

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 7pm in Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

Present Councillor Dockerty (Chair)
 Councillor Almond
 Councillor Barton
 Councillor Donnelly
 Councillor Greatorex
 Councillor Riley

Also in Attendance J Anderson (Clerk to the Council)

- 72 Prayers: The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council. Cllr Dockerty welcomed Cllr Almond and introduced everyone.
- 73 Apologies: Cllr Barnes
- 74 Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.
- 75 Parish Matters: (a) Cllr Barton reported the overgrown shrubbery over the bridge in Kiln Lane that was obstructing the footpath. The Clerk was asked to report it to St Helens Council.
(b) Cllr Almond reported a public footpath sign that had fallen over at the bridge over Windlebrook on the East Lancashire Road. The Clerk was asked to report it to St Helens Council.
(c) Cllr Greatorex reported speeding traffic at Windle Island that he felt needed reporting and monitoring. The Clerk reported that the police had been invited to the meeting but had had no reply. The Clerk was asked to contact the Chief Inspector to invite local police.
(d) Cllr Dockerty reported the poor condition of the wall at the shops in Lynton Way. The brickwork had crumbled leaving bricks on the pavement as well as trees growing out of the wall. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners and St Helens Council.
(e) Cllr Dockerty also reported the overgrown shrubbery along Windlebrook, especially Himalayan balsam. The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency were due to cut back overgrowth in August but the work had been delayed.
- 76 Minutes of Meeting: The council received the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2023 and Resolved that the minutes of the meeting be accepted and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.
- 77 Matters Arising: (a) None
- 78 Planning Matters: The Clerk gave an opportunity for comment on the following:
 a) Applications:
 None

 (b) Approvals: **Noted**
 49 Coronation Road
 Single storey side extension
 Granted 11/8/23
 100 St Georges Avenue
 Proposed two storey side extension
 Granted 18/8/23

79 Other Correspondence: (a) None

80 Ecclesfield – 5 Sept 2023 at 7pm in Eccleston Village Hall. Cllrs Barton, Barnes and Riley attended along with the Secretary. Report as follows:

- Cllr Barton offered to remain in the Chair for another year – unanimously agreed.
- Caretaker had reported that he had repaired a leak on one of the toilets.
- BHR reported that they do not want their team to use the changing rooms because of possible safeguarding issues taking children to the toilets in the changing rooms.
- BHR reported that as they now had use of the container, they would like to install a fence around the container. **Councillors agreed that a fence should NOT be installed.**
- BHR also informed the meeting that their club made running repairs to the pitches. The Chair said these should be reported to the Committee.
- BHR requested pitch changes. The Secretary was asked to find out the cost as BHR would be willing to pay.*
- BHR was having a successful season with 380 youngsters – although there were less girls. They had 54 coaches that all had DBS checks, first aid training and introduction to football course.
- Other uses of the field were discussed such as a running track and other sports.
- It was agreed to continue with paper-based booking system.

* Since the meeting, the pitch changes had been sorted. BHR had requested 2 pitches marking over pitch 4. The Clerk emailed BHR to remind them that there was already a 9v9 on this pitch. They were happy with this and therefore did not require other pitches marking.

81 Litter Picking: Cllr Donnelly agreed to lead the events. The intention would be to hold litter picking events monthly on a Saturday morning. This would be posted on the Facebook page. Litter pickers had been purchased and Cllr Donnelly would look at hi-viz jackets and gloves to be purchased. The date of the first event had still to be decided.

82 Social Media: Cllr Riley had discussed social media with a Rainford Parish Councillor, who had been extremely helpful. Cllr Riley had created a Windle Parish Council Facebook page ready to go live when details were approved. It was agreed that contact details for the Clerk would be added. The Clerk agreed to be an administrator for the page along with Cllr Riley. Councillors would be added as administrators as they became more familiar with Facebook. A draft policy had been agreed. The Clerk would amend it specific to Windle Parish Council, then send via email to all Councillors. The Clerk would email to Cllr Riley a map of the Parish and photographs used on the website to be added to the Facebook page.

The website was discussed and it was agreed to add profile photographs of each Councillor. Photographs were taken to be uploaded on to the website. It was suggested that each Councillor add a short information paragraph about themselves if they wanted to.

The Clerk would investigate the cost of each Councillor having a 'Windle Parish Council' email address. This would be included in the budget for the next financial year.

Cllr Donnelly left the meeting.

83 Community Governance Review: The second consultation would be open until Monday 9 October 2023. Paper copies of surveys were handed out.

- 84 Neighbourhood Planning: The event Cllr Riley had planned to attend at the Hardshaw Centre had been cancelled, but he had spoken to one of the Planners from DAC Planning. Cllr Riley explained the 4 parts to Neighbourhood Planning: to identify and protect local green space; to protect the character of an area; to protect the heritage of an area and to implement good design for an area. The Neighbourhood Plan would work in tandem with the town's local plan. DAC Planning had forwarded the paperwork to register an interest in producing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 85 Newsletter: Councillors were reminded that articles would be needed for the Newsletter which would be published April/May next year.
- 86 Bleak Hill Road/Calderhurst Drive Junction: Cllr Riley had been given cards produced by Merseyside Police and St Helens Council that were a polite notice reminding drivers of vehicles not to park on pavements. The 'Pavements are for People' cards would be put on cars parking on the pavements around the junction of Bleak Hill Road and Calderhurst Drive. The Clerk was asked to contact Ward Councillors to see if there had been any progress with the matter of cars obstructing the pavement.
- 87 Christmas Tree Lighting: A meeting would be arranged with Bleak Hill School, the Chair, Deputy Chair and Clerk to discuss the format and length of the ceremony. The outcome would be reported back to the next meeting.
- 88 SLCC: Nothing to report.
- 89 Lynton Way Play Area: The Clerk informed the meeting that St Helens Council had replied to report that the tree previously reported by a resident as being near the substation, appeared to be in a private garden therefore St Helens Council would not be able to cut the tree back. Cllr Greateorex would contact the resident to report this. Cllr Riley had emailed in July to say that the bushes had been cut back.
- 90 J Malone Garden: It was agreed that the metal blue sign needed re-painting. The Clerk was asked to contact the firm that refurbished the bench to check if they would be able to refurbish the sign.
- 91 Reports from Other Bodies: Nothing to report.
- 92 Finance: a) The Clerk advised that the balances at 31 July 2023 were:
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Current Account | £24,205.05 |
| Business Reserve Account | <u>£5899.78</u> |
| TOTAL | £30,104.83 |
- The balances at 31 August 2023 were:
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Current Account | £23,755.69 |
| Business Reserve Account | <u>£5,899.78</u> |
| TOTAL | £29,655.47 |
- b) **Resolved** that the following payments be made:
- | | | |
|--|--------|------|
| | | Chq |
| Eccleston Parish Council – phone July and copier lease | 34.33 | 2682 |
| J Anderson – August | 319.03 | BACS |
| Eccleston Parish Council – room Sept and phone Aug | 34.11 | 2683 |
| HMRC – PAYE July-Sept | 236.60 | 2684 |
| Ransons Gardening and Landscaping – 4 visits | 128.00 | 2685 |
| J Anderson – Sept plus stationery, litter pickers and wreath | 397.95 | BACS |

Resolved that the following receipt(s) be noted:

Interest – July

6.63

c) Internal Audit – no issues raised

93 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 17 October 2023

7pm

Eccleston Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed:
Chair

Date: