

# WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Tuesday, 18 May 2004 at Eccleston Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft (in the Chair)  
Councillor W Ashcroft  
Councillor Mrs K S Barton  
Councillor Mrs J Foster  
Councillor Mrs M P Fraser  
Councillor A F Rigby  
Councillor K D Roughley  
Councillor Mrs E Uren  
Councillor Mrs B Walsh

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

1. Prayers

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs K S Barton declared an amendment to her circumstances in that she had now retired from paid employment. No other Declarations of Interest were made. The appropriate declaration form was signed by Councillor Mrs K S Barton.

3. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

The Chairman welcomed Police Inspector John Vaudrey to the meeting.

4. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved that Councillor W Ashcroft be appointed Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year and on acceptance of his appointment he was duly installed and signed the appropriate declaration.

Councillor W Ashcroft in the Chair.

5. Election of Deputy Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved that Councillor K D Roughley be appointed Deputy Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year and on acceptance of his appointment he signed the appropriate declaration.

6. Vote of Thanks

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved that a vote of thanks be extended to Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft for her work on behalf of the Council and residents during her year in office and for the manner in which she had carried out the duties entailed.

7. Council Procedures for 2004/05

Resolved

- (a) that meetings generally be held on the third Tuesday of each month, except August, commencing at 7.00 pm and the Annual Assembly be held in March 2005;
- (b) that a Finance Committee be established to give initial consideration to appropriate matters and to make recommendations to the Parish Council, comprising of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, the last year's Chairman and Councillor A F Rigby, plus substitute membership as necessary at the discretion of the Chairman;
- (c) that for planning applications requiring early attention there be delegated powers to the Chairman, (Deputy Chairman) and a Parish Councillor resident in the vicinity of the site to consider;
- (d) that a Footpath Committee be established to give initial consideration to, and have responsibility for, the maintenance and improvement of footpaths, comprising of Councillors W Ashcroft, A F Rigby and Mrs B Walsh, together with Mr M Walsh as a co-opted member.

8. Standing Orders, etc

Resolved that the Model Standing Orders issued by NALC be adopted, as appropriate, for meetings of the Parish Council, with provision for termination of ordinary business of the Council at 9.30 pm and opportunity for discussion of "Parish Matters" on the agenda.

9. Banking Accounts and Financial Procedures

It was unanimously

Resolved

- (a) that the Nat West Bank be the Council's bankers and the bank be authorized to honour cheques drawn on the account held at the bank, to be signed by any two members of the Council and the Clerk to the Council, in accordance with the mandate;
- (b) that financial regulations based on CIFPA and District Audit recommendations be prepared by the Finance Committee for consideration by the Council at a subsequent meeting;
- (c) that responsibility for the financial affairs of the Council be vested in the Clerk to the Council;
- (d) that there be delegated to Councillors on the Management Committee of the Ecclesfield Sports Facility, authority to sign cheques in accordance with the management agreement.

10. Codes of Practice

Resolved that the recommended new Model Code of Conduct and Practice, as previously distributed, be adopted in respect of the Handling of Complaints and Declaration of Interest.

11. Merseyside Association & Lancashire Association of Parish & Town Councils and National Association of Local Councils

Resolved

- (a) that the Council retain membership with MAPTC/LAPTC and NALC, the number of NALC magazines ordered to be two copies per issue only;
- (b) that Nomination of Representatives on the Area Committee be delegated to a subsequent meeting of the Parish Council.

12. Representation on Other Bodies

Resolved that the following be approved as representatives of the Parish Council on various bodies, viz:

- (a) Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft – Bleak Hill School Governors

- (b) Councillor K D Roughley – Police & Community Forum
- (c) Councillor Mrs M P Fraser – Windle United Charities
- (d) Councillors W Ashcroft & A F Rigby – St Helens & District Sports Council
- (e) Councillors Mrs B Walsh & Mrs J Foster – Age Concern
- (f) Councillor K D Roughley – Crime Prevention
- (g) Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft – St Helens CVS
- (h) Councillor A F Rigby            )  
       Councillor Mrs E Uren        ) - Ecclesfield Management Committee  
       Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft )  
       Councillor W Ashcroft        )
- (i) Councillor Mrs B Walsh – Victims Support/P & PIF.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_

LJK/SAH

# WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Tuesday, 18 May 2004

PRESENT: Councillor W Ashcroft (Chairman)  
Councillor K D Roughley (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft  
Councillor Mrs K S Barton  
Councillor Mrs J Foster  
Councillor Mrs M P Fraser  
Councillor A F Rigby  
Councillor Mrs E Uren  
Councillor Mrs B Walsh

Also in Attendance: Police Inspector John Vaudrey  
L J Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

13. Prayers

Prayers for the work of the Council had been said previously on the opening of the Annual Meeting.

