

WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th November 2007
At Eccleston Village Hall

PRESENT; Councillor Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft (Chairman)
 Councillor W.Ashcroft (Deputy Chairman)
 Councillor Mrs.K.S.Barton
 Councillor R.W.Barton
 Councillor Mrs A.Bate
 Councillor K.D.Roughley
 Councillor Mrs.E.Uren

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

110. Prayers

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

111. Apologies

Apologies had been received in respect of Councillors S.A.Bligh and Mrs.M.McNulty due to holidays.

112. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

The Clerk gave out the new format forms for completion , which had been issued by Peter Blackburn -with a request for their early completion and return to him - for forwarding on to Peter Blackburn .

113. Parish Matters

a) A resident , having read in the minutes of the Windle Parish Council Meeting on 16/10/07 that the Police had warned residents of Kiln Lane that the parking of vehicles – half on and half of the kerb, i .e. with two wheels on the pavement and the other two on the road - would no longer be tolerated ,had raised the question as to why this measure was not being similarly enforced in other roads in the area viz. Coronation Road,St.George`s Avenue etc.

Clerk to raise the query with the Police.

b) Car parked in Hamilton road ,opposite number 5, and appears to be not roadworthy .but is taxed until March 2008.

Cllr. N. J. Ashcroft will inform the Police.

c) A pair of trainers was still hanging from some telephone wires in the neighbourhood, as reported last month. Apparently this is a recognized sign used by drug-dealers to indicate they are trading in the area.

d) A resident of Bleak Hill Road had complained of advertising banner signs being displayed by businesses operating in Lynton Way, which were not suitable in a residential area.

He also complained of the large conifer trees in Bleak Hill Road, alongside the Lynton Way Car Park which were overgrown and damaging the pavement etc. and also about the state of this car-park itself.

These complaints had been brought to the attention of St Helens Council and action was in hand. Indeed the offending trees had now been removed as the result of an earlier complaint regarding poor TV reception in the area.

The owner of the old farm site and the retail shops landlord, Henderson Homes Ltd. was to be contacted also.

114. Minutes

The Council received the minutes of the Parish Council, held on Tuesday 16th October 2007, which had been circulated previously.

It proved necessary to add a note to min.95 –Parish Matters- indicating the presence of a pair of trainers hanging from the telephone wires near the Kiln Lane/Coronation Rd. area, which, apparently, is a recognised symbol for drugs being available.

This note, having been added, it was;

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting, held on the 16th October 2007 be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

115. Matters Arising

Ref. min95c : Scout Den – the Police had promised to try and have some presence in the area at such times when the Scouts were meeting etc.. They would also support any restrictive preventive measures such as the erection of suitable fencing.

116. Planning Matters

(A) The Clerk gave an invitation to comment in respect of the following application;

P/2007/1332 – Richard Hall of 92-94 High St. Newton-le Willows-ref.
88 Kiln Lane Windle

Change of Use of ground floor. From residential i.e. C3 to Coffee Shop i.e. A3 -alteration to existing side bay- window, plus single stry. rear extn. and alterations to existing front elevation to create new entrance door with pitched roof above. *

(B) Approvals

1.P/2007/1053- S.Maddox – 88 Bleak Hill Rd. Demolition of existing det. pre-fab. garage and erection of new det. brick grge. with pitched roof of plastic-coated

corrugated steel panels.

2. P/2007/1084 – Mr.7Mrs.D.Rix – 23 Fistral Drive – single stry.pitched roof extn to front.

3. P/2007/1174 Mr.S.Toole – 149 Rainford Road - Construction of an external chimney stack to the side

Resolved that the three approvals in B be noted ,and that the following observations be made concerning the application in A and be communicated to the Planning Officer involved , Mr .Alan Kilroe ;

1. The property is a substantial, desirable detached-house in a primarily residential area. Therefore residents do not wish to be subjected to any subsequent pollution that may result from the proposed change of use, such as cooking smells and litter , and vermin that might be attracted from the nearby brook.

When there is a current shortage of available housing it might be deemed inappropriate to change the use of this property .

2. Traffic congestion in the area , which is already a problem ,would be exacerbated . There are two main junctions in the close vicinity : one at Coronation Road / Kiln Lane ,and the other at Kiln Lane / Alder Hey Road – egress and access would be even more difficult and hazardous with any increase in traffic and parked vehicles.

There are two bus stops – one on either side of Kiln Lane – not far from No.88 – and School Buses for several High Schools operate in the vicinity by dropping-off and collecting pupils. In addition the local Bleak Hill C.P.School is accessed by traffic via the Kiln Lane /Coronation Road Junction.

