

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE, ECCLESTON**

PRESENT: Cllr Ashcroft (Chair)  
Cllrs Cass, Barton, C Pearl, G Pearl, Sims and Williams  
J Anderson – Clerk  
2 residents

21.25 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Gray-Williams and Watmough

21.26 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 21.32 – Planning Applications

21.27 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 MAY 2021

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

21.28 MATTERS ARISING

None.

21.29 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

Two residents attended the meeting to seek advice regarding trees that were overhanging their property from a neighbouring property. The residents had been in touch with St Helens Council regarding the trees but were unable to contact the Trees Officer for further advice.

Parish Councillors explained that as it was a dispute between neighbours, St Helens Council would not be able to intervene unless the trees were dead, diseased or dangerous. Parish Councillors advised that if the trees did not have tree preservation orders on them, the residents should ask the owner to cut the trees back. If no action was taken, the resident would be entitled to cut back any branches overhanging their property. If the trees had preservation orders on them, then the owner of the trees would have to apply for planning permission to carry out any work on the trees. The residents were advised to seek legal advice before taking any further action. The Clerk was asked to contact St Helens Council's Trees and Woodland Officer to ask for any update regarding the residents' enquiry.

The residents thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

21.30 POLICE REPORT

Crime figures had been received and given to Councillors. It was noted that the number of anti-social behaviour incidents was considerably less than the same period last year. Councillors thought it may be due to youngsters not being in school last year as schools were closed because of covid-19 restrictions.

## 21.31 REPORTS

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

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

- Smithy re-opening – opened 23 May with a steady stream of visitors
- Noticeboard – the Clerk had a discussion with St Helens Council regarding the damaged noticeboard but they insisted the board was already damaged before they had used it. Cllr Williams suggested that the hall and any equipment used should be checked by the Caretaker at the conclusion of the hire. The Caretaker, at the end of any hiring of the hall, checks the premises but it would be recommended that, in future, any equipment also be checked
- Smithy Windows – the Curators reported that the windows could do with re-staining and beading around one window had come away

Ecclesfield – 1 June 2021, 7pm, via Zoom. Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, G Pearl and Sims along with the Clerk attended. As no Councillors from Windle Parish Council had been able to attend, the meeting had not been quorate, therefore all points were noted, to be reported to each Parish Council.

- Nothing to report from the Caretaker
- No one in attendance from user group
- Revised Conditions of Hire document had previously been approved
- Cost of a sign would be £312 plus £66 advertising consent
- No update on the storage unit
- Windle PC had not paid their first half contribution – waiting until the storage was resolved
- Finances were reported

## 21.32 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

#### **Delegated**

##### **3 Fairholme Avenue**

Creation of front porch with part two storey, part single storey side extension and single storey rear extension **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

##### **73 Brookside Avenue**

First floor side extension Check the overbearing effect on any adjacent property and ensure sufficient off-street parking **Check the overbearing effect on any adjacent property and ensure sufficient off-street parking**

##### **11 Carmelite Crescent**

Demolition of existing rear garage and shed and erection of a single storey side and rear extension **Ensure sufficient off-street parking**

##### **1 Aynsley Court**

Retention of a single storey link extension between existing dwelling and detached double garage (converted) **This application appears to have created a residential dwelling, which should have been the subject of a planning application, before going ahead**

## 21.33 SCHOOL PRIZES

**Resolved to award £40 to each of the 5 schools – De la Salle, St Julie, Bleak Hill, Eccleston Lane Ends and Eccleston Mere to be used for pupil prizes.**

#### 21.34 VILLAGE HALL

A risk assessment had been carried out by the Clerk and Caretaker with regard to the hall opening. A copy of which had been issued to all groups. Groups had begun to return to the hall as of Monday 7 June 2021. Each group had been issued with additional Special Conditions of Hire During Covid 19, which outlined the responsibility of the hirer to ensure those attending comply with covid 19 guidelines whilst using the hall. The Conditions also stated that it would be the responsibility of the hirer to ensure that parts of the hall were clean before and after use, such as door handles, light switches and any surfaces used during the hire. A QR code had been displayed for NHS Track and Trace and hirers had been asked to keep a record of everyone attending their activity. Any issues must be reported to the Caretaker or Clerk.

Cllr Ashcroft along with the Clerk met with the gardener on Thursday 3 June to address the problem of the overgrown bushes around the Village Hall and Smithy. It was agreed that he would tackle each area of the garden over the coming months.

#### 21.35 MONITORING OF VILLAGE HALL CRACKS

A report had been received from the structural engineers stating that current movement was negligible. The building was safe to use and would remain safe for the immediate future. It had been recommended that monitoring should continue. **Resolved that the cracks in the building would be monitored annually.**

#### 21.36 ACCOUNTS

Received: Village Hall £396, RK PAYE £81.00, Nat West interest 0.43, Windle PC phone £11.63  
Total Receipts £489.06

##### **Payments:**

GPS Telecoms – Clerk’s phone	41.86
SSE – electricity	389.46
SSE – gas	24.09
SSE electricity	822.97
J Chamberlain – June	175.78
L Poole – June	383.25
J Anderson – June + expenditure	1379.46
V Griffiths – June	175.78
Lawrenson Associates – monitoring of VH cracks	116.40
T Poole – putting up hand sanitisers, repairing floor, reset CCTV	60.00
HMRC – PAYE and NI Apr-June	1606.92
De La Salle School pupil prizes	40.00*
Eccleston Lane Ends School pupil prizes	40.00*
Bleak Hill Primary School merit award	40.00*
St Julie School pupil prizes	40.00*
Eccleston Mere Primary School pupil prizes (paid to St Helens Council)	40.00*
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	481.18
Total Payments	<b>£5857.15</b>

\* Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 & 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

**RECONCILIATION** - The Clerk reported that as at 28 May 2021 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £60,618.18 and Capital Deposit Account £466.96

<b>PETTY CASH</b> - Expenditure for the month of May 2021	£1.58
Balance at the end of May 2021	£22.93

21.37 CORRESPONDENCE

An email had been received from Bleak Hill Rovers (BHR) after the club were informed that Ecclesfield Management Committee had decided to hire out one adult pitch on Saturday afternoons to a new adult team. BHR felt it had been unfair to hire the pitch out before consulting them.

21.38 DATES OF MEETINGS

**Resolved to note the following:**

Tuesday 13 July 2021	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
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The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

SIGNED .....

DATED .....