

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2007, at 7.30 pm, in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston

PRESENT: Councillor Duncan (Chair)
Councillors Broughton, Evans, Maloney, Perry & Skepper
Constable A Tomkinson
Mrs L Scott (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Bain, Gleave, Gray-Williams, C & G Pearl & Sims

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 9 OCTOBER 2007

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

MATTERS ARISING

07.77 07.64 - Matters Arising – Fencing at the rear of The Paddocks – Terry Deveney has submitted a quotation of £1,045.77 for planting a hawthorn hedge.
Resolved to ask Terry Deveney to go ahead with the planting.

07.68 – Hall & Personnel – The company recommended by St Helens Council, 1st Northern Sign Company, has quoted £95.00 plus VAT for supplying and fitting a ‘No Parking’ sign.

Resolved to ask 1st Northern Signs to go ahead and to ask their recommendations for the placement of the sign

RESIDENTS’ ISSUES

07.78 The Clerk raised an e-mail and letter sent in by Cllr Sims, which she had received from a resident of Broadway regarding vandalism at the Library and the two benches currently being used by youths in the area.

Resolved to request that St Helens Council removes the benches.

POLICE REPORT

07.79 Constable Tomkinson gave a rundown of the crime figures for Eccleston over the past month, when there had been 8 burglaries, 24 incidents of criminal damage, 2 disorder, 2 theft from motor vehicles, 3 violence. Walmesley Road and Christ Church had been targeted by youths and 7 Special Constables had paraded Eccleston at peak times. Four youths reported for anti social behaviour had been put on a programme to clean things up and 100 letters had gone out to parents of youths with a history of causing problems.

MILL BROW NATURE RESERVE

07.80 **Resolved not to carry out any work on the Nature Reserve until next financial year due to funds being needed for work on other open spaces.**

CHRIST CHURCH GRANT

07.81 **Resolved to award Christ Church £700.00 towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.**

ELECTION CHARGES

07.82 The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from John Welsh giving the breakdown of charges for the Parish Council elections in May. The total number of wards in Ecclestone is 3 with 2 not contested in the last election and the cost was £2,332.38. It was agreed that the Clerk would query these charges at the Clerks' Meeting on 16 November 2007.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

07.83 This will take place at 11.00 am in Ecclestone Library on Thursday 6 December 2007 with St Julie's School providing the entertainment. Councillors were asked to bring mince pies and the Clerk is to purchase the customary gift of biscuits for the Library Staff.

PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

07.84 The Clerk reported that she had prices and information from 3 companies specialising in Notice Boards. These are to be passed to Councillor Sims in time for the next Ward Committee Meeting.

REPORTS

07.85 **Resolved to note the following:**

Chain of Office – Councillors Bain, Broughton, Duncan, G Pearl, Perry and Skepper attended a meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7 November 2007 in order to discuss the future of the Chain of Office. This was examined and found to be heavy and unbalanced. Councillors felt it would be difficult to add further medals. Two options were discussed:

1. Keep the existing chain and remove most of the shields so that more can be added.
2. Have a new chain with the existing Ecclestone medallion transferred – ready for May 2010. A wooden board with the names of past Chairman could be put in the Village Hall – possibly with a separate board listing past Clerks.

Resolved that we have a new chain and that the Clerk contacts the suppliers with a budget of £3,000 to ask them to design a chain with a length of 42" to suit our medallion.

Smithy - See Curators' Report attached. The following points were discussed:

- Craft Fair – to take place Sunday 9 December 2007 11.00 – 4.00 pm. Councillors were asked to provide assistance with refreshments on that day and possibly 16 December 2007.
- Internet Access – The Curators requested Broadband access to replace the current Dial Up
- Smithy Telephone Line – There is interference on the line at the moment and the Curators are going to make an appointment with BT to check it out
- Accreditation – This is due to start in June 2008 and is likely to be lengthy
- Security of the Smithy, Education Room and Storeroom

Resolved that the Clerk arranges for Broadband installation in the Smithy Office

Henbury Court – Councillors Duncan, Perry, Skepper, Sims and the Clerk attended the official opening of Henbury Court on Thursday 8 November 2007. The comedian, Tom O'Connor cut the ribbon and provided entertainment for residents and guests.

Remembrance Sunday – Councillors attended the morning service at Our Lady Help of Christians in order to give thanks corporately for the sacrifice of lives in the service of our country. Fr Melly kindly agreed to allow the Parish Council to attend and a Deacon accompanied Councillors to Eccleston War Memorial for the wreath laying. It was noted that residents had been to the War Memorial with their own personal remembrances.

