

**MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held**  
**TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021 at 7.30pm**  
**VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)  
Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, Haw, Kempself, C Pearl, G Pearl and Williams  
Janet Anderson (Clerk)  
10 members of the public and Bleak Hill Rovers

20.30 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Gray-Williams and Watmough

20.31 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr G Pearl Item 20.41 – Planning Applications.

20.32 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8 DECEMBER 2020**

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

20.33 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

20.34 **RESIDENTS' ISSUES**

One member of the public raised the issue of dog fouling on pavements particularly around Bleak Hill School area. Cllr Sims asked that if the resident had seen anyone not clearing up after their dog, to report to her any details they had. Cllr Haw would email the resident with more information.

20.35 **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Dearing had sent the latest crime figures which were given to Councillors.

20.36 **REPORTS**

**Resolved to note the following:**

**Finance Sub Cttee, 5 January 2021 via Zoom** – Cllrs Sims, Ashcroft and Skepper along with the Clerk met to discuss the budget and the proposed precept (See Item 20.37).

**Smithy** – all Councillors had been given a copy of the Curators' Report. The following points were discussed:

- The Smithy alarm had activated on a couple of occasions in the early hours of the morning. Vicky had to attend but found nothing to report. An error message had been on the alarm panel. The alarm company were called out and replaced a battery in a sensor. There had been a further problem with the telephone line which had been resolved.
- The website domain name needed renewing. Vicky would arrange.
- The Curators offered pictures for the Village Hall now that it had been decorated.
- The Objects of Desire exhibition, which had been planned for 2020, was available on the website and would be rescheduled for 2021.

**Ecclesfield Update** – Cllr Sims assured everyone that Eccleston Parish Council totally supported the hard work of Bleak Hill Rovers. She explained that the changing rooms were not leased from St Helens Council, as reported in the press, but were owned by Eccleston and Windle Parish Councils. The field had been leased to Eccleston PC in 1968. There was a Management Agreement stating the field was for everybody's use. The open space was for all to access and not just a football pitch. It was a recreational field.

Eccleston PC would be meeting with Windle PC with a proposal for them to consider, that should address the storage issues faced by Bleak Hill Rovers. This proposal of a storage unit at the gable end of the changing rooms, would not violate the lease or the Management Agreement. This proposal would be discussed with Windle PC later in the week.

Cllr Sims explained that 2 defibrillation machines had been purchased by Eccleston PC; one to be installed at Ecclesfield Changing Facility and the other at Eccleston Village Hall. They would be installed shortly.

Cllr Sims asked for comments from the meeting.

One member of the public mentioned that his son had emailed Councillors over the issue of storage and he thanked Cllrs Sims, Haw and Pearl for replying. He asked why Bleak Hill Rovers could not make the changing rooms their own. Cllr Sims explained that the changing rooms were for any groups using the field.

A member of Bleak Hill Rovers raised the issue of the inner doors being locked and coaches having to leave their team and go over to open them if a youngster needed the toilet. Cllr Sims explained that the doors needed to be locked to protect any property inside.

Cllr Haw explained that it would be good to meet with Windle PC to sort Bleak Hill Rovers' storage problems and to get the right sort of storage unit for them. Cllr Sims explained that it must fit in with the wider community that use the space for various activities. Therefore, the gable end which was visible from the car park would be most appropriate. A member of Bleak Hill Rovers suggested a 20 foot metal unit. Cllr Sims explained that this would be investigated.

Cllr Williams added there would need to be a distinction between it being a temporary structure and a permanent one. Metal would be more suitable rather than plastic or wood that could be vandalised.

***The first Zoom session ended at this point. All Councillors and 6 members of the public re-joined and the meeting continued.***

Cllr Sims explained that the storage unit would be funded 50/50 by Eccleston Ward Councillors and Windle Ward Councillors from their Councillor Improvement Fund (CIF) which covers environmental issues raised by residents.

Cllr Sims thanked members of the public and Bleak Hill Rovers for attending and hoped this would solve the problem for the club and support the young people.

20.37      **BUDGET FOR 2021/2022**

**The budget was approved and it was resolved that a precept of £58,505.04 for 2021/22 would be requested. This would result in a cost to residents of £14.94 per year – same as last year.**

20.38 ANNUAL MAGAZINE

Articles were requested for the next magazine. They should be sent to the Clerk by 5 February 2021.

20.39 VILLAGE HALL

The redecoration of the Village Hall had been completed.

20.40 RISK ASSESSMENT

The annual risk assessment was carried out by the Councillors and Clerk. **Resolved to approve and sign.**

20.41 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Resolved to note the following:**

**Delegated**

**8 Forest Mead**

Single storey side extension following removal of garage **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

**8 Mere Hey**

Single storey side and rear extension, front porch extension, and pitched roof over the existing garage flat roof **N/O**

**46 Hawthorn Drive**

Single storey side extension **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

**5 The Close**

Single storey side and rear wraparound extension **N/O**

**22 Brookland Road**

First floor extension over existing bungalow to form two storey dwelling with two storey front bay extension and porch, demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a part two storey part single storey rear extension **N/O**

**40 Central Avenue**

Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of a single storey wraparound extension to the side and rear, with associated external works to form raised patio area to the rear **N/O**

20.42 ACCOUNTS

**Resolved to note the following:**

Received: Village Hall Hire £0, RK PAYE £99.40, Windle PC phone £12.66;

**Total Receipts** **£112.06**

**Payments**

Water Plus	10.60
D Lynch – D & A Home Improvements – decorating of hall	2400.00
GPS Telecoms – Clerk’s telephone Nov	45.58
SSE – gas	88.45

C F Corporate – photocopier lease	93.60
J Anderson – January	1317.97
J Chamberlain – January	172.28
V Griffiths – January	172.28
L Poole – January	377.77
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	471.74
St Helens Council – cleaning Jan	380.40
ABM Fire and Security – CCTV annual service	114.00
Water Plus – water	10.60
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£5655.27</b>

**RECONCILIATION** – The Clerk reported that at 30 December 2020 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £54,155.73 and Capital Deposit Account £466.94.

<b>PETTY CASH</b> - Expenditure for the month of December 2020	£7.80
Balance at the end of December 2020	£16.71

20.43      CORRESPONDENCE

**Resolved to note the following:**

- **Letter from St Helens Council** – calculation of tax base as 3916 band D equivalent properties.
- **Several emails from residents/members of the public** – regarding storage issues for Bleak Hill Rovers

20.44      DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9 February 2021      7.30 pm      Parish Council      **Via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....