

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on
TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Johnson, Madine, C Pearl, G Pearl, V Taylor, N Taylor and Williams
J Anderson – Clerk
Paul Winstanley, St Helens Rotary and Ian Rimmer

22.53 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Cass, Haw and Spencer

22.54 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllrs G Pearl and Williams declared an interest in item 22.67 – Planning Applications

22.55 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12 JULY 2022

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

22.56 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

22.57 HERITAGE TRAIL

Paul Winstanley, from St Helens Rotary, and Ian Rimmer presented to the meeting details of a Heritage Trail across the Borough of St Helens. They had been working with St Helens Council to deliver the Heritage Trail. The project would include placing heritage plaques in each Ward. Each plaque would display a QR code giving the history of the Ward. Further possible discussions would take place as ideas progressed.

22.58 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

None.

22.59 POLICE REPORT

Copies of the crime figures for August were given to the meeting. The figures compared favourably with the previous year.

Cllr Williams informed the meeting that he had reported to Eccleston Police Station, cars parked on Walmesley Road car park late at night with car lights shining down Gunning Avenue.

Cllr Johnson reported recent break-ins along Portico Lane and also Water Tower Drive. Residents are encouraged to report any incidents to the police or Crimestoppers.

Cllr Sims would be meeting with police and would raise the issues.

22.60 VILLAGE HALL

a) new group started Monday evenings. Reiki healing group.

b) an estimate for a smart heating control had been obtained which was approximately £260 to supply and fit. The quote was accepted and it was agreed the Clerk would contact the plumber to arrange for the heating control to be replaced.

22.61 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Cllrs C Peal, G Pearl, V Taylor and N Talor would attend the Remembrance Service at St Helens Town Hall on Sunday 13 November at 11am.

Councillors Sims, Ashcroft, Madine, Johnson and Williams would attend the War Memorial on Sunday 13 November 2022 to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish. The time would be confirmed at the November Parish Council meeting. The gates would be opened for the day.

It was agreed the gates to the War Memorial would also be opened on Remembrance Day, Friday 11 November 2022.

22.62 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Eccleston Library would not be able to hold the event this year due to staffing issues. The Clerk was asked to contact the library to find out whether they still required a tree.

22.63 INSURANCE

Insurance for the year was £2774.96 which included Ecclesfield.

22.64 WEBSITE

It was agreed to upgrade the current basic package to standard package which would double the disk space to 1gb at a cost of £275 pa.

22.65 CHRIST CHURCH GRANT

Resolved that Christ Church, Eccleston be awarded a grant of £450 for work on their churchyard as budgeted.

22.66 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Ecclesfield – 6 Sept 2022 at 7pm in Eccleston Village Hall Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, C Pearl, G Pearl and Sims attended along with the Secretary. Report as follows:

- Windle PC's turn to appointment a Chair. The item was deferred until the December meeting to allow WPC to discuss further.
- Caretaker had reported that the changing rooms were open to players. He had carried out minor repairs. He reported there had been further vandalism to the storage container which the Secretary had reported to St Helens Council.
- BHR reported a pitch that had been marked incorrectly. The Secretary would contact St Helens Council.
- BHR had 400 youngsters signed up this season and would be willing to pay Ecclesfield Management Ctte for any loss of income to not allow other teams to hire the pitches. Councillors felt it was important that all children should be given opportunities to access the amenity for whatever sport and not restricted to one club.

Finance Sub Ctte – 11 October 2022, 6.30pm, Eccleston Village Hall Cllr Sims met with the Clerk. The current budget position was monitored, including the Smithy. The Clerk advised that gas and electricity may go over the budget as prices had increased since the budget was sent last December. There were no other issues to report.

Smithy – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators’ report and the following points were discussed:

- Unfortunately, the Heritage Weekend event had not taken place due to the period of national mourning after the death of Queen Elizabeth II.
- The Curators opened the Smithy for the planned extended hours over the weekend in case residents visited unaware the event had been cancelled.
- Next season’s exhibition, which would run from Easter 2023 until September 2023, would be items loaned from Knowsley archives which would tell the story of a Polish blacksmith, Stefan Skura.
- The Curators had assessed energy efficiency in the Smithy and Education Room. They calculated the lightbulbs in the Smithy were costing approximately £1.79 for the 8 hours the Smithy was open each weekend. They also reported that the dehumidifier in the Smithy was set on the efficiency setting.

22.67 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

31 Gorsey Croft

Part two storey /part single storey side and rear extension

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

Nursery, Mill Brow

Single storey rear extension

N/O

1 Selkirk Drive

Demolition of the existing store and the erection of a two storey side extension, along with dormer to front elevation, and retention of existing detached outbuilding

N/O

12 Sandfield Road

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

N/O

56 Forest Grove

Single storey rear extension to an existing garage

N/O

4 Seddon Close

Single storey side and rear wraparound extension with a front porch

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

39 Daresbury Road

Two storey side extension and garage conversion with glazed link building leading to proposed garden annexe

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

26 Elm Gove

Single storey side extension

N/O

17 Broom Close

Demolition of the existing conservatory and the erection of a single storey side and rear wraparound extension

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

111 Broadway

Single storey rear infill extension

N/O

32 Wokefield Way

First floor front extension along with a single storey side and rear extension

N/O

12 Chapel Lane

Works to 1no lime tree (T1) covered by TPO

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

Land at Millwood Avenue

Removal/variation of conditions 2 (updated plans) and 8 (bird box locations) on application P/2019/0654/FUL (subsequently amended by S73 - P/2021/0823/S73). Increase new fencing between playing field from 1800mm to 2100mm and confirm bird box locations