14. Apologies

No apologies were received.

15. Declarations of Interest

Councillor K D Roughley declared that, being a member of St Helens Council Planning Committee, he would withdraw from the meeting whilst planning matters were under discussion. No other declarations were made.

16. Parish Matters

- (a) The Christmas Tree at Bleak Hill School was now looking very much the worse for wear. The Clerk apologised for the delay, but hoped that it could be completed before too long.
- (b) Following on receipt of residents' complaints reference dog fouling in the Parish, Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft had requested that the necessary signs forbidding this be checked and, if missing, new ones be installed. St Helens Council had instructed the relevant dog warden to carry this out.

- (c) A resident, Mr S Muskett, of 12 Hamilton Road, had raised the matter of the incorrect positioning of the new Bleak Hill School boundary fence adjoining his property. This had been raised with St Helens Council Planning Department, which had confirmed that the fence did need moving and an amendment to the original planning application was being applied for.
- (d) Councillor Betty Lowe, MBE, of Rainford Parish and St Helens Council, had complained to St Helens Council, on behalf of Moss Lane and St Helens Road residents, with a request that the grass verges and gutters be tidied up and weeded.
- (e) Another batch of green recycling bins was due for release in June and would include houses in Rainford Road.
- (f) Councillor Mrs K S Barton raised the matter of incidents in St Georges Avenue/The Grove of "boy racers" and football and noisy music and dangerous car manoeuvres. These were happening until 10.00 pm on some nights. Inspector Vaudrey requested details of registration numbers of any vehicles involved, to be forwarded to the police for follow-up action.
- (g) Councillor Mrs B Walsh complained of dangerous car parking in Fairway and Regal Drive by parents, etc when delivering school children to Bleak Hill School. Highways Department to be contacted.

#### 17. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 April 2004, which had been circulated previously.

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 April 2004 be confirmed as a true and correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

#### 18. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

#### 19. Planning Applications

The Clerk submitted

- (a) Invitations to comment in respect of
  - (i) P/2004/0539 – Mr G Dyer, 47 St Georges Avenue – single storey side extension to form garage with pitched roof and canopy across part of front elevation

- (ii) P/2004/0711 – Mr & Mrs Howard, 33 Calderhurst Drive – porch to front elevation
  - (iii) P/2004/0714 – Mrs V Hughes, 2 Sackville Road – conservatory to rear elevation
  - (iv) P/2004/0723 – Ms K Fairhurst, 58 Queens Drive – two storey side and rear extension
- (b) Planning decisions – approvals of
- (i) P/2004/6203 – Mr & Mrs A Radcliffe, 6 Windle Grove – erection of single storey extension for utility room off existing rear kitchen
  - (ii) P/2004/0344 – Mr & Mrs Harwood, 22 Rutherford Road – rear conservatory

Resolved that the two approvals in (b) be noted and that no comments be made concerning the applications in (a) (i), (ii) and (iii). However, regarding (iv), reservations were expressed regarding the huge size of the planned extension and the resultant dominating effect. Also a request was made to ensure provision of adequate car parking space and to ensure no terracing effect or deprivation of light was produced.

20. Other Correspondence

The Clerk submitted the following correspondence to be dealt with as indicated:

Issue of CVS “Contact” – Received.

21. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk confirmed that he would be attending a relevant training course in Preston on Saturday, 26 June 2004.

22. Ecclesfield Sports Facility

Nil report.

23. LAPTC

Late notice of MAPTC meeting on Wednesday, 21 May 2004 had only just been received and it would not be possible for anyone to attend. Necessary apologies to be made.

LAPTC Notices of Training, Communication Toolkit, etc – received.

Marion Gelder was the new Executive Secretary with Lynne Ravett as part-time assistant – noted.

