

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2023 at 7.30pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Johnson, C Pearl, G Pearl, N Taylor and Williams
Janet Anderson (Clerk)

22.101 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr V Taylor

22.102 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl Item 22.110 – Planning Applications.

22.103 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10 JANUARY 2023

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

22.104 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

22.105 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

a) The fence at Mill Brow had been damaged and knocked down. The Clerk had contacted St Helens Council to check whether anyone had reported colliding with it. No reports had been received. The Clerk would contact the insurance company to see if a claim could be made.

b) A resident from Oak Tree Road had contacted the Clerk to report that water supplies in the road had been disrupted 12 times in 5 months. The Clerk contacted United Utilities who explained that pressure surges were causing pipes to burst and they were attempting to resolve the issue. The Clerk had updated the resident.

c) A resident had contacted the Clerk to report that areas of grass in Hawthorn Drive had not been cut at the end of last season and were now overgrown. The Clerk reported it to St Helens Council, who replied informing that the land did not belong to St Helens Council, that it was owned privately. The resident had asked if Parish Council would cut the grass. Councillors agreed that Parish Council could not cut the grass as it was privately owned. The Clerk would inform the resident.

22.106 POLICE REPORT

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

22.107 OPEN SPACES

Cllrs Sims and G Pearl along with the Clerk had met with Trevor Nicoll, St Helens Council on 11 January 2023 to discuss the costs being charged to Parish Council to maintain of the open spaces. Mr Nicoll would like to know the Parish Council's intention for each open space and the maintenance required. A discussion took place and it was decided to ask St Helens Council to continue with the maintenance for the next 12 months. The Clerk was asked to inform St Helens Council and get confirmation that a service level agreement would be for 12 months only. The Clerk would also request a meeting with the grounds maintenance team to discuss the work required.

22.108 PARISH MAGAZINE

All articles received had been included in the magazine. Councillors were given a draft copy to check at the meeting before the magazine goes to the printers on Friday 17 February. Councillors were happy with the draft copy and thanked the Clerk for the work.

22.109 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

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

- New exhibition – the Curators were organising the loan of ephemera relating to Stefan Skura from the Knowsley Archives.
- Polish School – Joanne had met with the head of John Paul II Polish school to discuss potential link ups with the exhibition and the school. The school may be able to join one of the Smithy events to help with some traditional Polish crafts.
- Second Part of Exhibition – this would be more of a general WW2 theme which would put the story of Stefan Skura into context.
- Opening – the Smithy would open on Saturday 8 April 2023.

Trains – Cllr Johnson had received complaints regarding the cancellation of trains on the Liverpool to Blackpool line. Cllr Johnson would investigate and possibly make contact with Merseyside Passenger Travel.

22.110 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

46 Gunning Avenue

Single storey rear extension along with a single storey side extension

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

21 Howards Lane

Erection of a front dormer

N/O

121 Portico Lane

Conversion of existing detached garage into a home office with wc and rear store

N/O

Decisions

11 Ansdell Drive

Single storey rear extension with raised decking

Granted 26/1/23

72 Old Lane

Single storey side extension

Granted 31/1/23

Appeal – 134 Broadway, Resubmission of P/2022/0353/HHFP for a single storey side extension and side boundary fence.

22.111 ACCOUNTS

Resolved to note the following:

Receipts: Village Hall Hire £415, HMRC £173.41, RK PAYE £82.60, WPC phone/copier £56.24.

Total Receipts **£727.25**

Payments:

GPS Telecoms – Clerk’s telephone Dec	40.36
SSE – gas	266.52
SSE – electricity	1457.60
BT – Smithy telephone	166.14
Water Plus – water	29.88
J Chamberlain – February	179.17
V Griffiths – February	179.17
L Poole – February	432.90
J Anderson – February + back pay + grit salt	2010.06
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	774.09
R Kelsey – February	330.35
Costco – membership renewal	26.40
NetWise UK – website maintenance	330.00
GPS Telecoms – telephone Jan	40.66
BT – Smithy telephone	166.14
Total Payments	£6263.30

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that as at 30 January 2023 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £56,215.60 and Capital Deposit Account £468.02.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of January 2023	£0.00
Balance at the end of January 2023	£13.80

The internal audit had been carried out with nothing to report.

22.112 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- Two complaints had been received from groups using the Village Hall. The bins had not been emptied, rubbish had been left on the floor and the floor had not been cleaned. Toilets also were not clean. The regular cleaner, employed by St Helens Council, had been on holiday and a replacement should have been sent. The Clerk had contact St Helens Council to report the complaints. This was the second time this had happened when the usual cleaner had been on holiday. Cllr Sims would contact St Helens Council.
- An email had been received from St Helens Council requesting details of any events the Parish may be organising for the King’s Coronation.

22.113 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7 March 2023	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield	Village Hall
Tuesday 14 March 2023	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

SIGNED DATED