

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 7pm at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

Present Councillor R Barton (Chairman)
Councillor A Bate (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor W Ashcroft
Councillor J Cunliffe
Councillor A Dockerty
Councillor R Greatorex
Councillor K Roughley

Also in Attendance J Anderson (Clerk to the Council)
Mr J Sheward, St Helens Council
Mr S Walsh, St Helens Council

- 134 Prayers: The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.
- 135 Apologies: Councillor E Uren
- 136 Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.
- 137 Parish Matters: (a) Cllr Ashcroft enquired whether the In and Out signs at St Helens Crematorium should be illuminated in the dark as he had witnessed a motorist mount the kerb at the entrance. Mr Walsh, St Helens Highways Department, who was attending the meeting explained that not all signs need to be illuminated but could be reflective which would save energy. Mr Walsh would check the signs.
- (b) John Sheward, Head of Asset Management and Stephen Walsh, Highway Design from St Helens Council had been invited to attend the meeting to update Councillors on the road works at Windle Island and to suggest any possible solutions to improving the traffic flow at the junction of Rainford Road and Bleak Hill Road.
- (i) Mr Sheward reported that most of the cables had been diverted except a gas pipe that would be completed this week. One electrical cable along the Rainford by-pass would be diverted during the February half term when traffic would be lighter. The main works would begin in April 2018 and would take between 9 and 12 months to complete.
- (ii) A discussion took place regarding turning right out of Bleak Hill Road, turning right out of Tesco and turning right into Bleak Hill Road. Mr Walsh explained that the new signals that would be at Windle Island would create gaps in the traffic with the intention of making it easier to get out of the junction. At present the traffic signals are on a 4 minute cycle which would be reduced to a 2 minute cycle which would give a gap of 15/20 seconds for cars to get out of the junction. A traffic survey had been carried out by St Helens Council which showed that out of 302 cars using the junction of Bleak Hill Road and Rainford Road only 11 turned right with 19 going straight across to Tesco. The majority of vehicles turned left. Mr Sheward and Mr Walsh explained that the new traffic signals should help to ease the congestion at the junction.
- (iii) Mr Sheward explained that it was not possible to put either a mini roundabout or traffic signals at the junction of Bleak Hill Road and Rainford Road because of the lack of space. He said that St Helens Council had looked at 2 possible options to ease congestion if the new traffic signals did not reduce it. One option would be to put signals on the small crossing island on the St Helens side of Bleak Hill Road which would hold back traffic on each side of the road separately. Mr Walsh explained that the crossing would not meet the standards for crossings due to lack of space. The second option would be to change the crossing to a full pedestrian crossing across the whole road. This would then stop traffic in both directions although could make the junction more congested as traffic could not move in either direction. The crossing signals would have to link in with the main traffic signals at Windle Island. Mr Sheward explained that more research would be done to look into these options but all of the underground infrastructure would be put in during the road works in preparation for any possible crossing to save digging up roads again. Cllr Ashcroft added that the development on the land where

Tesco and Starbucks had been built had made the junction worse and did not allow for improvements at the junction.

(iv) The Clerk had received an email from a resident of Crantock Grove requesting that the Keep Clear road markings on Bleak Hill Road at the junction with Crantock Grove be re-painted as queuing traffic blocked the junction. Mr Walsh explained that lines had recently been re-painted but did not realise this one had not been done. He would check and report it to the appropriate department to get the box remarked as soon as possible.

(v) Cllr Roughley requested some indication of air quality. Mr Sheward explained that the Parish Council would have to contact the Air Quality Office in Environmental Health at St Helens Council.

The Clerk was asked to request the information.

(vi) Mr Walsh informed the meeting that speed restrictions would also be in place around Windle Island junction. 40 mph would be in place along the Rainford by-pass and on the East Lancashire Road with 30 mph along Rainford Road. There would also be 3 speeding and red light cameras installed.

(vii) In conclusion, Mr Sheward and Mr Walsh said the Bleak Hill Road junction was being considered and would be looked at again once the signals at Windle Island were complete and they had checked the running of traffic with the gaps in the signals on the new 2 minute cycle. Mr Walsh said that a scheme sign would be erected within a few days with details of a website for weekly updates.

