

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024 at 7.30pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, KILN LANE**

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

23.135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Haw, Johnson and V Taylor

23.136 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Williams Item 23.143 – Lester Drive and Cllr G Pearl Item 23.145 – Planning Applications

23.137 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 FEBRUARY 2024

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

23.138 MATTERS ARISING

None.

23.139 RESIDENTS' ISSUES

The resident attending the meeting updated the meeting on the blocked drains in Church Lane. He reported that he had contacted United Utilities who inspected the grids and said the blockage was in the grids. He then reported it to St Helens Council who sent a road sweeper to the drains but the blockage had not been cleared. He reported this again to St Helens Council who had the grids emptied and reported the problem resolved.

The resident reported that St Helens Council were going to put a 'No Parking' sign on the grass verge on Millfields. He reported to the meeting that he had spoken to St Helens Council regarding an abandoned car parked on the road near the grass verge and was awaiting a call back from the Council. Cllr Ashcroft informed the meeting that it was the Council's responsibility to remove any abandoned cars from roads.

23.140 POLICE REPORT

The latest crime figures had been requested but not received.

23.141 REPORTS

Resolved to note the following:

Smithy meeting, 9 April 2024, 7pm – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report for April.

The following points were discussed:

- The Smithy had opened for the new season with the exhibition 'Keeping up Appearances' displaying post-war fashion.
- Chairs – the Curators had asked if there was anywhere to store the blue chairs from the Education Room. **It was agreed to hold a Smithy Sub Cttee to discuss this further.**
- Blacksmith's Day – Saturday 18 May, 12 noon. The usual craftspeople had been booked for 12pm to 5pm and real ales and cider would be sold from 12pm to 6pm.

- Roof Issues – the Curators had reported some loose tiles and mortar as well as blocked gutters. **It was agreed to discuss at the Smithy Sub Cttee meeting that would be arranged.**

23.142 COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

Mr John Hemus had applied for co-option. **It was agreed to invite Mr Hemus to the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 14 May at 7.30pm for Councillors to meet him and for him to see how Parish Council works.**

23.143 LESTER DRIVE

A solicitor's letter had been received asking if land on the north side of Lester Drive Centre could be purchased. The land had been registered to Ecclestone Parish Council although it was purchased by Ecclestone Old People's Welfare Committee through the Parish Council. **It was agreed unanimously not to sell the land.**

23.144 OFFICE LAPTOP

The office laptop had developed a critical error when shutting down. **It was agreed to purchase a new laptop and Microsoft Office software.**

23.145 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Resolved to note the following:

Delegated

31 Howards Lane

Part single storey, part two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, alterations to the garage and reconfiguration of windows, replacement porch, creation of basement, removal of a chimney flue, application of external render and associated works

N/O

44 The Avenue

Single storey rear extension and front porch along with first floor side extension

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

3 Nicholl Road

Single storey lean-to side extension and front porch

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

53A Broadway

Two storey side extension

N/O

Early Leaners Nursery, Mill Brow

Single storey side extension

N/O

158 Broadway

Part two storey, part single storey side extension, single storey rear extension and garage conversion

Ensure sufficient off-street parking

Decisions – noted

66 Springfield Lane

Demolition of conservatory with increase in ridge above garage and side extension with two front dormers and rooflights, side dormer and additional windows to front and bi fold doors to rear with additional rooflights; render to all elevations

Granted 27/2/24

High Trees, Holme Close

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

Refused 27/2/24

8 Nottingham Close

Single storey side and rear extension

Granted 4/3/24

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

Granted 14/3/24

9 Church Lane

Works to 1no willow tree covered by TPO

Granted 23/3/24

6 Chantry Gate

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

Granted 19/3/24

23.146 ACCOUNTS**Resolved to note the following:**

Received: – (March) Village Hall Hire £407, RK Salary + PAYE £433.60, NatWest interest 0.55 and £73.58, WPC phone and copier £33.76

Total Receipts

£948.49

Payments:

GPS Telecom – clerk’s phone/internet	44.74
Leaflet Distribution Services Ltd – magazine delivery	594.00
Water Plus – water	33.22
St Helens Council –open space maintenance £4187.62 and VH cleaning £1281.60	5469.22
PC Print – magazines	907.00
Golden Hygiene – washroom services	435.46
L Poole – March	459.36
J Chamberlain – March + expenditure	230.94
V Griffiths – March	187.97
R Kelsey – March	346.80
J Anderson – March + expenditure	1481.33
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	558.30

Total Payments

£10748.34

RECONCILIATION – The Clerk reported that as at 29 February 2024 the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £57,842.24 and Capital Deposit Account £474.85.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of February 2024

£0.00

Approximate balance at the end of February 2024

£19.23

Received: – (April) Village Hall Hire £761, RK Salary + PAYE £433.60 , Windle phone £13.72, NatWest interest £59.55 and 0.53

Total Receipts

£1268.40

Payments:

HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE and NI Jan-Mar	1535.62
V Griffiths – Smithy expenditure	327.80
GPS Telecom – phone	49.38
Ecclesfield Project – first ½ contribution and first ½ grounds maintenance	4830.50

A Roberts – internal audit 23/24	175.00
SLCC – membership	166.60
V Griffiths – April	197.72
J Chamberlain – April + expenditure	301.07
L Poole – April + expenditure	505.75
J Anderson – April + PC	1546.37
R Kelsey – April	364.83
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	586.22
C Barber – Village Hall grounds maintenance x 3	240.00
St Helens Council – trade waste £472.86 and leases £9.50	482.18
Total Payments	£11309.04

RECONCILIATION – the Clerk reported that as at 31 March 2024 the balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £46,493.71 and Capital Deposit Account £475.38.

PETTY CASH – Expenditure for the month of March 2024	£6.00
Approximate balance at the end of March 2024	£13.23

23.147 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note the following:

- **St Helens Council** – non-domestic rate demand – nil until 31 March 2025

23.148 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23 April 2024	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm
14 May 2024	Parish Council	7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

SIGNED

DATED