Councillors Maloney, C & G Pearl represented the Parish Council at the Town Hall and reported that this had been a well-organised ceremony, attended by a wide age group of people.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

07.86 Resolved that the following observations be made:

Delegated

4 Pikes Bridge Fold	Works to protected trees) – Refer to Trees & Woodlands Officer
6 Pikes Bridge Fold	Works to protected trees)
49 Fairholme Ave	Convert garage to habitable room & change flat roof to pitched - ? sufficient off-street parking if proposals were approved
37 The Meads	Works to protected trees – Refer to Trees & Woodlands Officer
8 Laurel Drive	Part 2 storey rear ext & part 1 st floor side ext/dormer windows – N/O
72 Brookside Ave	Demolish garage & erect single storey pitched roof side ext - ? off-street parking provision at this turning head
40 Bleak Hill Rd	2 storey side ext – N/O
9 Swisspine Gdns	1 st floor ext to front to form enlarged bedroom – N/O
Eccleston Library	Erect 2.4 m high palisade fencing – N/O
113 Old Lane	Demolish part of detached storeroom. Change of use of ground floor living accommodation to retail space & erect staircase & 3 roller shutters - Totally object to intensification of usage & to erection of staircase to upstairs flat, when no safe & secure car parking area is provided for tenant of flat & shop customers. Roller shutters totally out of place in such a highly residential area & source of environmental vandalism at such a visible location.
8 Sadlers Lane	3 dormers to front elevation – N/O
145 St James Rd	Demolish a utility room and garage and erect a single store side ext and garage – N/O

AUDIT 2006-2007

07.87 **Resolved to approve and accept the Annual Return as recommended by BDO Stoy Hayward LLP in their letter dated 16 October 2007.**

ACCOUNTS

07.88 Received Hall Hire £518.00; R Kelsey £64.24 PAYE; MANWEB/Gas adjustment as per Internal Auditor £53.00; Customs & Excise VAT refund £394.05; United Utilities £1.37 change in Direct Debit October;

British Gas – November	40.00
Manweb – November	86.50
United Utilities – November	44.94
United Utilities – Direct Debit – November	12.23
St Helens Council - Rates November	92.00
St Helens Council – Cleaning September & October	485.82
L Poole - Salary – November	370.83
L Scott – Petty Cash – November	20.00
L Scott – Salary November includes £9.60 travel expenses	1023.99
J Chamberlain – Salary November	147.79
J Chamberlain – stationery items and Christmas Exhibition objects	35.46
V Hirons – Salary November	147.79
PAYE – Curators November (£166.32 2 nd month Period 3)	83.16
PAYE – Clerk November (£572.44 2 nd month Period 3)	286.44
EPC NI contribution – Clerk November (£221.66 2 nd month Period 3)	110.83
PAYE – Ecclesfield Caretaker – November (£128.26 2 nd month Period 3)	64.02
B&M Office Machines – Copies 17/9/07 – 9/10/07	14.22
BT – Clerk’s phone and Internet	143.49
BY – Smithy phone and Internet	45.72
Cannon – Village Hall sanitary services – Nov to Jan 08	209.74
Calder Builders – Repairs to Hall Items 3–6 on estimate plus guttering & re-plastering	699.13
BDO Stoy Hayward – Audit of 2006/2007 accounts	470.00
Royal British Legion – Contribution to Wreath for Remembrance Day	40.00*
CFAF Ltd – Photocopier Lease	110.05
Acorn Services – Tidy up pre Remembrance Sunday	70.50
Rose Tyler – Services at the Heritage Weekend events	50.00
Balance brought forward October Meeting £43,806.14 + receipts	£44,836.80
Total Payments this month	4,904.65
Approximate balance	£39,932.15

* Expenditure incurred by the Council in accordance with the powers under Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 as being, in the opinion of the Council, in the best interests of the area or its inhabitants.

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that, as at 31 October 2007, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £32,876.76 Capital Reserve Account £462.59. Members of the Finance Sub-Committee were given copies of the monthly Reconciliation and copies of bank statement for October 2007.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of October 2007 £11.01
Approximate balance at the end of October 2007 £13.93

INTERNAL AUDIT – The accounts have been internally audited for the second quarter with no issues to report – copies of the report have been given to members of the Finance Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

07.89 **Resolved that the following observations be made:**

St Helens Council – Development Services Meeting 22 November @ 10.45 Room 8 – 3 reps invited from the Parish Council – **Cllr Skepper and the Clerk to attend**

St Helens Council – Statement of 2006-2007 Accounts

St Helens Council – Eccleston Ward Committee Agenda for 30 Oct meeting & Mins – **passed to Cllr Duncan**

Merseytravel Advisory – Mins last meeting and notification next on 16 November – **passed to Cllr Evans**

St Helens Council –proposed bill for Elections 2007

HLF – Booklet on St Helens projects – **1 copy to Cllr Duncan**

St Helens Council – Core Strategy DPD Preferred Options – **passed to Cllr Broughton**

Windle Parish Council – Invitations to Christmas Tree Lighting on 7 December 2007 & Windle Parish Council Pre-Christmas Reception on 18 December 2007 – **Cllrs Duncan and Perry to attend**

CPRE – Voice Publication for autumn 2007 – **passed to Cllr Perry**

DATES OF MEETINGS

07.90 **Resolved to note the following:**

Mon 3 December 07	7.00 pm	Ecclesfield Meeting	Village Hall
Thurs 6 December 07	11.00 am	Christmas Tree Lighting	Eccleston Library
Tues 11 December 07	7.00 pm	Smithy WP Meeting	Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Parish Council	Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

SIGNED

DATED.....