

# WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Tuesday, 20 July 2004

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

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

51. Prayers

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

52. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Mrs J Foster (bereavement).

53. Declarations of Interest

None.

54. Parish Matters

- (a) A complaint had been received regarding vans being parked in Regal Drive, which were causing obstruction. The possible offender had been identified and the matter would be taken up with this person.
- (b) Mrs Pat Wilson of 15 Crantock Grove was complaining of weeds overgrowing the electricity sub-station opposite her house. Councillors Roughley and W Ashcroft would investigate further with John Broomhead (St Helens Council).
- (c) Gratten Williams of 11 Stuart Road had raised the matter of an incident on 23 June 2004 when the traffic lights at Windle Island had been out of action for almost 7 hours. As a result, a 3 vehicle accident had occurred at the junction.



Mr Williams had raised several points with the police, viz:

- (i) At what time were the police aware of the fault on the traffic lights?
- (ii) Why had they not been repaired for almost 7 hours?
- (iii) Why had no traffic police been assigned to the junction for the interim period to control traffic?

As a result, Mr Williams had received a telephone response from Inspector J Vaudrey explaining that the police are not responsible for the maintenance of traffic lights or traffic control (unless there has been an accident). Policemen are not seen on point duty nowadays because of "Health & Safety Regulations".

It was also pointed out that as St Helens Council is responsible for the upkeep of the East Lancs (A580) in its locality, the complaint about the lack of response to repairing the faulty traffic lights should be directed to them.

Councillor W Ashcroft was pursuing the matter.

55. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2004, which had been circulated previously.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 15 June 2004 be confirmed as a true and correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

56. Matters Arising

- (a) Minute 37 (a) – The Clerk confirmed that the remains of the Christmas tree had now been removed from Bleak Hill School. The Chairman expressed thanks to the Clerk and Mr Brian Walsh for their efforts in this, especially in view of the inclement weather at the time.
- (b) Minute 37 (c) – Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft confirmed that she had requested replacement of the litter bin at the corner of Bleak Hill Road/Hamilton Road.

57. Planning Applications

The Clerk submitted invitations to comment in respect of

- (i) \*P/2004/0833 – 3 retail units and associated access and parking on land adjacent to BP Service Station, Rainford Road
- (ii) \*P/2004/0842 – P J Lee, 26 Calderhurst Drive – single storey rear extension to form dining room
- (iii) \*P/2004/0855 – P Johnson, 59 Regal Drive – single storey side and rear extension to form study, WC and kitchen
- (iv) \*P/2004/0905 – J Harrison, 5 Stuart Road – demolition of existing side porch and erection of single storey extension
- (v) P/2004/1030 – S North, 6 Regal Drive – single storey side extension with pitched roof to form enlarged kitchen and fourth bedroom
- (vi) P/2004/1050 – Mr & Mrs Bonetti, 31 Fistril Drive – single storey side and rear extension to form garage and family room
- (vii) P/2004/1056 – Mr M Glynn, 146 Bleak Hill Road – first floor side extension
- (viii) P/2004/1086 – Mr L Tabernacle, 43 Rainford Road – conversion of bungalow to 2 storey dwelling with construction of first floor for 5 bedrooms, en-suite and study.

\*NB Because of the time constraints these applications had been first considered by a local committee and no objections had been registered, although comments in a letter from a resident, in respect of (i), had been passed on to the Planning Office.

Resolved that the no objection comments in respect of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv), made by the committee, be endorsed, and that no comments be made concerning the applications in (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii).

#### 58. Other Correspondence

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

- (a) July/August Issue of St Helens CVS 'Contact' – Received.
- (b) Notice of Community Safety Forum on 28 July 2004 at 12.00 noon at Age Concern, Mansion House, Victoria Park – Noted.
- (c) 'MSIO News' – Newsletter of Merseyside Social Inclusion Observatory is Here – Received.

- (d) Conclusive Map of Registered Common Land and Open Country (from The Countryside Agency) – Received.
- (e) Letter from Iain Smith (Quality Assurance Manager) informing of a further meeting to consult Parish Councils on developments and issues within the Planning Service in St Helens on 29 July 2004 at 1.30 pm.

Resolved that Councillors W Ashcroft, Mrs N J Ashcroft and K D Roughley and the Clerk be booked in to attend. Clerk to arrange.

59. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk informed that 'Trade Press Reports' revealed that 50 councils had now been awarded 'Quality Status'.

60. Ecclesfield Sports Facility

Nil report.

61. LAPTC

The Clerk announced that the NALC Annual Conference and Exhibition would be held on 1 – 3 October 2004 at the Scarborough Spa Complex.

62. Footpath Walks

Two walks had been enjoyed since the last meeting, ie Sunday, 20 June and Sunday, 18 July. Two further walks were planned for 22 August and 19 September. It was proving difficult to get back to former numbers of walkers attending, due, in part, to the necessary early publication of the Newsletter before full details were agreed of scheduled walks.

63. Garden Competition

Similarly the number of entrants for this competition had not been at previous levels and possibly for the same reason. However, the competition judging had been performed this afternoon on a truncated basis (ie 5 prize winners only) and it was

Resolved that the Clerk should write to the winners to invite them to the presentation of awards, which would now be held on 19 October and not 21 September, as originally agreed.

64. Newsletter

Councillor K D Roughley requested early receipt of articles for the November issue.

MA

65. Lynton Way Play Area

The Clerk reported that he had delivered 3 keys to Billinge Police Station for Inspector J Vaudrey (see minute 45 ante).

66. Jim Malone Garden

John Broomhead (St Helens Council, Parks & Gardens Maintenance) had recommended covering the garden with a membrane to suppress weeds, but allow plant growth and this, in turn, to be covered with tree bark. This suggestion was currently being investigated.

67. Planting of Additional Trees at Bleak Hill School

Councillor Mrs B Walsh informed that 4 trees had died at the Fairway end of Bleak Hill School. Her husband, Maurice, was offering to provide 4 trees to replace them.

Councillor Mrs N J Ashcroft undertook to investigate the dead trees at Bleak Hill School with the Environmental Agency. Councillor W Ashcroft and the Clerk would liaise to finalise arrangements for planting the 4 new trees.

68. Reports(a) Bleak Hill School Governors

The planned nursery at Bleak Hill School had been discussed, but not decided.

The Clerk had received an enquiry from the school about including a circular/questionnaire with the next issue of the Newsletter. It had been decided that to avoid any possible accusations of political bias the Council would not be able to comply with this request.

(b) Police Report

Councillor K D Roughley gave some details of a Police Community Service Meeting, which he had attended today with, amongst others, Councillor Mike Doyle (Councillor with Portfolio), Carole Hudson, and Chief Inspector Andy Ward.

The budget for the provision of alleygates had been increased to £3/4million. A campaign against street parking was to be carried out.

A trial scheme utilizing the enforcement of the Anti Social Behaviour Order Act of 2000 was being carried out in Rainford by the police to combat youth disorder, etc. and dispersal of groups of 2 or more

persons. If successful, this could be employed, for example, at Lynton Way Play Area.

(c) Local Area Forums

Councillor W. Ashcroft gave a brief description of the new planned format for Local Area Forum meetings.

69. Finance

(a) Balances

The Council noted the balances at 30 June 2004:

Current Account - £5721.10

Capital Reserve Account - £10247.55

The Bank Reconciliation at 30 June 2004 was presented and approved and signed by the Chairman.

(b) Audit

The external audit was scheduled for 9 August 2004 and the necessary notices, etc. had been posted on the Parish Council notice boards.

The Internal Auditor's report was read out and his recommendations again noted and approved.

(c) Salaries – Clerk & Typist

The salaries had not been adjusted for 2 years, due to a possible necessary adjustment to the Clerk's hours of employment, as the job had become more involved.

The Clerk requested that the hours (7 per week) remain the same for the time being and that the NALC National Salary Award made in the interim period, as previously recommended by the Finance Committee, be paid retrospectively.

Resolved that the Clerk's hours remain at 7 per week, subject to later revision, and that the statutory pay rises granted in the interim period (1 April 2002 to the present) be awarded retrospectively to both the Clerk and Typist.

WA

(d) Payment of Accounts

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

		£
Post Office	Telephone Account	35.54
Eccleston Parish Council	Room Hire	18.00
Mrs S A Hull	Typing Services (including arrears)	103.98
L J Kilshaw	Salary (including arrears) & Expenses	586.69
J Friar	Internal Audit Fee Y/E 31 March 2004	115.00
Bleak Hill School	Photocopying Services	29.18

70. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 21 September 2004.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date

21-9-04.

LJK/SAH