

Windle Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 7pm
at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane**

Present: Councillor Uddin (Chair)
Councillor Barton
Councillor Dockerty
Councillor Donnelly
Councillor Greatorex

Also in Attendance: J Anderson (Clerk to the Council)

125 **Prayers:** The Clerk opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

126 **Apologies:** Councillor Dickinson

Cllr Uddin was sorry to announce that she would be resigning as the Chair due to work commitments that meant she may not always be able to attend meetings. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Dockerty would take over as Chair until May. Councillors thanked Cllr Uddin for her time as Chair.

127 **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations were made.

128 **Parish Matters:** None reported.

129 **Minutes of Meeting held 20 December 2022:** The council received the minutes of the meeting.

Resolved the minutes of the meeting be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

130 **Matters Arising:** None

131 **Planning Matters:**

(a) Applications

Greenacres Woodland Burials

Creation of an overflow car park and soft landscaped screening hedgerow

Response – Parish Council support the comments of the Trees and Woodlands Officer to protect and enhance the natural environment where possible.

Land adjacent to 143 Rainford Road

Erection of 1no detached four-bedroom dwelling

Response – Parish Council support the comments of the Trees and Woodlands Officer to protect and enhance the natural environment where possible.

(b) Decisions

Abbeyfield House

Works to 3no trees protected by TPO (2no lime and 1no oak)

Refused 9/1/23

The applications and decision were noted.

- 132 Other Correspondence: **Resolved to note:**
(a) Letter from St Helens Council confirming Council Tax base for Windle Parish as 984 band D equivalent properties (same as last year) with proposed payment dates of 13 April 2023 and 15 June 2023.
(b) Email from St Helens Council, Community Governance Review Update – will present draft recommendations to St Helens Council in July.
(c) Email from St Helens Council, Budget Consultation documentation – consultation period ended Sunday 15 January 2023.
- 133 Councillor Co-option: It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Stephen Barnes as Parish Councillor. The Clerk would contact Mr Barnes and invite him to join the February meeting.
- 134 Parish Newsletter: The Clerk requested remaining articles to be submitted so that the newsletter could be completed for the February meeting.
- 135 Ecclesfield Sports Facility: Nothing to report.
- 136 Society of Local Council Clerks: Nothing to report
- 137 Lynton Way Play Area: After meeting with Trevor Nicoll from St Helens Borough Council, and discussing the maintenance of the open space, it was unanimously agreed to request that St Helens Borough Council maintain the open space. The Clerk would confirm this in writing to Mr Nicoll.
- 138 J Malone Garden: Nothing to report
- 139 Reports from Other Bodies: None received
- 140 Finance:
a) The Clerk advised that the balances at 30 December 2022 were:
Current Account £18,635.85
Business Reserve £6,182.98
TOTAL £24,818.83
- b) **Resolved** that the following payments be made:
- | | | |
|--|--------|------|
| Eccleston PC – room, telephone, copier service and lease | 77.24 | 2661 |
| J Anderson – salary + travel and postage | 324.92 | BACS |
- Resolved** that the following receipt(s) be noted:
- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| NatWest – interest (Oct) | 2.01 |
| NatWest – interest (Nov) | 3.55 |
| NatWest – interest (Dec) | 4.06 |
- (c) HMRC statement** showing nothing owing at 16 January 2023 was reported to the meeting.
- (d) Finance Committee** – Cllrs Barton, Dockerty and Greatorex along with the Clerk met on 13 January 2023 to discuss the budget and proposed precept. It was proposed to increase the precept by 0.54p per household to £12.99.

(e) Budget/Precept – St Helens Council confirmed 984 Band D equivalent properties for 2023-24. Finance Sub Cttee had met and proposed to increase the precept. A vote was taken and 3 to 2 voted in favour of the precept remaining the same. A request for a precept of £12,250.80 for 2023/24 would be made, which would result in a cost to residents of £12.45 per year – same as last year. All Councillors had received a copy of the budget.

The following broad-based budget was accepted for 2023/24:

<u>Payments (Net of VAT)</u>	£
Fees and insurance	565.00
Salary, travel, training	4893.00
Election costs provision	1000.00
Post, telephone, copier and stationery	420.00
Website and domain name	300.00
Room hire	231.00
Wreath	50.00
Newsletter	800.00
School awards	120.00
Update of Honour Board	40.00
Ecclesfield	3871.00
Jim Malone Garden, plants and bench	675.00
Lynton Way Play Area (opening/closing and maintenance)	8580.00
Garden competition inc engraving	240.00
Christmas tree lighting/tree/lights	670.00
Hospitality	100.00
TOTAL	22555.00
<u>Receipts (estimated)</u>	
Bank interest	15.00
Advertising	50.00
TOTAL	65.00

(f) Risk Assessment – the annual risk assessment was carried out. It was agreed to sign the risk assessment.

141 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 21 February 2023 7.00pm Eccleston Village Hall

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: