm
VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, Haw, Kempzell, C Pearl, G Pearl, Skepper and Williams
J Anderson (Clerk)

20.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Gray-Williams and Watmough

20.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor G Pearl declared an interest in item 20.11 Planning Applications.

20.03 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10 MARCH 2020

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

20.04 NOTES FOR APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Resolved that the notes be approved and signed by the Chairman as correct.

20.05 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Sims updated the meeting with information regarding the Village Hall. The hall was currently closed during the second lockdown period. The Parish Council had received £10,000 Small Business Grant. The hall had been due to be redecorated this year so the Clerk was asked to get quotes for the painting of the inside of the hall. The hall Smithy had been treated for woodlice as there had been a number of dead woodlice found.

20.06 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

(a) the resident living next to the Village Hall requested in July that Councillors meet with him to discuss the bushes and damage to his fence. The Clerk replied to explain that it would be discussed as soon as meetings resume. Someone had cut bushes and left them on the lawn at the Village Hall. **It was decided that as soon as it was appropriate after the current Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, the Councillors would inspect the area.**

(b) a resident living on Burrows Lane rang to complain about trees from Saleswood open space overhanging into her garden. The Clerk reported it to St Helens Council. A reply was received from Parks and Landscape Supervisor explaining that he had been out to look at the trees and they did not require any work. According to St Helens Council's tree policy they do not prune healthy trees for issues involving lighting, overhang or leaf fall. The Clerk replied to the resident.

(c) Cllr Williams reported the overgrown bushes along Church Walk. Cllr Sims would report it to St Helens Council but explained that St Helens Council's grounds maintenance team were running behind schedule due to staffing issues with some staff being off due to Covid-19 isolating.

20.07 POLICE REPORT

The latest crime figures had been received. Cllr Sims informed the meeting that police had been asked to visit the Wellington pub regarding concerns from a resident about Covid-19 safe working. The police reported that the pub was operating safely. Police had also been called to youths outside One Stop Shop on Walmesley Road. It was found that the youths were acting safely and adhering to social distancing.

Cllr Williams expressed concerns that cars were on the car park of Walmesley Road shops late at night with engines running. He had reported it to the police.

20.08 REDECORATION OF VILLAGE HALL

Two quotes had been received and Councillors decided to ask D & A Home Improvements to carry out the redecoration work. The Clerk would arrange for the work to begin in December.

20.09 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Unfortunately the ceremony would not be taking place this year. The tree had been ordered and would kindly be donated again by Rainfords. The Library would decorate the tree as usual. Tree was to be delivered 27 November but as the Library would be closed until 3 December delivery had been rearranged for Friday 4 December.

20.10 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

- ECCLESFIELD The Clerk had been asked to contact Windle Parish Council regarding signage on the changing rooms and to agree the installation of a defibrillation machine on the external wall. The reply from Windle Parish Council was that the defibrillator was thought to be a good idea but with regard to the signage it was agreed that the name of Windle Parish Council should NOT be on the sign.

The flagged area outside the main doors had still to be tarmacked. Cllr Sims would follow this up. Cllr Haw would forward details regarding the defibrillator to the Clerk.

20.11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

15 Sandfield Road	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of new single storey extension with pitched roof N/O
29 The Avenue	Part two storey, part single storey front, side and rear extension Ensure sufficient off street parking
10 Chapel Lane	Two storey side extension N/O

Cllr Williams explained that since Bocboc had put railings around the car park on Kiln Lane it meant that pedestrians could no longer walk straight across to the bus stop but had to walk around the pavement at the busy junction of Kiln Lane and Millbrook Lane. Cllr Haw would contact St Helens Council, Highways.

Cllr Kempzell left the meeting.

20.12 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The external audit had been received with no issues raised.

20.13 ACCOUNTS

Resolved to note the following:

Received: Village Hall Hire £0; R Kelsey PAYE £79.40; Interest 0.01 and 0.68; Windle phone/copier £37.91; Ecclesfield insurance £243.06.

TOTAL

£361.06

Payments

GPS Telecom – clerk phone – Sept	42.86
BT – Smithy phone	152.33
SSE – gas	48.35
ASL – copier service	68.51
PKF Littlejohn LLP – external audit	360.00
Water Plus Nov	13.39
Water Plus Nov	10.60
J Chamberlain – November	172.08
V Griffiths – November	172.08
L Poole – November	377.77
J Anderson – November	1322.27
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	471.74
St Helens Council – cleaning Nov	380.40
Total Payments	£3592.38

RECONCILIATION – the Clerk reported that at 30 October 2020 the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £64,833.50 and Capital Deposit Account £466.93.

PETTY CASH – expenditure for the month of October 2020 £3.64
approximate balance at the end of October 2020 £24.51

INTERNAL AUDIT – the accounts had been internally audited for the second quarter with nothing to report.

20.14 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

Email St Helens Council, Electoral Services – Parish Councillor vacancy had been advertised with no request for an election therefore Parish Council could co-opt.

Email from a resident asking people to consider hedgehog access to gardens to allow them to forage between gardens. Possible holes in fences to allow them to move from one garden to another.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Cllr Sims and Cllr G Pearl had attended the war memorial on Sunday 8 November to lay the poppy wreath. Cllr Sims thanked United Utilities for the work to make the area tidy and for their contributions of poppies. Several residents had visited the site during the day.

The Clerk would open the site on Wednesday 11 November at 9am until 4pm. Cllr Ashcroft would attach the poppy wreath to the metal ring with cable ties and would oil the gates.

20.15 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 1 December 2020	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield	Online via Zoom
Tuesday 8 December 2020	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Online via Zoom

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

SIGNED DATED