Ensure the number of nest boxes is at least equal to the numbers of house martin nests present before demolition

Valencia Stables

Erection of a detached Garage/Gym, Summer House/Log Store and the erection of a wall and gate

The application should be approved with conditions to prevent the garage and gym being used as a dwelling

3 Osborne Road

Single storey wraparound extension with front porch

N/O

72 Gorsey Croft

Single storey rear and side extension to form wraparound

N/O

1 Laurel Drive

Conversion of front and rear flat roofs to pitched roofs, garage conversion, and alterations to window and doors

N/O

19 Chapel Lane

Single storey side extension

N/O

Decisions:**134 Broadway**

Single storey side extension and side boundary fence

Refused 15/7/22

St James Church Hall

Application for approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscape and scale) from permission P/2021/0149/OUP for a residential development of 3 dwellinghouses and associated infrastructure

Granted 20/7/22

73 Clarkes Crescent

Single storey rear infill extension

Granted 1/8/22

22 Brooklands Road

Erection of 1no dwelling following demolition of existing dwellinghouse

Granted 15/8/22

3 Osborne Road

Two storey side extension, single storey front and single storey rear extension

Granted 15/8/22

26 Elm Grove

Single storey side extension

Granted 16/8/22

62 Springfield Lane

First floor rear extension, alterations to front porch, new front driveway gate and posts, alteration to existing rear single storey extension roof and rear dormer with the erection of free standing garden canopy and associated external alterations and landscaping

Granted 19/8/22

54 Millbrook Lane

Proposed single storey side and rear extension

Granted 26/8/22

39 Daresbury Road

Two storey side extension and garage conversion with glazed link building leading to proposed garden annexe

Granted 2/9/22

31 Gorseley Croft

Part two storey /part single storey side and rear extension

Granted 1/9/22

4 Seddon Close

Single storey side and rear wraparound extension with a front porch

Granted 31/8/22

17 Broom Close

Demolition of the existing conservatory and the erection of a single storey side and rear wraparound extension

Granted 16/9/22

111 Broadway

Single storey rear infill extension

Granted 21/9/22

Valencia Stables

Erection of a detached garage/gym, summer house/log store and the erection of a wall and gate

Refused 30/9/22

1A Sandfield Road

Demolition of an existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension

Granted 4/10/22

Appeal:

1 Oak Tree Road

Retention of shiplap fence above existing low-level wall to the front and side garden boundaries

22.68 ANNUAL AUDIT

The external audit report had been received with no issues raised. All documents had been published on the website as required.

22.69 ACCOUNTS

Received – Village Hall hire £1185; R Kelsey PAYE (July, Aug and Sept) £247.80; Windle phone and copier £80.26; HMRC Apr-Jun £387.92; NatWest Interest June 0.04 and 6.28; July 0.04 and 6.94; Aug 0.04 and £7.43; Smithy stalls £20; Cadent Gas compensation payment for no gas supply £145.00; Ecclesfield insurance £254.82; NatWest compensation payment for delay and inconvenience in adding signatories to the account £250.00.

Total Receipts

£2,591.57

Payments

BT – Smithy phone and internet	167.28
SSE – gas	17.76
SSE – electricity	314.53
Chubb Fire and Security Ltd – fire equipment service inc refill	204.43
St Helens Council – elections May 2022	4941.34
Water Plus – August	22.91
GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone – July	43.31
ASL – photocopier – service	68.51
L Poole – August	480.90
V Griffiths – August	179.17
J Chamberlain – August	179.17
J Anderson – August + travel	1380.18
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	490.80
Water Plus – Sept	22.91
V Griffiths – Sept	179.17
L Poole – Sept	432.70
J Chamberlain – Sept plus expenditure	185.12
J Anderson – Sept – Smithy vouchers	1417.68
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	490.80
HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE and NI July-Sept	1454.59
C Barber – VH grounds maintenance x 4 visits	320.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP – external audit	360.00
J Anderson – poppy wreath	20.00
SSE – gas	9.99
GPS Telecoms – Clerk phone Aug	39.83
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance – including Ecclesfield	2774.96
SSE – gas	9.99
CF Corporate – copier lease	93.60
Water Plus – Oct	22.91
L Poole – October	432.90
V Griffiths – October	179.17
J Chamberlain – October	179.17
J Anderson – October + travel	1377.68
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	490.80
Ecclesfield Project – second half contribution	1749.50
Christ Church PCC – churchyard grant	450.00*
Total	£21183.76

* Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections S214 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries.

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that, as at **25 July 2022**, the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £85,527.87 and Capital Deposit Account £467.13.

As at **30 August 2022**, the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £78,255.14 and Capital Deposit Account £467.17.

As at **30 September 2022** the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £74,450.27 and Capital Deposit Account £467.21.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the months of August and September 2022	£9.95
Approximate balance at the end of September 2022	£15.17

INTERNAL AUDIT – the accounts were audited for the end of the first quarter with nothing to report.

BANK MANDATE – NatWest confirmed the mandate had been updated to include new signatories and had removed Councillors no longer serving. As a way of compensation for the length of time the process had taken, NatWest had credited Eccleston Parish Council with £250 towards community activities.

22.70 CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from St Helens MBC – Community Governance Review consultation 3 October – 30 December. Views could be reported through the online survey – www.sthelens.gov.uk/election/cgr
- Email from St Helens MBC – draft local cycling and walking infrastructure plan. Views being sought www.sthelens.gov.uk/activetravel

22.71 DATES OF MEETINGS

Tuesday 8 November 2022	7.00pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

SIGNED

DATED