

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2018 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Ecclestone

PRESENT: Cllr G Pearl (Chair)
Cllrs Ashcroft, Broughton, Duncan, Gray-Williams, Haw, Kempell, C Pearl, Sims and Skepper
Janet Anderson (Clerk)
2 residents

APOLOGIES:

17.149 Cllr Watmough

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

17.150 Cllr G Pearl declared an interest in item 17.157 – Planning Applications

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13 MARCH 2018

17.151 **Resolved that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

MATTERS ARISING

17.152 None

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

17.153 One resident asked whether the pharmacy would be moving when the medical centre moved to the new location. Cllr Pearl did not know but would let the resident know as soon as anything was known.

A resident reported that some staff from businesses and shops at Walmesley Road parked their cars on the car park all day even though a short stay car park notice was displayed. Cllr Sims informed the resident that the notice was an advisory notice issued by St Helens Council. As it was not a Traffic Regulation Order it was not enforceable. The police would get involved if there was an obstruction.

POLICE REPORT

17.154 No one had been able to attend from the police.

ECCLESFIELD CAR PARK

17.155 Cllr Pearl informed the meeting that at the last Ecclesfield Management Committee meeting a decision had been taken to keep the car park to the changing rooms at Walmesley Road closed because of security issues. As no suitable solution could be agreed at the last Parish Council meeting the car park had remained locked.

Cllr Haw felt it had become a major safety issue and reported traffic congestion as a result of people parking cars on Walmesley Road, Broadway and the surrounding areas. He said that on one occasion the bus had been unable to get past parked cars for at least 45 minutes. He also reported that he had received many emails and telephone calls from residents annoyed at not being able to use Ecclesfield car park. Cllr Haw made the suggestion that he would take responsibility for opening and locking the car park chain each day.

Cllr Pearl asked each Councillor for their opinion.

Cllr Ashcroft explained that the car park was not an overflow car park and a car park had been a condition of the planning permission for the changing rooms. Cllr Ashcroft said that in more than 5 years that she had been on Ecclesfield Management Ctte there had been problems with the chain being left off. She explained that shopkeepers had been offered the key to the chain to enable them to park their cars on the car park during the day but no-one would take responsibility of opening and closing each day. Cllr Ashcroft suggested it should remain closed.

Both Cllrs Skepper and Duncan agreed that the car park was not intended for shopkeepers or shoppers and that it should remain locked.

Cllr Kempself had sympathy with the parking problems and was concerned that if the bus was unable to get through the route may be removed. He backed Cllr Haw and would assist in the opening and locking in Cllr Haw's absence.

Cllr Gray-Williams agreed that it should be opened as extra parking for a trial period.

Cllr C Pearl agreed that as the space was not being used during the day it would help to relieve the parking problems. It should be given a trial period.

Cllr Sims explained to the meeting that the issue of parking at Walmesley Road had been one of the most talked about issues for the Parish Council. She explained that the layby in front of the shops was to be used by shopkeepers to unload until lunchtime. Shopkeepers had, in the past, been offered a key to open and close Ecclesfield car park to enable them to park their cars during the day. This would then leave space on St Helens Council's car park for shoppers. This had also been offered to the library and the nursery. Unfortunately this suggestion had not been taken up. There had been a suggestion of a hedge around the field. Cllr Sims explained that there used to be a hedge but it had been decimated on several occasions. The hedge had attracted gangs to hang around the back of the houses. Cllr Sims had received complaints from people that the chain was being left off overnight on some occasions. She explained that the chain had originally been a request from the police to prevent access to the field by quad bikes and vehicles. The car park was the responsibility of Ecclesfield Management Ctte comprising of Eccleston and Windle Parish Councillors. The cost of re-surfacing the car park would be down to the Parish Council and Ecclesfield Management Committee. Cllr Sims suggested the item be referred back to Ecclesfield Management Ctte.

Cllr Broughton explained that one shopkeeper had been issued the key to open and close the chain but she felt that there was more than one key in circulation. She explained another problem was that cars were parking on the car park until late into the evening

because the chain had been regularly left off over night. Cllr Broughton felt the chain should be left locked as it was difficult to police the car park.

