

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2023 at 7.30 pm
in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston

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

23.25 **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Haw and Madine

23.26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in Item 23.32 – Planning Applications.

23.27 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9 MAY 2023**

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

23.28 **MATTERS ARISING**

None

23.29 **RESIDENTS' ISSUES**

None

23.30 **POLICE REPORT**

Crime figures had been received. Cllr Johnson raised concern about groups gathering on and around the land that was Eccleston Park Golf Club and the issues that was causing. The building had been boarded up after a recent break in. The police had been called. Residents felt that the whole site had become a danger to residents and their visitors. After the golf club had been sold, the land was now owned by the developer even though part of the company had gone into administration. Cllr Sims explained that issues had been reported to St Helens Borough Council.

23.31 **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:

- Blacksmith's Day had been a huge success.
- The new exhibition about Stefan Skura had been well received.
- The Curators were part of St Helens Council's Heritage Steering Group and as part of the Borough of Culture events, Vicky had attended the Heritage Festival.
- Culture Grant – the Smithy had received a grant of £398.16 towards Heritage Open Weekend events. It would be used to offer free crafts to visitors making floral garlands and Polish pysanky eggs.
- Heritage Open Weekend, 16 and 17 September 12noon-5pm.

23.32 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

Applications

1C Albany Avenue

First-floor front extension, re-roof and convert existing garage and single storey side extension

N/O

6 Heath Close

Single storey rear extension

Ensure it does not intrude on neighbouring properties

Valencia Stables

Change of use of land from agricultural use to garden attached to property (re-submission of P/2023/0113/FUL)

Ensure there is no effect on the greenbelt

38 Gunning Avenue

Single storey rear extension and rear dormer

Ensure it does not overlook neighbouring properties

Decisions

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

Granted 4/5/23

69 Brookside Avenue

Single storey rear extension and part garage conversion

Granted 5/5/23

5 Brookside Avenue

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

Granted 18/5/23

24 Albany Avenue

Single storey rear extension and canopy roof to side elevation

Granted 19/5/23

54 Millbrook Lane

Single storey side and rear extension

Granted 18/5/23

6 St Berthold Gate

Works to various trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order

Refused 22/5/23

Catchdale Moss Farm

Certificate of lawfulness for the following: use of buildings 5 and 6 on drawing reference D (appended to this decision) for the purposes of storage and repair of machinery and items ancillary to a commercial landscaping contracting business (sui generis) for a continuous period in excess of 10 years. The conversion and use of building 1 for offices used in conjunction with the commercial landscaping contracting business (sui generis) operated from the site for a continuous period in excess of 10 years. The erection of 9no 6m high timber lighting poles, as detailed on drawing reference C (appendix to this decision). Erection of building on drawing reference D (appended to this decision), used for agricultural purposes and completed in excess of 4 years prior to the date of this decision. (Amended description)

Granted 9/6/23

15 Chapel Lane

Single storey rear extension and partial garage conversion

Granted 6/6/23

23.33 ST JAMES WITH ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH GRANT

After discussion, a vote was taken and by 6 votes to 2 it was resolved that St James with St Matthews be awarded a grant of £150 for work on their garden of remembrance as budgeted.

23.34 CHRIST CHURCH GRANT

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

23.35 SCHOOL PRIZES

After discussion, it was agreed that the 4 schools in the Parish, St Julie, Eccleston Mere, Eccleston Lane Ends and De la Salle, be given £50 towards merit prizes for pupils. The Clerk would inform the school not in the Parish, Bleak Hill School, that unfortunately the Parish Council would not be donating this year.

23.36 OPEN SPACES

Cllr Johnson asked whether the Parish was able to help with the demands for allotments and the increase in prices for rent and water. As there were no allotments within the Parish, the Council would not be able to offer help.

Cllr Cass asked how often the grass verges were cut. The verges were not part of the Parish Council's maintenance programme for open spaces.

Cllr Williams joined the meeting apologising for late attendance.

23.37 VILLAGE HALL

(a) the Monday evening group could only do one evening per month. This had been agreed with the group unless another user group booked to use it weekly. The Wednesday class may also want to change to once a month. Same conditions would apply.

(b) A new group had started on Wednesdays 12pm-5pm, Phonic Friends for toddlers.

(c) A mobile phone had been purchased for the caretaker which would require £10 top-up each month. The Clerk would pay, then claim back each month.

23.38 MONITORING OF VILLAGE HALL CRACKS

A report from the structural engineer stated that current movement was negligible. The building was in no danger and continued to be safe for use and would remain so for the immediate future. It was recommended that monitoring should continue each year.

23.39 ACCOUNTS

Received: Village Hall £964, RK Salary + PAYE £433.60, Nat West interest Apr £48.41 and 0.37, May £69.58 and 0.46, Windle PC phone and copier £33.86, Blacksmith's Day £858.95

Total Receipts **£2409.23**

Payments:

Water Plus	29.88
GPS Telecoms – Clerk’s phone	45.12
SSE – gas	95.59
Water Plus	29.88
J Chamberlain – June + expenditure	269.41
V Griffiths – June	188.17
L Poole – June	459.36
J Anderson – June + PC + phone top-ups	1488.21
R Kelsey – June	347.00
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	558.30
HMRC – PAYE and NI Apr-June	1562.48
Tatton Brewery – amended order	5.50
Red Bank Cider for Blacksmith’s Day	201.00
C Barber – VH grounds maintenance x 4 visits	320.00
P Gregson – demo x 2 Blacksmith’s Day	300.00
P Keary – demo Blacksmith’s Day	150.00
De La Salle School pupil prizes	50.00*
Eccleston Lane Ends School pupil prizes	50.00*
St Julie School pupil prizes	50.00*
Eccleston Mere Primary School pupil prizes (paid to St Helens Council)	50.00*
St James with St Matthews – garden of remembrance grant	150.00**
Christ Church – graveyard grant	450.00**
Lawrenson Associates – monitoring of VH cracks	178.50

Total Payments **£7028.40**

* 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.

** 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 31 May 2023 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £70,576.95 and Capital Deposit Account £469.90.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of May 2023	£10.75
Balance at the end of May 2023	£2.48

23.40 CORRESPONDENCE **Noted**

- Email from DAC Planning on behalf of St Helens Council inviting all parish councils to an online planning workshop. Wednesday 28 June from 6.30pm-8.00pm.

23.41 DATES OF MEETINGS

Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 11 July 2023	7.00 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SIGNED DATED