Cllr Barton explained that Councillors were grateful that the junction was being looked at.

Councillors thanked Mr Sheward and Mr Walsh for attending the meeting and said the information had been extremely useful. The St Helens Council Officers left the meeting.

The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Mr Paul Sanderson, St Helens Council for arranging for the Officers to attend the meeting.

- 138 Minutes of Meeting: The council received the minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2017. **Resolved the minutes of the meeting be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.**
- 139 Matters Arising: (a) Cllr Bate enquired whether there had been any further information regarding the retrospective planning application for fence and gates in Windle Grove that had been refused. Cllr Roughley explained that St Helens Council planning officers would ensure any conditions set were adhered to.

Councillor Cunliffe joined the meeting.

140 Planning Matters:

a) Applications:

49 St Georges Ave Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey side and rear extension

82 Kiln Lane Retention of ATM machine

82 Kiln Lane Consent to display advertisements signs on ATM machine

Resolved: that no objections be raised concerning these applications

b) Decisions:

54 Coronation Rd Two storey extension Granted 19/12/17

29 Hamilton Rd Single storey extension to side and rear Granted 3/1/18

Applications and Decisions were noted

- 141 Other Correspondence: (a) an email from a resident of Crantock Grove requested the Keep Clear road markings on Bleak Hill Road be re-painted. **Reported to St Helens Council Officers that had attended the meeting. They would investigate and arrange for it to be remarked as soon as possible.** The resident also complained about cars being parked without consideration to residents in Crantock Grove. **Cllr Cunliffe would contact the resident to discuss.**
- 142 Ecclesfield Sports Facility: The caretaker reported no power for several days from 23 December 2017 to 6 January 2018. It transpired that engineers working outside the library had disconnected cables by mistake but were unaware it had been the changing rooms that they had disconnected.

143 SLCC: Training for new data protection regulations costing £20 (for both Parishes) had been arranged by SLCC Lancashire Branch at Garstang Country Club. **Resolved that the Clerk should attend.**

144 Lynton Way Play Area: Nothing to report

145 J Malone Garden: The Parish Council noticeboard at Windle Island had blown down in high winds and had obstructed the pathway. Cllr Greatorex and a resident managed to move it to a safe location off the pathway. The Clerk had arranged for the joiner who was making the new noticeboard to remove it from the site to avoid any safety issues. Cllr Greatorex requested the Clerk send a thank you to Mr Palfrey who had helped him to move it. **Agreed**
The Clerk confirmed that half the cost of the new board, £731, had been paid on 10 January 2018 and work would start on the board on 22 January 2018.

146 Reports from Other Bodies: None

147 Finance:

a) The Clerk advised that the balances at 31 December 2016 were:

Current Account £7,375.01

Business Reserve £6,046.21

TOTAL £13,421.22

(b) Payments –

		Chq
HMRC – PAYE Oct-Dec	188.60	2431
M Fitzpatrick – deposit for noticeboard	731.00	2432
Brian Walsh – website maintenance	35.00	2433
Eccleston Parish Council room hire and telephone	30.73	2434
J Anderson – January	265.85	2435

Receipts –

Stanley Wines – Best One advert	30.00	BACS
NatWest – interest	0.50	
Beauty by Helen French – advert	30.00	BACS
Hedges, Gornalls and PC Print – adverts	55.00	PI969

HMRC statement showing nothing owing at 15 January 2018 was presented to Councillors.

c) Budget/Precept – Letter received from St Helens Council advising the Council Tax Base for 2018/19 is 978 Band D equivalent properties (up 31 on last year). Payment of the precept would be 50% on 19 April 2018 and 50% on 21 June 2018.

d) Finance Committee Meeting – arranged for Monday 29 January 2018 at 7.00pm at Cllr Barton's house. Cllrs Barton, Bate, Cunliffe and Dockerty would attend along with the Clerk.

e) Risk Assessment – carried out and **resolved to accept and sign the document**

148 Date of Next Meeting: to be held on Tuesday 20 February 2018 at 7.00pm at Eccleston Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: