

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held
TUESDAY 11 APRIL 2023 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE

PRESENT: Cllr Sims – Chair
Cllrs Johnson, C Pearl and G Pearl
Janet Anderson – Clerk

22.129 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Ashcroft, Cass, Spencer, N Taylor and V Taylor

22.130 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl Item 22.140 – Planning Applications.

22.131 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14 MARCH 2023

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

22.132 MATTERS ARISING

Ref 22.118 – Cllr Sims had replied to the resident.

22.133 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

None

22.134 POLICE REPORT

Cllr Johnson questioned the nil figure for drugs offences last year and this year. Cllr Sims would raise issues with the Inspector when she next met him.

22.135 REPORTS

Ecclesfield – Tuesday 28 March 2023 Cllrs G Pearl and C Pearl attended along with the Clerk.

The following items were discussed:

- A wheelie bin had been set on fire on the tarmac outside the changing rooms. Bob would like the area to be fenced off. Councillors agreed to consider some options and discuss again at the June meeting.
- Pitch fees – agreed to refer to Parish Councils.
- Budget was agreed with pitch fees to be considered in June.

Football Foundation – grass pitch grants The Clerk attended a webinar held by the Football Foundation on 15 March 2023, giving information about their grass pitch grants now available to Town and Parish Councils.

- 10-year maintenance plan.
- 6-year grant if criteria is met - £3,200 for 11v11 for first 2 years tapering over the 6 years.
- FF pay 100% for years 1 and 2, then 67% for years 3 and 4, 33% for years 5 and 6 then Parish would have to pay full amount for years 7-10 to maintain the standard.

- A pitch inspection report would have to be submitted with permission from land owner – taking photographs, measurements of where grass meets soil. Inspections to take place twice a year.

22.136 OPEN SPACES

- (a) An email from St Helens Council had been received asking whether Parish Council would consider managing the container. This would mean insuring it, repairing any vandalism and paying any possible rates. **It was decided Parish Council could not manage the container as it belonged to St Helens Council.**
- (b) An email had been received from St Helens Council's Parks and Street Care team in response to an email sent by Parish Council enquiring about hawthorn hedges being laid. The team had not known a hawthorn hedge to die due to regular pruning. Any request for laying the hedge would need to be quoted for.

22.137 ECCLESFIELD PITCH FEES

In December, at the Ecclesfield budget meeting, it was decided that the fees would remain the same but since then the charges for maintaining the field had been introduced. At March's Ecclesfield meeting it was decided to re-visit the cost of hiring the pitches to be reported at June's Ecclesfield meeting.

It was decided to find out the costs St Helens Council was charging before making any further decisions.

22.138 DEFIBRILLATORS

Cllr Haw had installed the new pads on 27 March 2023 which expire on 21 February 2026. Battery dates expire: Village Hall – July 2025 and Ecclesfield – August 2025.

22.139 MILL BROW FENCE

The Clerk had obtained a second quote, thanks to the firm Cllr Johnson supplied details for. The claim had been sent to the insurance company on 27 March 2023 who had paid £640 into Parish Council's bank account. This was based on the most competitive quote of £890 less £250 excess.

22.140 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Wellington Hotel

Construction of a new open framed timber pergola and a covered timber pergola with polycarbonate roof, along with new fence to rear elevation and other alterations

N/O

Valencia Stables

Change of use of land from agricultural use to garden attached to property

Ensure not used for business

69 Brookside Avenue

Single storey rear extension and part garage conversion

N/O

5 Brookside Avenue

Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of a part two storey, part single storey side and rear extension

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

24 Albany Avenue

Single storey rear extension and canopy roof to side elevation

N/O

6 St Berthold Gate

Works to various trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

Decisions

57 Springfield Lane

Erection of 1no dwelling following demolition of existing dwellinghouse, with new front gate with landscaping and associated works

Granted 15/3/23

8 St Berthold Gate

Single storey rear extension

Granted 20/3/23

Portico Vine ARLFC

Installation of 11no. floodlights mounted on 6no. 10 metre columns, and 1no. floodlight mounted on 1no. 5 metre column

Granted 30/3/23

31 The Meads

Works to 4no trees (T11-T14) covered by TPO

Granted 30/3/23

39 Mill Brow

Prior approval for a single storey rear extension, projecting 3.48m from the rear, 3.59m in height and 2.27m at the eaves

Approval not required 27/3/23

22.141 ACCOUNTS

Resolved to note the following:

Received: Village Hall Hire £504, RK Salary + PAYE £412.95, Windle phone £10.80, NatWest interest £37.33 and 0.32 – Feb and £40.92 and 0.40 - Mar, Hiscox Insurance (Mill Brow fence) £640

Total Receipts	£1605.40
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Payments:

V Griffiths – Smithy expenditure	233.45
J Chamberlain – Smithy expenditure	19.00
SSE – gas	135.67
J Anderson – pads for defibrillators + Village Hall keys	71.58
HMRC – PAYE and NI Jan-Mar	1899.01
R Kelsey – April	347.00
V Griffiths – April	194.10
J Chamberlain – April	188.17
L Poole – April + expenditure	464.36
J Anderson – April + PC	1462.81
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	558.30
C Barber – VH grounds maintenance	320.00
PC Print – printing Parish magazines	897.00
Mitchells Industrial Services – unblocked drains	120.00
SLCC – membership	165.20

A Roberts – internal audit 22/23	175.00
Ecclesfield Project – first ½ contribution	4195.00
Water Plus	29.88
St Helens Council – trade waste 23/24 plus open space leases	442.57
Total Payments	£11918.10

RECONCILIATION – the Clerk reported that as at 31 March 2023 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £44,296.73 and Capital Deposit Account £469.07.

PETTY CASH – Expenditure for the month of March 2023	£17.04
Approximate balance at the end of March 2023	£-3.24

22.142 CORRESPONDENCE

- Someone had asked to book a party which would include a pony on site. It would not be ridden, just petted and photos taken. Councillors agreed as long as the owner had relevant insurance cover.
- **Email from SSE energy provider** – Parish Council not eligible for Energy Bill Relief Scheme to help businesses manage as Parish Council was already on a fixed rate contract.
- **Email from PKF Littlejohn**, external auditors for the next 5 years – to 2026/27.
- **St Helens Council** – non-domestic rate demand – nil until 31 March 2024.
- **Email St Helens Council** – there would be a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at polling stations. Would apply from May 2023 although there were no elections due to take place in St Helens until May 2024.
- **Email St Helens Council** – as part of the Borough of Culture, St Helens Council would be holding ‘One Amazing Day’ on Saturday 29 April 2023 in Church Square 10.30am-5pm with the Amazing Parade at 2.15pm.

22.143 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 25 April 2023	7.30 pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 9 May 2023	7.00pm	Smithy	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

SIGNED DATED