

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 7pm
at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

Present: Councillor Dockerty (Chair)
Councillor Barnes
Councillor Barton
Councillor Donnelly
Councillor Greatorex
Councillor Riley

Also in Attendance: Sara Manson – Principal Planning Officer, St Helens Council
J Anderson (Clerk to the Council)

161 Prayers: The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.
Cllr Dockerty introduced all Councillors and the Clerk to Sara Manson.

162 Apologies: Councillor Almond

163 Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

Cllr Dockerty requested to bring agenda item 169 forward to accommodate the guest speaker. It was agreed to move the item to 164.

164 Neighbourhood Planning: Sara Manson addressed the meeting to explain the next steps of the Neighbourhood Plan. The first step would be to consult with residents about the Parish area. It was suggested this could be done using the Parish Newsletter and Facebook. Policies would need to be written and the Neighbourhood Plan would need to conform with St Helens Council's Local Plan. Sara explained that the responsibility of the policies would fall with the Parish Council but her department would be able to offer support. She explained that funding could be applied for twice a year and would let Parish Council know the next date for applying.

A discussion took place and suggestions of possible projects the Neighbourhood Plan could bring, such as improving public footpaths and possibly creating a new one at Moss Lane to connect to other footpaths.

The Neighbourhood Plan could take 2-4 years to complete.

In summary, the next steps – first would be to consult with residents; a draft plan would be compiled and residents would be consulted; an examiner would be appointed and would make possible recommendations; meetings would take place to discuss the recommendations before the draft would be published; a referendum would take place for residents to agree or disagree – 51% would need to agree before the plan was made.

Councillors thanked Sara for attending and for all the information. She left the meeting.

165 Parish Matters: a) Cllr Barton reported that the shrubbery over the bridge in Kiln Lane had been cut back.
b) Cllr Dockerty added that the shrubbery at Lynton Way shops had also been cut back.
c) Cllr Greatorex explained that St Helens Council had not carried out some of the promised work after the development of Windle Island eg planting bulbs. Cllr Greatorex would draft a letter to St Helens Council.

d) Cllr Donnelly reported that there were no hedges along a stretch of the East Lancashire Road between Windle Island and the farm. He would make enquiries about planting hawthorn.

e) A resident had contacted Cllr Barnes to report cars parking on the grass verge outside 155 Bleak Hill Road and churning up the grass. The resident had contacted St Helens Council but had had no response. The Clerk was asked to report it to St Helens Council.

f) Cllr Riley mentioned that the noticeboard at Windle Island needed attention. The Clerk informed the meeting that money had been put into next year's budget for repair to the noticeboard.

g) Cllr Dockerty also mentioned installing a road sign 'Welcome to Windle' which would be considered.

166 Minutes of Meeting held 19 December 2023: 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.

167 Matters Arising: None

168 Planning Matters:

(a) Applications

None

(b) Decisions

None

Noted

169 Other Correspondence: **Resolved to note:**

a) Letter from St Helens Council confirming Council Tax base for Windle Parish. 983 band D equivalent properties (down one on last year) with proposed payment dates of 11 April 2024 and 13 June 2024. **Agreed**

b) Email from St Helens Council. Community Governance Review final recommendations would be submitted to St Helens Council on 17 January.

c) Email from a resident with an update of the fundraising activities and requesting support for the campaign to prevent the closure of the allotments in Alder Hey Road.

170 Ecclesfield Sports Facility: Nothing to report.

171 Litter Picking: A risk assessment had been carried out and the first litter picking session had taken place which had been successful. Councillors requested more bin bag holders. The Clerk would order more. The next one would be Saturday 27 January at 10.30am meeting at Windle Island bus stop.

172 Garden Competition: It was agreed the competition would return with the entry form to be included in the Parish Newsletter. Details would be discussed at the next meeting.

173 Parish Newsletter: Articles were requested.

174 Kiln Lane Crossing: Cllr Riley had drafted a letter to 3 schools, De la Salle, Bleak Hill Primary and Rainford High. One parent had responded reporting that her son had been hit by a car. Cllr Riley had asked for details of time and place. Bleak Hill School had expressed an interest in getting involved. The person that generated the original petition would contact

people that had left comments giving details of incidences. The information could then be submitted to St Helens Council's road safety department.

175 Society of Local Council Clerks: Nothing to report

176 Lynton Way Play Area: Nothing to report.

177 J Malone Garden: Top soil and fertiliser had been put down and bulbs planted.

178 Reports from Other Bodies: None.

179 Finance:

a) The Clerk advised that the balances at 29 December 2023 were:

Current Account £18,590.93

Business Reserve £5,935.02

TOTAL £24,525.95

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

Eccleston PC – room and telephone	31.50	2696
Ransons Gardening and Landscaping – top soil and fertiliser	298.00	2697
St Helens Council – grounds maintenance – Lynton Way	308.67	2698
J Anderson – January + travel	323.08	BACS

Resolved that the following receipt(s) be noted:

NatWest – interest (Dec) 6.83

(c) HMRC statement showing nothing owing at 16 January 2024 was reported to the meeting.

(d) Finance Committee – Cllrs Barton, Dockerty and Greatorex along with the Clerk met on 8 January 2024 to discuss the budget and proposed precept. It was proposed the precept remain the same at £12.45 per household.

(e) Budget/Precept – St Helens Council confirmed 983 Band D equivalent properties for 2024-25. Finance Sub Ctte had met and proposed the precept remain the same. A request for a precept of £12,238.35 for 2024/25 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 2024/25:

<u>Payments (Net of VAT)</u>	£
Fees and insurance	565.00
Salary, travel, training	5150.00
Election costs provision	1000.00
Post, telephone, copier and stationery	345.00
Website and domain name	525.00
Room hire	231.00
Wreaths	50.00
Newsletter	800.00
School awards	120.00
Update of Honour Board	40.00
Ecclesfield	4067.00

Jim Malone Garden, plants and bench	675.00
Noticeboard	200.00
Lynton Way Play Area (opening/closing and maintenance)	3390.00
Garden competition inc engraving	260.00
Christmas tree lighting/tree/lights	750.00
Hospitality	100.00
Litter picking	100.00
TOTAL	18368.00

Receipts (estimated)

Bank interest	60.00
Advertising	50.00
TOTAL	110.00

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

180 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 20 February 2024	Neighbourhood Plan Meeting	6.00pm	Eccleston Village Hall
Followed by	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Eccleston Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: