

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on  
TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2022 at 7.30pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE**

PRESENT: Cllr G Pearl (Deputy Chair)  
Cllrs Barton, Haw, C Pearl, Skepper and Williams  
Janet Anderson (Clerk)  
One resident

21.125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, Gray-Williams, Kempself, Sims and Watmough

21.126 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl Item 21.137 – Planning Applications.

21.127 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 JANUARY 2022

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

21.128 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

21.129 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

A resident from Henbury Court attended and reported the problems encountered crossing the junction of Kiln Lane and Millbrook Lane. She explained she had almost been knocked down by a speeding car coming out of Kiln Lane as she was crossing Millbrook Lane. The resident had been in touch with St Helens Council but no-one had been in contact with her.

Cllr G Pearl explained the history and discussions that had taken place regarding the junction over previous years with St Helens Council's Highways Department. He had met with Highways several times over the years to look at various options but none had proved to be feasible other than a crossing further along Millbrook Lane near to the pub. Cllr Haw explained that speed bumps or a speed cushion could not be put on the road as it was recognised as a major route. Cllr Skepper felt that the speed limit should be reduced to 20mph. Cllr Pearl explained that it was the Department of Transport that determined speed limits on roads.

The resident asked whether cameras could be put on the road to attempt to slow traffic down. Cllr Pearl explained that many roads in St Helens required speed cameras but finances did not allow cameras to be placed on all roads.

It was agreed that Cllr Pearl would contact the Highways Department of St Helens Council to raise the issue again with them and to see whether any solution could be found. Cllr Pearl would then contact the resident with an update.

21.130 POLICE REPORT

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

The figures for car crime had been particularly high this month. Cllr Haw explained that the police had caught several people for some offences. He had asked the police to publicise positive results to reinforce the good work of the police as residents only seemed to get information on crimes committed.

21.131 CODE OF CONDUCT

A revised Code of Conduct had been adopted by St Helens Council in January. It was agreed to adopt the revised Code.

21.132 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Councillors had been given information slides explaining St Helens Council's Community Governance Review process. The Review would take place after elections in May. Parish Councils had been asked what they would like to achieve from the Review. Cllr Barton suggested changes to the Parish boundaries. Further discussion would be required to put a Parish Council response together.

21.133 LIBRARY SERVICE – COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT LIBRARIES

An email had been received from Library Services at St Helens Council requesting meetings with community groups and Parish Councils to develop community managed libraries. It was agreed that a separate meeting of Councillors would be held on Monday 28 February 2022 at 7pm in Eccleston Village Hall.

21.134 PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed to use PC Print to print the magazine and Masterprint to distribute it.

21.135 VILLAGE HALL

- a) A quote had been received for carrying out a risk assessment of the water system at the Village Hall. The quote had been agreed and the Clerk would contact Life Environmental Services to arrange the visit.
- b) A walk-through security check had been carried out by PCSO Dearing and the Clerk on Friday 4 February 2022 with nothing to report.
- c) There had been a request for 2 parties over the weekend of 26 and 27 February. The Caretaker would be on annual leave. Cllr Skepper offered to open and close the hall for both parties.

21.136 REPORTS

**Resolved to note the following:**

**Ecclesfield, 27 January 2022 at Eccleston Village Hall** – Cllrs G Pearl, Cass, C Pearl, Sims and Skepper had attended along with the Clerk. The Conditions of Use document for the storage container had been discussed and amended. It was agreed that costs for maintaining the container (including shutter maintenance, painting and possible removal costs) would be calculated. This would then determine any charge for the use of the container.

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

- International Blacksmith's Day, Saturday 21 May 2022 – the Curators had been preparing for the event which would include craftspeople demonstrating their skills. The Education Room would be the bar and the Village Hall would be a tea room.
- Heritage Open Weekend, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September 2022 12noon-5pm – the 2-day family event would have a local history focus this year linking to the industry themed exhibition. The Village Hall would be transformed to a tea room.
- Opening times for forthcoming season – the Curators asked if the hours of opening would return to both Saturday and Sunday 1pm-4pm. **Councillors agreed to return to Saturday and Sunday opening.**
- Loan boxes – the Curators asked whether Councillors felt loan box service could start up again to schools and groups. **Councillors agreed the loan box service could start again taking necessary precautions.**
- Installation of monitor and shelving – these would be installed shortly to enable footage and slideshows to be displayed in the Smithy to complement events and the exhibition.

21.137 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Resolved to note the following:**

**Delegated**

**16 Walmesley Road**

Demolition of existing canopy and garage and the erection of a two storey side extension and a single storey rear extension

**N/O**

**23 Ellerslie Avenue**

Proposed two storey side extension

**N/O**

**2 Holme Close**

Two storey rear extension and single storey side/rear extension with porch to front following demolition of garage

**N/O**

**10 St Berthold Gate**

Works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order to fell 1no beech tree

**Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer**

**44 Pinfold Drive**

Erection of a front porch, replacement of cladding on the front and changing of a flat roof to a pitched roof to the rear

**N/O**

**108 Broadway**

Single storey side and rear extension with porch to front

**N/O**

Cllr G Pearl reported that the planning application on the former Eccleston Park Golf Course had been refused at St Helens Council’s Planning Committee meeting on 25 January 2022.

21.138 ACCOUNTS

**Resolved to note the following:**

**Receipts:** Village Hall Hire £449, RK PAYE £81.00, Interest 0.53

**Total Receipts** **£530.53**

**Payments**

GPS Telecoms – Clerk’s telephone Dec	37.27
ASL – photocopier service contract	80.27
BT – Smithy telephone	152.46
SSE – gas	162.28
J Chamberlain – February	175.58
V Griffiths – February	175.58
J Anderson – February + travel	1337.18
L Poole – February + bin bags for hall	385.62
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	481.18
NetWise UK – website maintenance	180.00
St Helens Council – cleaning Feb	388.00
Costco – membership renewal	26.40

**Total Payments** **£3581.82**

**RECONCILIATION** – The Clerk reported that as at 28 January 2022 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £52,956.61 and Capital Deposit Account £467.00.

<b>PETTY CASH</b> - Expenditure for the month of January 2022	£15.82
Balance at the end of January 2022	£7.37

21.139 CORRESPONDENCE

**Resolved to note the following:**

**Email from Royal British Legion** – ‘Planting a Tree for Jubilee’ – offering plaques to commemorate the planting of trees for the Queen’s Green Canopy project

**Telephone call from internal auditor** giving notice of termination of the role. He has recommended someone else to take over. The Clerk will be in contact to get further details.

Cllr Barton reported that she had carried out some family research after the recent enquiry received by Parish Council. She had forwarded the information but had had no reply.

Cllr Skepper reported that 14 trees had been planted on Kiln Lane open space.

21.140 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1 March 2022	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield	Village Hall
Tuesday 8 March 2022	7.00pm	Smithy	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

SIGNED ..... DATED .....