

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Windle Parish Council, held on Tuesday, 15th January 2013, at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

Present : Councillor Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft
“ W. Ashcroft (Deputy Chairman)
“ Mrs. K. S. Barton
“ R. W. Barton
“ S. A. Bligh
“ Mrs. M. McNulty
“ K. D. Roughley
“ Mrs. E. Uren

Also in Attendance: L. J. Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

136. Prayers – The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

137. Apologies- had been received from Cllr. Mrs. A. Bate -away on holiday.

139. Declaration of Interests Councillors returned the required completed forms concerning their pecuniary interests etc., and the only outstanding one was promised to be returned a.s.a.p., so that these might be sent to Angela Sanderson, St Helens Council Monitoring Officer. No other declarations were made.

140. Parish Matters

(a) Banner type notices had been fastened to the railings at Bleak Hill School requesting, no parking on the zig-zag lines by parents/motorists, when delivering their children to School. The Clerk advised that he had previously been asked about the possibility of the Parish Council providing some financial help in providing towards the cost of an appropriately worded banner, and had mentioned the cost of the Queen's Jubilee/ Olympic Banner as a guide. There had been no further consultation and the banners had appeared. It was not known if the banners had been provided by the School, St Helens Council or possibly the Police.

141. Minutes :- the Council received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on Tuesday 18th December 2012, which had been circulated previously.

Cllr. Richard Barton pointed out that ref min. 126 he had made a brief report on the Ecclesfield Sports Facility giving information on the state of the football pitches, and also, that the expected increase in the annual contribution costs for next year would be 2%.

After this addendum was made to the minutes, it was

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2012, be confirmed as a true and correct record, and be signed by the Chairman.

142. Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications- No new applications received.

b) Approvals – P2012/0822 E. Halliwell 33 Windle Grove, Porch to Front

Resolved that the approval in b be noted.

143. Other Correspondence

(a) Latest bulletin from Halton & St Helens VCA- Received & Noted

(b) Email reply to a query, from the Clerk to Angela Sanderson, asking about the legal position of councillors, residing in the Parish and thus paying Council Tax, being involved in discussion and decisions on the precept requirement etc.

Her reply indicated that it was a matter that each individual involved should determine how they wished to deal with this issue.

In accordance with the advised NALC/SLCC position it would seem that only those members, actually living in the Parish, would be affected, as the remaining members would be unaffected by any precept set.

If the effected members wish to seek a dispensation, they would do so from the Parish Council. SLCC have suggested putting an item on dispensations on the relevant agenda so that the Parish Council can grant them if it wishes.

144. Ecclesfield Sports Facility

The Clerk informed that he had received an email from Ecclestone Parish Council saying that the amount due to be paid in 2013/14 would be increased by 1%, not 2%, as previously advised. Thus the figure for Windle Parish Council would be £1426 in 2013/14 instead of the 2012/13 figure=£1412.

145. NALC/MAPTC/LALC/SLCC

S. L.C.C. – Lancashire Branch AGM will be held on Thursday 31st January 2013.

Information received raises the legal question as to whether it is necessary for dispensation to be issued to councillors, who are residents in the Parish, before they are permitted to participate in precept setting and decision discussions.

146. L. W. P. A. -

The Clerk informed Council that the charge for opening and closing etc. during 2012/13 i.e. y/e 05/04/13 was expected to be £2500.79 excl. vat (c.f. the original quote of £2554.34 excl. vat.), whilst the figure quoted for 2013/14 was £2601.34 excl. vat.-maximum.

The reduction in the original figure quoted for 2012/13 was due to deductions made, when the Security Force had been unable to secure the park.

147. J. Malone Gdn. - No work required at the moment. The overall appearance of the garden has certainly been improved by the new boundary fencing, erected by residents at the extremity of their properties, which back onto the JM Garden.

148. Parish Newsletter – The December 2012 issue had again been well received, judging by the appreciative comments made to members of the Council, and the Editor, Ken Roughley was complimented on his work in compiling the magazine.

149. Christmas Tree Lighting/ Pre- Christmas Reception - Reports

The Tree Lighting had been well attended and had passed off successfully, despite some last minute concerns providing some unwanted excitement. The tree lights have now been stored in the keeping of the St Helens Council Lighting Dept., or its contractors, after their removal after Christmas.

The reception had been well attended and enjoyed by all present. Resolved that the "Ladies Catering Committee" especially, and everyone else involved in the preparations, be awarded a vote of thanks for their efforts.

150. Reports from Other Bodies

No reports received.

151. Risk Assessment- Further consideration of this was carried out and it was decided to investigate the advantages of changing banks in the next financial year. A quote from the Zurich Ins. Co. would also be obtained for 2013/14 to compare the cost of insurance, with the present supplier.

Council received the written Internal Audit Report for the period 30th June 2012 to 30th November 2012. No issues were raised, and also confirming the auditors satisfaction that " the internal controls are operating effectively."

152. Finance- (a) Balances The Clerk advised the Council that the bank balances, at 31st December 2012, were Current A/c £6326.84 and Business Reserve A/c £6033.53.

(b) Payment of Accounts: Resolved that payment be made of the following accounts;

	£
NatWest Bank Voucher Statement Monthly Fees	3.25
Post Office BT tel. a/c dedicated line/ incl. B/band.	114.50
Eccleston P.C. Room Hire 15/01/2013	21.00
B. Walsh Website	35.00
Ecclesfield Project Rev A/c 4 th Qrtly. Payment	353.00

(c) Budget /Precept 2013/14- Resolved that discussion of these matters be postponed until the meeting on the 19th February 2013 and the finance committee meeting had needed to be re-arranged for Thursday 17th January 2013 at 7.30pm at 26, Kiln Lane. A letter had been sent to Ian Roberts (Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) St Helens Council, confirming acceptance of the proposed payment dates of the Parish Precept in the year 2013/14 i.e. 50% on 22 April and 50% on 24 June.

153. Date of Next Meeting- This was scheduled for Tuesday 19th February 2013, commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)