Cllr Haw added that he had received emails and had, he considered, been verbally abused regarding the decision that had been made by Ecclesfield Management Committee to keep the car park closed. He would direct any further complaints to Ecclesfield Management Ctte and the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the proposal of Cllr Haw opening and closing the car park daily would be referred to Ecclesfield Management Committee.

Cllr Haw left the meeting.

REPORTS

17.156 **Resolved to note the following:**

Finance Sub Ctte – 10 April 2018, 6.45pm. Cllrs Duncan, G Pearl, Sims and Skepper along with the Clerk met to review income and expenditure at the end of year. Over the year, expenditure was under budget. All figures were noted. Village Hall income was slightly up on the budgeted figure. No user groups were in arrears.

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

- **Vision of Another World** – Curators reported this year's exhibition would have a science fiction theme with Mark Olly loaning a large amount of objects.
- **Alarm and telephone line** – there had been a problem with the alarm because of a faulty telephone line. BT had rectified the problem.
- **Smithy-con** – for Heritage Open Weekend, 8/9 September, the Smithy would be hosting its version of a Comic-con event. Curators were organising a themed table top sale with approximately 20 stalls. A licence would cost £65.
- **Great Ecclestone Bake-off** – would take place on Sunday 9 September with a new category of best decorated cake.
- **Apple Day** – Saturday 22 September – along with apple crafts and activities there would be a demonstration of apple pressing and a chance to taste freshly pressed apple juice.
- **Roof** – to be repaired Wednesday 11 April 2018.
- **Any Other Business** – None

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

17.157 **Resolved to note the following:**

Delegated

14 Forest Grove	Single storey rear extension along with a flat to pitched roof over the existing garage and front porch N/O
29 Barrowfield Rd	Single storey rear and side extension N/O
4 Ackers Lane	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension; conversion and alterations to existing garage along with erection of rear flat roof dormer N/O
87 Foxwood	Erection of a single storey side and rear extension Ensure sufficient off street parking

Holmewood Erection of 1no 4 bedroom dwelling on land adjacent to Holmewood
**N/O providing no trees under TPO were removed and that the design
reflects the area ie there is no architectural imbalance.**

ACCOUNTS

17.158

Received: Village Hall Hire £546, RK PAYE £77.80, Windle phone & copier £35.61, HM Rev and Customs £325.12, NatWest interest £1.59

Total Receipts **£986.12**

Payments:

GPS Telecoms – phone Feb	34.61
J Anderson – Village Hall noticeboard and Smithy vouchers	392.68
HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE & NI Jan-Mar	1411.10
Masterprint Ltd – magazine delivery	621.00
J Anderson – April + travel + PC	1259.34
T Poole – April + telephone contribution	490.65
J Chamberlain – April + exp	203.71
V Griffiths – April	168.86
Merseyside Pension Fund – employer and employee contributions	422.07
B Walsh – website management	100.00
Ecclesfield Project – first ½ contribution	1799.50
PC Print – Parish magazines	757.00
St Helens Council – trade waste	306.00
St Helens Council – open space leases	9.50
Water Plus	11.91
Water Plus	26.61
Total Payments	£8014.54

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that as at 31 March 2018 the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £16,189.76 and Capital Deposit Account £465.25.

PETTY CASH – Expenditure for the month of March 2018	£8.32
Approximate balance at the end of March 2018	£17.99

CORRESPONDENCE

17.159 **Resolved to note the following:**

Email from the owner of Prescott Roll of Honour website enquiring whether the upkeep of the war memorial at the end of Burrows Lane is the responsibility of the Parish Council and whether there are any plans to renovate it. Also informing that War Memorial Trust can provide grants for the upkeep **Clerk to look into responsibility of Parish Council and reply.**

Email from magazine distributors to confirm most areas have been completed except some farms and Foxwood. Could not gain access to flats on Millwood Ave, Knowles House Ave, Gillars Green Drive and Portico Court. To be completed Friday 13 April 2018

St Helens Council – Non-domestic rate demand – nil until 31 March 2019

SLCC membership renewal – £185 (EPC pay two thirds £123.33 and one third paid by Windle PC £61.67)

DATES OF MEETINGS

17.160 Resolved to note the following:

Tuesday 24 April 18	7.30 pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall
Tuesday 8 May 18	7.00 pm	Smithy Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Annual Meeting	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

SIGNED

DATED