

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2024 at 7.30pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE**

PRESENT: Cllr Sims (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Haw, Johnson, C Pearl, G Pearl, Spencer and Williams
1 resident
Janet Anderson (Clerk)

23.123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Cass, N Taylor and V Taylor

23.124 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr G Pearl Item 23.131 – Planning Applications.

23.125 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9 JANUARY 2024

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

23.126 MATTERS ARISING

None.

23.127 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The resident attending the meeting reported that some litter bins had been replaced in the area but not the one on Watery Lane. Cllr Sims explained that this was ongoing.

The resident felt that with Councils across the country considering banning pavement parking they should include grass verges.

Cllr Ashcroft advised that it would be the Minister for Transport that would deal with pavement parking.

The resident also asked if there had been any update on the blocked drains on Church Lane. He added that utility companies were responsible for highway repairs for up to 2 years after works had disrupted the highway. Councillors had no update on the grids.

23.128 POLICE REPORT

The latest crime figures had been requested but not received.

23.129 PARISH MAGAZINE

Draft copies of the magazine were passed to Councillors. All articles had now been included. The magazine would be going to print on Friday 16 February. A quote of £907 for 4300 40-page booklet was approved.

23.130 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Lester Drive Centre, 29 January 2024 – Cllrs G Pearl and C Pearl attended the Committee meeting. Obtaining grants to carry out necessary redecoration was discussed. A food bank had been set up in the garage at Lester Drive with approximately 40-45 people receiving food.

Lester Drive meeting, 7 February 2024 – Cllrs Sims and G Pearl along with the Clerk met with the Chair and Secretary of Lester Drive Centre to discuss the ownership of the buildings and land at the Centre. The land was registered to Eccleston Parish Council but had been purchased by the Lester Drive Centre. Also, the role of Eccleston Parish Council as Custodian Trustee was discussed. Councillors were required to attend meetings to oversee the running of the Centre.

23.131 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

High Tree, Holme Close

Construction of pool and pool house within existing curtilage of property. Removal of 2no trees

Concern at the loss of trees

St Berthold Gate

Works to 2no beech trees (T1T2) covered by TPO

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

5 Chapel Lane

Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a single storey rear extension, part garage conversion, part first floor side extension with full reroof, single storey front porch and increased width of the access to the driveway

N/O

9 Church Lane

Works to 1no willow tree covered by TPO

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

6 Chantry Gate

Works to 1no ash tree (T12) covered by Tree Preservation Order to remove overhanging branches

Refer to Trees and Woodlands Officer

Decisions

1C Albany Avenue

Amendments to front boundary wall and new electric gate

Granted 26/1/24

67 Springfield Lane

Erection of porch

Granted 23/1/24

74 Rainhill Road

Erection of garage to rear garden

Granted 1/2/24

23.132 ACCOUNTS

Resolved to note the following:

Received: Village Hall Hire £220; HMRC £2,439.26; RK Salary + PAYE £433.60; WPC phone £10.50; interest 0.62 and £90.10.

Total Receipts

£3,194.08

Payments

Water Plus – water Jan	33.22
GPS Telecoms – Clerk’s telephone Dec	42.48
BT – Smithy telephone	190.80
CF Corporate – copier lease	76.80
Water Plus – water Feb	33.22
R Kelsey – February	347.00
L Poole – February	459.36

J Chamberlain – February	188.17
J Anderson – February + top up voucher	1469.34
V Griffiths – February	188.17
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	558.30
Costco – membership renewal	26.40
St Helens Council – open space maintenance £4187.61 and VH cleaning £1281.60	5469.21
Netwise UK – website maintenance	330.00
C Barber – VH grounds maintenance	80.00
Total Payments	£9492.47

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that as at 31 January 2024 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £66,165.01 and Capital Deposit Account £474.30.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of January 2024	£6.00
Balance at the end of January 2024	£19.23

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

23.133 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- A resident contacted the Clerk to say that she had contacted St Helens Council and the shops at Walmesley Road to suggest planters on the pavement where it was wide enough. St Helens Council had quoted £470 for the pots, plants and watering for 12 months. She was going to try to raise the funds through businesses/sponsorship.
- Email from St Helens Council to confirm that the tax base for the precept had gone up to 3920 from 3911 that was originally provided.
- Email from St Helens Council confirming the outcome of the Community Governance Review – confirming that Ellerslie Ward would come under Rainhill Parish Council and the Councillor would move to West Ward; Foxwood Ward would remain in Eccleston Parish Council. Changes would take place from the next elections in May 2026.
- Letter from solicitors asking if land at Lester Drive Centre registered to Parish Council could be purchased.

23.134 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5 March 2024	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield Man Ctte	Village Hall
Tuesday 12 March 2024	7.00pm	Smithy	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

SIGNED

DATED