

## Windle Parish Council

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

Present Councillor Dockerty (Chair)  
Councillor Almond  
Councillor Barnes  
Councillor Barton  
Councillor Donnelly  
Councillor Greateorex  
Councillor Riley

Also in Attendance J Anderson (Clerk to the Council)

141 Prayers: Cllr Dockerty welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

142 Apologies: None

143 Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

144 Parish Matters: (a) A resident had contacted Cllr Greateorex regarding a pothole outside their property in Queens Drive. The Clerk reported it to St Helens Council. Cllr Greateorex reported that the pothole had been repaired.

(b) Cllr Almond reported that the public footpath sign on the East Lancashire Road had been removed. The sign had fallen over and had been reported to St Helens Council in September.

(c) Cllr Dockerty reported that the weeds had been removed around the wall at Lynton Way/Bleak Hill Road.

(b) St Helens Police had put a post on Facebook to report that they had attended Bleak Hill Primary school following complaints about parking at school times. Cllr Riley had re-posted it on Windle Parish Council's page.

(c) A resident had contacted the Clerk to report bins and rubbish being left on the pavement outside 14 Moss Lane. The Clerk reported it to St Helens Council who made a site visit and reported no issues at that time. Clerk updated the resident.

145 Minutes of Meeting: The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2023 and

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

146 Matters Arising: None

147 Planning Matters:

(a) Applications:

None

(b) Decisions:

#### **Woodlands Burials**

Creation of an overflow car park and soft landscaped screening hedgerow

Withdrawn 11/12/23

**Noted**

- 148 Other Correspondence: (a) An email from a resident requesting support for the campaign to keep the allotments on Alder Hey Road open. It was agreed to post the details on Windle Parish Council's website.
- 149 Ecclesfield Sports Facility: Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 7pm at Eccleston Village Hall – Cllrs Barton and Riley along with the Clerk attended. The following items were discussed:
- The Caretaker had reported problems with locking the changing rooms. He had returned a few times to find the doors not locked and lights on. All teams were reminded to lock the changing rooms when not in use.
  - No issues from BHR teams. They had not played for the past 3 or 4 weeks due to bad weather and waterlogged pitches.
  - It was agreed that the Secretary should apply for the pitch improvement grant available from Liverpool FA.
  - It had been reported that other teams may be using the pitches and not paying for them. Cllr Ashcroft went along on a couple of occasions but there were no teams other than BHR's girls.
  - A discussion took place regarding possible uses of the field – running track/distance markers, cricket, rounders and a summer gala for Eccleston and Windle residents were suggested.
  - Proposed budget for 2024/25 had been presented to Councillors – in summary: Parish Council's contribution to cover maintenance costs being charged by St Helens Council – £4067; a 5% increase in caretaker's salary; 5% increase to Secretary's honorarium; £100 for any internal decoration. A 10% increase in hire fees.
- 150 Litter Picking: The first meeting had been arranged for Saturday 30 December 2023 at 10.30am, then they would be held on the last Saturday of each month. The Clerk would forward the risk assessment documents to Cllr Donnelly.
- 151 Neighbourhood Planning: Cllr Riley reported that the application to designate Windle Parish area as a Neighbourhood Area for purposes of neighbourhood planning had been approved. The Planning Officer would attend the January meeting. The Clerk was asked to upload the application and map to Windle Parish Council's website.
- 152 Bleak Hill Road/Calderhurst Drive Junction: Cllr Riley said there were less cars parking on the pavement. He had more notices to remind cars not to park on the pavement. St Helens Council had confirmed that the contractor would return to complete painting the yellow lines on Bleak Hill Road.
- 153 Kiln Lane Crossing: Cllr Riley had spoken to the Road Safety Officer at St Helens Council regarding the Parish Council requesting a traffic and pedestrian survey of Kiln Lane. She confirmed a survey would be undertaken in the new year.
- The Road Safety department of St Helens Council asked that any near misses/incidents should also be reported. They requested parents to report any issues to the Head of their school so that this data could also be included with the traffic survey. Comments from a recent petition would also be included. The Clerk would draft a letter to be sent to local schools.
- 154 Christmas Tree Lighting: Councillors felt the format worked well and were happy with the length of the event. It was suggested that next year it could start later so that it finished just before school home time.
- 155 SLCC: Nothing to report.
- 156 Lynton Way Play Area: Nothing to report.

157 J Malone Garden: (a) The sign would be re-painted when the weather was not as damp and cold.  
b) An email from the gardener to explain that he had been gifted numerous shrubs and tulip bulbs, all of which he had planted in the garden at no cost. To improve the soil, he would like to purchase 2 tons of topsoil and fertiliser, then dig it in. This would cost approximately £298 for soil and labour. **Agreed**

158 Reports from Other Bodies: Nothing to report.

159 Finance: a) The Clerk advised that the balances at 30 November 2023 were:

Current Account	£19,741.19
Business Reserve Account	<u>£ 5,928.19</u>
TOTAL	£25,669.38

b) **Resolved** that the following payments be made:

St Helens Council – grounds maintenance LWPA	308.67	Chq 2692
HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE Oct-Dec	236.60	Chq 2693
Ransons Gardening and Landscaping – 5 visits	160.00	Chq 2694
Eccleston PC – room Dec and phone Nov	33.01	Chq 2695
J Anderson – salary, expenditure and travel	367.98	BACS

It was agreed to pay Rainforads Christmas Trees by bank transfer for the tree at Bleak Hill School, as they no longer accepted cheques. The cheque previously sent would be returned.

**Resolved** that the following receipt(s) be noted:

NatWest – interest Nov	7.06
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c) The internal audit had been carried out with nothing to report.

160 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 16 January 2024	7.00pm	Eccleston Village Hall
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The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed:  
Chair

Date: