

WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday,
15th May 2007, at Eccleston Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs.K.S.Barton (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft
Councillor W.Ashcroft
Councillor R.W.Barton
Councillor Mrs.A.Bate
Councillor S.A.Bligh
Councillor Mrs.M.McNulty
Councillor K.D.Roughley
Councillor Mrs.E.Uren

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

1. Prayers

The Chairman ,Cllr.Mrs.K.S.Barton,opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

2. Declarations of Interest / Acceptance of Office

Declarations of Acceptance of Office were made by all Councillors,and the appropriate forms were signed by them and witnessed by the Clerk to the Council.

The Council was mindful that an amended Code of Conduct had been introduced,and had agreed to undergo training in this ,provided by St Helens Council,but currently

Resolved that the existing Code of Conduct would be adhered to and the existing Declaration of Interest Forms were completed ,pending receipt of new amended forms.

3. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

4. Election of Chairman

It was proposed , seconded and

Resolved that Councillor Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft be appointed Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year and ,on the acceptance of her appointment,she was installed and duly signed the appropriate Declaration of Acceptance of Office .

Councillor Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft in the Chair.

5. Election of Deputy Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and Resolved that Councillor W.Ashcroft be appointed Deputy Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year and, on acceptance of his appointment he duly signed the appropriate Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6. Vote of Thanks

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved that a vote of thanks be extended to Cllr.Mrs.K.S.Barton for her work on behalf of the Council and residents during her year in office as Chairman and for the manner in which she had carried out the duties entailed.

In turn, Cllr.Mrs.K.S.Barton reciprocated by expressing her thanks to the Council and the Clerk, for the help and support provided during her term of office.

7. Council Procedures etc.for 2007/08

Resolved

- (a) that meetings generally be held on the third Tuesday of each month, except August when there would not be a meeting, commencing at 7.00 p.m. and the Annual Assembly be held in March 2008.
- (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, last year's Chairman and Councillor R.W.Barton, plus substitute membership 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 the application.
- (d) that regarding the maintenance and improvement of the public footpaths, a map should be printed in the forthcoming issue of the Parish Newsletter, and copies reproduced for use in Eccleston Library, Parish Notice Boards, newsagents etc. to reinforce the message of the "Use Your Footpaths Week", which will take place in June 2007. Residents will be urged to walk the paths at all times, and to report to Cllr.W.Ashcroft and Cllr.Mrs.A.Bate any damage or obstruction of the paths, so that such problems may be solved at the earliest opportunity.

8. Standing Orders etc.

Resolved that the Model Standing Orders issued by NALC be adopted, as appropriate,

for meetings of the Parish Council, with the provision for the termination of ordinary business of the Council at 9.30 pm, and the opportunity for discussion of "Parish Matters" on the agenda.

9. Banking Accounts and Financial Procedures

It was unanimously :

Resolved :

(a) that the NatWest Bank be the Council's bankers and that 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. It was noted that due to changes in membership of the Council, after the recent election it was necessary to alter the mandate accordingly:

(b) that the Model Financial Regulations be adopted provisionally, subject to a further study and recommendations by the Finance Committee for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

(c) that responsibility for the financial affairs of the Council be vested in the Clerk to the Council as the Recognized Financial Officer :

(d) that there be delegated to those Councillors on the Management Committee of the Ecclesfield Sports Facility, authority to sign cheques, in accordance with the management agreement :

(e) that Mr. John Friar be retained and be confirmed as the Internal Auditor for the Financial Year 2007/2008.

10. Codes of Practice

Model Code of Conduct/ Local Code of Conduct /Modified Code of Conduct

The modified Code of Conduct had come into force on the 3rd of May 2007, but the existing Code would still apply until the Parish Council passed a resolution to adopt the new version – this must be done by October 2007. In the interim period it was planned to obtain training, from St Helens Council, in the new Code. Therefore it was:

Resolved that the Amended Model Code of Conduct and Practice be adopted in respect of the Handling of Complaints and Declarations of Interest.

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

Resolved

(a) that the Council retain membership with MAPTC/LAPTC/ and NALC and the number of NALC magazines be two per issue only.

(b)that the representatives on the Area Committee be Councillors Mrs.K.S. and R. W.Barton.

12. Representation on Other Bodies

Resolved that the following be approved as representatives of the Council on these various bodies :

- (a) {Bleak Hill School Governors}- No longer allowed an official Parish Council Representative, but Cllr, Mrs. K. S. Barton was a governor and would represent Parish Council views.
- (b) . Police & Community Forum – Cllrs K. D. Roughley & S. A. Bligh
- (c) Windle United Charities – Cllr. W. Ashcroft
- (d) St Helens & District Sports Council – Cllrs. W. Ashcroft & R. W. Barton
- (e) Age Concern – Cllrs. Mrs. M. McNulty & Mrs. E. Uren
- (f) Crime Prevention – Cllr. K. D. Roughley
- (g) St. Helens CVS – Cllr. Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft
- (h) Ecclesfield Management Committee – Cllrs. W. Ashcroft, Mrs. A. Bate,
Mrs. K. S. Barton, R. W. Barton
- (I) Victims Support – Cllr. R. W. Barton

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed-----
Chairman

Date-----

LJK