

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 12 November 2009 at 7.30 pm in The Changing Rooms, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

Present Councillors W Mason (Chairman), L Armstrong, P Ascroft, H Bradley, M Frost, J Lilley, A Love, M Miller, R Monks, J Morris, M Price.

Also present County and Borough Councillor Iddon, PC Howard and 5 Members of the Public.

128.09 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor J Haines.

129.09 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Bradley, as a Trustee of Ecclestone Millennium Green, declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 (Millennium Green).

130.09 Minutes of the Meeting held 8 October 2009

Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Resolved: Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak.

131.09 Public Participation

i) Residents Points of Interest

Residents of Drapers Avenue advised of problems with youths congregating on the car park and other youths playing football against the walls of the Scout Hut. A resident suggested railings be placed in front of the Scout Hut to reduce the noise, or a 'goal end' piece of equipment be installed, or an alternative area be provided. Residents were encouraged to report problems to the Police.

Representatives of the Youth Club advised of a forthcoming lunch event, with entertainment, which is to be arranged for older members of the community. Youth Club members will plan the event and prepare and serve the food. A poster advertising the event is to be displayed in the Council noticeboard. The Club usually arranges fund raising events to cover the costs, but had been unable to do so this year, and Parish Council's help was requested.

The Youth and Community Centre is also in need of additional storage space and permission for the siting of a container was requested.

ii) Police Matters

PC Howard suggested a multi use games area on the Recreation Fields may alleviate problems on the car park. Details of the reported crimes for the month were provided. Alcohol was being confiscated from local youths, and the local shops are monitoring purchases of alcohol as there is a problem with adults purchasing alcohol on behalf of the youths. The Drapers Avenue car park area has become a problem area again and will be monitored. The youth responsible for burning the tiles under the slide has been convicted and ordered to pay costs to the Council and a suspect is to be questioned in connection with the vandalism of the Council noticeboard.

iii) County and Borough Councillors

Chorley Council's Arboricultural Officer had been asked to consider a preservation order on the trees remaining following United Utilities' felling on New Lane. The Officer decided there was no need for an order. The trees were felled as they were interfering with power lines and utility companies have legal powers to carry out works to trees subject to preservation orders.

Resolved: Standing orders be restored.

132.09 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial monitoring statement.

Resolved: the monitoring statement was received and accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors considered a grant request from Eccleston Youth Club towards the costs of a lunch and entertainment event for older residents of the village.

Resolved: a grant of £150, to be paid from the Village Events budget, be awarded.

Councillors considered requests for payment to the Council.

Resolved: the following payments be approved, the invoices having been inspected in accordance with fidelity guarantee requirements:

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| £ 561.81 | Employee 1 | Salary |
| £ 381.96 | Employee 2 | Salary |
| £ 416.73 | Employee 3 | Salary |
| £ 247.59 | Inland Revenue | Tax and NI |
| £ 229.70 | Employee 1 | Reimbursements |
| £ 13.96 | Employee 2 | Reimbursements |
| £ 1239.57 | Public Works Loans Board | Loan repayment |
| £ 150.00 | Royal British Legion | Poppy wreath and donation to Appeal |
| £ 175.00 | D W Groundwork | Tree felling |
| £ 51.75 | Wicksteed Leisure | Play area inspection |
| £ 133.40 | Wicksteed Leisure | Play area inspections |
| £ 97.75 | Tell Tale Signs | Badges |
| £ 57.50 | Ark Welding | Play equipment repair |
| £ 293.00 | Chorley Council | Business rates |
| £ 47.01 | United Utilities | Water services charge |

133.09 Planning Matters

There were no applications for consideration.

134.09 Youth and Community Centre

A request for permission to site a container, for storage purposes, to the rear of the Centre was considered. The container is to be painted to match the building and the Youth Club is to be responsible for any planning permissions necessary.

Resolved: permission for the siting of a container to the rear of the Centre be granted.

135.09 Recreation Fields

Details of works to improve the access areas between the two fields were considered. Lancashire County Council has offered to fund half of the cost and BTCV has some grant funding available. The cost to the Parish Council would be £937.50 (+VAT).

Resolved: the works, at a cost of £937.50 (+VAT) be ordered.

136.09 Millennium Green

A request for the Council to assume the role of sole trustee of the Millennium Green Trust, and to agree, in principle, to be bound by the original grant conditions was considered. The Millennium Green Trust had advised that Natural England would not agree to the Council's previous requests to dissolve the Trust and amend the original grant conditions and, if the Council was not willing to proceed the land may be handed back to Lancashire County Council. It was felt the preservation of the status as public open space, for use by residents, was of paramount importance.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of a previous recommendation by the National Association of Local Council's Legal Department that legal advice should be obtained. This was also suggested by Natural England. The Clerk also recommended a locally based solicitor should be used.

Resolved: the adoption, in principle, of the Millennium Green and the assumption of sole trusteeship of the Millennium Green Trust was approved, subject to inspection and approval of all documentation relating to the Millennium Green and the Trusteeship by the Parish Council's legal advisors.

Resolved: a local solicitor be instructed to inspect and approve the documents on behalf of the Parish Council.

137.09 Policies and Protocols

The adoption of policies for health and safety, equal opportunities and publicity were considered.

Resolved: the Health and Safety and Publicity policies be adopted.

Resolved: the Equal Opportunities policy be amended to include 'age'.

138.09 Newsletter

A request for details of a County Council Officer in relation to an issue dealt with at a previous Parish Council meeting was considered. Councillors were asked to consider the inclusion of an article advising residents with queries relating to Parish Council business to contact either contact the Clerk or Councillors.

Resolved: an article is to be included in the newsletter advising residents to contact the Clerk or Councillors on all matters relating to the Parish Council and to contact the relevant County and Borough Councillors on matters relating to their respective councils

Councillors considered a request to submit a personal response to an article in the September newsletter. Councillors felt the article would contravene the Council's Publicity Policy.

Councillors considered a request from The Legacy Rainbow House to communicate with residents via the newsletter. Councillors felt the material constituted an advertisement.

139.09 Christmas Carol Concert

Details of the Carol Concert were finalised. Councillors with connections to St Mary's School are to ask for the Hall to be made available in the event of bad weather.

140.09 Village Events Group

A questionnaire, requesting the views of residents on possible events in the village, is to be distributed along with the December newsletter.

141.09 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

Peter Lathom Trust - information relating to the distribution of previous years funds was requested.

Chorley Council is to arrange four intergenerational events within the village. There is a budget of £1000 for the events and a meeting has been called to provide ideas.

Chorley Council's Parish Clerks meeting received details from Neighbourhood Officers regarding their work in fly tipping removal, dog fouling and litter enforcement and stray animal collection. The lack of availability of land for allotment purposes was also discussed.

142.09 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10 December 2009.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

..... (Chairman)