3. A previous application was made to open a “Fast Food Shop “at No.84,Kiln Lane but was turned down several years ago as “inappropriate”.This shop became a “Sun-bed Tanning Shop”which, subsequently , became a gathering place for youngsters,and has produced disorder problems for the local residents and police, especially since it became unoccupied. Therefore these same residents would not wish this situation to be repeated.

These observations were gleaned from a close consultation with residents in the area . Having considered the application ,and its ramifications ,the Windle Parish Council – the property is actually in Windle not Eccleston as on the application - is of the opinion that the application should be opposed and turned down for the reasons stated previously.

116. Other Correspondence

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

a) From St Helens Council, an invoice for the costs to Windle Parish Council for the Parish Council Elections held in May this year totalling £ 85.00.

The Clerk explained the reasons for this apparent low cost ,stressing that it might not always prove so and also the need to continue ,as was the current practice , to reserve

an annual sum of £600 to £750 to meet any election costs .Other Parish Councils had received large bills e.g. £2300.

Received and noted with the Clerk's recommendation endorsed

b) Advice of amended dates for December 2007 for the MP Surgeries of Dave Watts- will now be on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th.

Received and Noted.

c) Advice of meeting in Room 8 ,Town Hall ,Th.22nd November on Planning Matters and St Helens Local Development .

The Chairman and the Clerk would be attending.

d) Copy of a letter sent by Liverpool St Helens RUFC to George Houghton (Highways) expressing concern ref the narrowing of Moss Lane,due to farming activity and also the increased danger to traffic and pedestrians, and requesting that the Lane should be restored to the original width. Received and Noted

117. Quality Parish Councils

Nil report.

118. Ecclesfield Sports Facility

AGM normally due early December – detail to be advised.

119. LAPTC/MAPTC/NALC/SLCC

Nil report.

120. Parish Newsletter

The November 2007 issue had been distributed throughout the Parish, and early feedback indicates that it is being read with enjoyment by the recipients .The Chairman Councillor Nancy Ashcroft paid tribute to the excellent work carried out by the Editor, Cllr.Ken Roughley in compiling the magazine.

121. Lynton Way Play Area - Report

All relatively quiet recently.

122. Jim Malone Garden –Report

The hedges were recently pruned back, and the garden currently looks well.

123. Christmas Tree Lighting

Estimate of £220 for the electrical work had been received from Paragon Building Services (St Helens) Ltd .

Resolved that this estimate be approved and accepted- Clerk to write to confirm-,but also to definitely try to arrange for additional lights to be supplied for the tree.,including any necessary electrical work or adjustments.

All other arrangements were in hand.

124. Reports from Other Bodies

a) St Helens District Sports Council

The Mayor's Appeal is a yearly fund raising in aid of two local charities, and this year these are the "Honey Rose Foundation" and the Sports Council. Therefore on Sat. 8th December 2007 a GRAND CHRISTMAS FAYRE, commencing at 10.AM, would be held at the Parish Church Hall, Church Square, St Helens. Publicity and support was requested. Noted

b) Bleak Hill School Governors

Bleak Hill School had received a very good OFSTED Inspection Report with only the English Results, surprisingly, being not as good as expected. This was being investigated.

Here Cllr. Ken Roughley informed Council that Fire Services wanted it mandatory that all public buildings should be fitted with sprinkler systems. Naturally this would include schools, who would have to meet the cost of this out of the school budget.

124. Pre-Christmas Reception

The Clerk submitted a proposed guest list which was approved after some additions, notably James Pout and his family.

125. Finance

a) Balances

The Council noted the balances at 1st November 2007 were:

	£
Current Account	724.03
Capital Reserve Account	12740.69

b) Payment of Accounts

Eccleston Parish Council	Room Hire 20/11/07	19.00
PC PRINT	Newsletter Printing	494.00
L.J. Kilshaw	Salary Post Purchases	287.94
St Helens Council	May Parish Council Election	85.00

c) Internal Audit Report

The Internal Audit Report for the quarter ending 30th September 2007 was presented to the Council. There were no comments or matters that the auditor ; Mr. John Friar, wished to bring to the attention of the Council on this occasion.

Resolved that the report be accepted and noted.

d) Budget

The Clerk introduced a brief discussion outlining some of the factors to be considered in making the proposals for the budget for 2008/09. However the final proposals would not be considered before January 2008.

126. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th December 2007, commencing at 7.00pm. This will be followed on the rising of the meeting by the Pre-Christmas Reception at 8.30 pm.

The Council were reminded that the Christmas Tree Lighting , at Bleak Hill School was scheduled for Friday ,7th December 2007 (1.45 pm for a prompt start at 2.15)

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

SIGNED ;

------(CHAIRMAN)

DATE