24. Footpath Walks

Councillor Mrs B Walsh confirmed that arrangements had been made for a footpath walk, to be held on Sunday, 23 May 2004. This would commence at 2.15 pm at Ecclestone Library.

25. Garden Competition

Councillor Mrs P Fraser reported that the Poster Competition arrangements were in hand with Bleak Hill School.

She requested nominations from Councillors for front gardens.

After discussion of prize levels, it was

Resolved that the prize levels for 2004 be increased by an increment of £5 per prize in all categories except for the Children's Corner Prize, which would remain at £25. This increase also to be applied to the four Poster Competition Prizes.

A decision was deferred regarding the preparation of the Garden Competition Certificates.

26. Parish Newsletter

The current edition had been distributed in good time and several favourable comments had already been received. The Clerk apologised for an omission in the finance article, regarding the actual amount of the 2004/05 Precept, which would now need to be included in the next edition.

27. Lynton Way Play Area

Inspector J Vaudrey took an especial interest in this item on the agenda and was invited by the Chairman to make any comment that would seem relevant.

There had been a recent incident of youths drinking vodka, etc on a Friday night and of bottles being smashed and the grass being littered with broken glass.

Residents had complained of noise and abuse from youths, who had damaged the guards to the locks on the park gates, and also that the fence was not high enough. Football games were still being played.



The Chairman invited Inspector J Vaudrey to comment and also, with the Council's permission, varied the agenda so that Inspector Vaudrey might present his Police Report at the same time.

He reported that some good progress and positive action had been carried out in recent weeks. In particular, the closure and compulsory purchase of a house in Lingholme Road, which was being used for drug dealing and consumption. The owner of the house had been transferred out of town.

In recent weeks 3 burglaries had occurred in the ward, 4 violent incidents (including 3 of domestic violence) and 3 motor vehicle thefts.

Discussing the problems at Lynton Way Play Area, the Inspector described the incidence of youth disorder, etc over the wider area and the measures currently being taken to combat this menace.

Police were now confiscating alcohol from youths and off licences were being sent letters to request their co-operation in preventing under-age purchases of alcohol. A recent Friday night concentration on Victoria Park, for example, had yielded something like 9 bottles of vodka, 24 cans of lager and various alco-pop drinks.

There had also been trouble at Dodd Avenue and the Pilkington Allotments, when the fire brigade had frequently been called out unnecessarily and harassed by youths.

The Inspector gave further advice to the Council as to how best to help the police in executing their duties and, in turn, promised support in solving local parish problems.

Chairman W Ashcroft, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Inspector Vaudrey and expressed support for his efforts.

28. Jim Malone Garden

Necessary minor maintenance had been carried out.

29. Insurance – Renewal Due June 2004 – Risk Assessment Discussion

The invitation to renew, at a cost of £366.31 (cf £341.68 last year), with Allianz Cornhill, was submitted and discussed. The Clerk drew attention to changes in the insurance cover to be provided and reminded the Council that it would be necessary to use only tools owned and provided by the Parish Council for such tasks as Christmas tree removal and Jim Malone Garden maintenance to ensure injury cover. He also pointed out that the current policy excluded cover for computer equipment. Therefore, when the computer

was actually purchased some extension or alternative provision for this cover would have to be arranged.

Resolved that the renewal of the cover be approved.

30. Reports From Other Bodies

The Police Report had been made earlier under Lynton Way Play Area (minute 27) by Inspector J Vaudrey.

There were no other reports made.

31. Finance

(a) Balances

The Council noted the balances at 4 May 2004:

Current Account - £1169.22

Capital Reserve Account - £11214.98 (includes £5500 – first half of Precept 2004/05 received 30.4.04)

(b) Audit

The internal audit had been carried out to the satisfaction of Mr J Friar, Internal Auditor, and his written report was promised shortly.

(c) Payment of Accounts

Resolved that approval be given to the payment of the following accounts:

		£
Eccleston Parish Council	Room Hire	18.00
Allianz & Cornhill Insurance plc	Annual Premium	366.31
Shaw & Sons	Purchase of 2 books for the use of the Clerk	25.70
L J Kilshaw	Salary, Post, etc	227.28

33. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 15 June 2004 commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_

LJK/SAH