

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021**  
**at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Ashcroft (Chairman)  
Cllrs Barton, Cass, C Pearl, G Pearl, Sims and Skepper  
Janet Anderson – Clerk

21.39 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Gray-Williams, Haw, Watmough and Williams

21.40 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Barton and G Pearl declared an interest in item 21.47 – Planning Applications

21.41 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 8 JUNE 2021**

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

21.42 **MATTERS ARISING**

None

21.43 **RESIDENTS' ISSUES**

Cllr Barton reported that residents had approached her confused about the parking at Walmesley Road shops. Residents had asked why the car park for Ecclesfield changing rooms remained locked. Cllr Sims explained that it had been a long-standing issue and that the car park had been approved as part of the planning permission for the changing rooms and did not belong to St Helens Council. Police had advised that the car park should be locked each evening to prevent vehicles being able to get on to the field and cause damage.

She explained the many proposals had been made to shopkeepers over the years, including each shopkeeper having a key to the lock on the chain enabling staff to park on the car park, therefore releasing spaces for shoppers, but it had to be locked at the end of each day. This had worked for a short time. Shopkeepers were unwilling to open and close it each day.

Cllr Sims also explained that St Helens Council had considered a parking machine with shop tokens. Shoppers would get a token from a machine and redeem it at the shops but shopkeepers were not willing to take part. St Helens Council had also put up notices requesting that parking be limited to 2 hours to try to prevent 'park and ride' parking.

Recently a section had been taken up by covid-19 testing. The NHS had not requested to use Ecclesfield car park as it was not St Helens Council land.

Cllr Barton enquired how to move this issue forward. Cllr Sims replied that any suggestions would be considered if anyone had any further ideas to help the parking situation.

#### 21.44 POLICE REPORT

Crime figures had been received and given to Councillors. It was noted that figures were reduced compared to the same period last year. Cllr Ashcroft explained that it could be that criminals had been dealt with therefore no longer posing a threat. Another factor that may have influenced the figures was that schools were closed last year and incidents of anti-social behaviour were high.

#### 21.45 VILLAGE HALL

- a) The hall had opened week commencing 7 June and had been open for 5 weeks. Only regular user groups were using the hall at the moment with no issues reported.
- b) The Caretaker had received enquiries for bookings for parties and other events. It was agreed these could now be booked in on Saturdays only.
- c) The gardener had emailed to explain that he could no longer maintain the grounds as he felt there was too much work for the price quoted. It was agreed to obtain 3 quotes for ground maintenance.

#### 21.46 REPORTS

##### **Resolved to note the following:**

Ecclesfield Management Ctte – the Clerk reported the latest position:

A proposal for Bleak Hill Rovers (BHR) to use one side of the changing rooms had been emailed to BHR on Tuesday 22 June 2021. A statement, from Eccleston Parish Councillors on Ecclesfield Committee, had been emailed to St Helens Star on 23 June 2021. BHR replied to proposal stating various element were not practical to enable them to run the club. No further proposal could be put forward as there was insufficient representation from Windle PC on Ecclesfield Management Ctte. BHR had been informed.

Smithy – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report for July. The following points were noted:

- Smithy opening – the Curators had welcomed many visitors and the one-way system had been working successfully. Visitors had commented that they had enjoyed the online exhibition. A new item had been brought in on loan – a one-man crosscut saw.
- CCTV – a new DVR would be fitted on 14 July 2021.
- The Curators reported the Smithy window frames were looking in need of staining and had noticed beading holding the glass unit in place had come loose. The Clerk would contact St Helens Windows to check if it was covered under the 10 year guarantee.

#### 21.47 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

##### **Resolved to note the following:**

##### **Delegated**

##### **53 Ecclesfield Road**

Increase in roof height and conversion of rear part of existing garage **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

##### **42 Forest Grove**

Demolition of the existing garage and erection of a two storey side extension, single storey front extension, single storey rear extension with partial rendering to the dwelling **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

##### **19 Brookland Road**

Single storey rear extension **N/O**

## 21.48 ACCOUNTS

**Received:** Village Hall Hire £84, R Kelsey PAYE £81.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> half precept £29,252.52, Windle telephone £11.72, interest 0.47 and 0.01

**Total Receipts** £29,429.72

### **Payments:**

Water Plus	16.84
GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone – May	42.18
SSE – gas	79.32
LR Plumbing and Gas Services (Liam Ryder) – repair to VH boiler	80.00
J Chamberlain – July + expenditure	201.37
V Griffiths – July	175.58
L Poole – July	383.25
J Anderson – July	1331.78
Merseyside Pension Fund – July employer and employee contributions	481.18
CF Corporate – copier lease	93.60
Water Plus	16.84
Chubb Fire and Security – fire equipment service	196.73
P & S Landscapes – VH grounds maintenance	250.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£3348.67</b>

**RECONCILIATION** - The Clerk reported that as at 30 June 2021 the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £84,687.81 and Capital Deposit Account £466.97.

**PETTY CASH** - Expenditure for the month of June 2021 £12.72

**Approximate** balance at the end of June 2021 £15.01

## 21.49 DELEGATED POWERS OVER RECESS

**Resolved that the Chairman Cllr Ashcroft and Deputy Chairman Cllr G Pearl, in conjunction with the Clerk, be authorised to act on the Parish Council's behalf over the August recess.**

## 21.50 CORRESPONDENCE

**Resolved to note the following:**

**Bleak Hill Primary School** – thank you for prize/merit award money

**Email from the neighbour of Village Hall** – attaching photographs of bushes in the grounds of VH which he claims are causing damage to his fence

**Notification from website hosts** – website requires memory upgrade – agreed in the budget

**Email from Prescott and Odyssey Bowling Club** – enquiring after any Parish Council grants to enable them to buy a new mower (Prescot TC advised them to contact EPC)

**Email from Bold Parish Councillor on behalf of Sutton Wombles (litter pickers)** – trying to raise money for defibrillators in the non-Parished area of Sutton and would be grateful for any donations

**Clerk to reply that unfortunately no money was available from Parish Council but individual Councillors may be able to help or advise.**

21.51 DATES OF MEETINGS

**Resolved to note the following:**

Tuesday 7 September 2021	7.00pm	Ecclesfield	Village Hall
Tuesday 14 September 2021	7.00 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....