

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held 12 September 2013 at 7.30 pm in The Changing Rooms, Drapers Avenue, Ecclestone.

Present Councillors M Frost (Chairman), L Armstrong, A Barnes, D Bonney, H Caunce, B Harrison, D Holborn, C Lilley and M Miller.

Also present 4 Members of the Public.

113.13 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors K Brown and W Mason.

114.13 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

115.13 Minutes of the Meeting held 8 August 2013

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended to allow Members of the Public to speak.

116.13 Public Participation

Residents raised the issue of the piped drain to the rear of properties on Drapers Avenue. The Chairman explained the Council's position, in the light of a Land Registry plan which clearly demonstrates the drain is not under the Council's control. A brief history of problems with the drain was provided on behalf of the residents. Residents raised two concerns; (1) that surface water from the Carrington Centre housing development will drain into the ditch, exacerbating the problems, and (2) that residents in the yet to be constructed houses will dispose of rubbish over the fences into the ditch. Information regarding using agricultural ditches as a basis to demonstrate land ownership was provided to the Council for consideration. The residents advised of a blockage in the drain to the rear of a property caused by tree roots. Councillors advised Northern Trust had been contacted and were willing to allow the Parish Council sight of the survey carried out earlier in the year. A resident suggested the drain should be dug out, re-piped and filled in using soil from the Carrington Centre development. Residents mentioned a 'bung' had been placed in the pipe in the past to prevent items of rubbish entering.

A resident advised of a tree on Drapers Avenue which was growing across the road.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

Agenda Item 7 was brought forward.

117.13 Land Drainage

Councillors discussed how to proceed with the issue of the drain. Several suggestions were put forward including research with agricultural bodies, obtaining a legal opinion on the validity of the Land Registry Search, and requesting the landowner provides evidence as to how the land is owned by the Council.

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended to allow Members of the Public to speak.

Further historical information on the drainage problems was provided.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

Further suggestions were discussed including for the Council to obtain an additional Land Registry search, contacting the landowner to ascertain the intentions for the land beyond the metal fence line, obtaining the results of the recent survey of the drain and seeking additional professional advice.

118.13 Financial Matters

Councillors considered the financial monitoring statement.

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

Councillors considered options for the renewal of insurance cover.

Resolved: a 3 year long term agreement, with a first year premium of £2064.64 is to be signed.

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

£ 653.36	Employee 1	Salary
£ 436.66	Employee 2	Salary
£ 478.10	Employee 3	Salary
£ 251.10	HM Revenue and Customs	Tax and NI
£ 220.23	Employee 1	Reimbursements
£ 21.60	Employee 2	Reimbursements
£ 35.00	Information Commissioner	Annual registration
£ 200.00	Sprintprint	Newsletter printing
£ 100.00	Eccleston Scouts and Guides	Newsletter delivery
£ 2064.64	Broker Network	Insurance premium
£ 53.00	E.on	Electricity charge
£ 12.63	United Utilities	Water services charge
£ 52.09	United Utilities	Surface water charge

119.13 Planning Matters

The following applications were considered:

13/00766/FUL Erection of a single storey rear/side extension at 1 Sagar Street.

Councillors had no comments relating to this application.

120.13 Tree Policy

Councillors discussed the adoption of a policy relating to trees on Parish Council owned land. The issue was referred to the Open Spaces Committee to allow full discussion.

121.13 Christmas Tree Fence

Councillors considered the sale of the metal fence to Astley Village Parish Council. The fence was exchanged for a paling fence last year, as a trial, in an attempt to prevent vandalism to the Christmas lights. The trial had proved successful and the paling fence, which would be retained as part of the sale is easier to handle.

Resolved: the sale, for a price of £150, was approved.

122.13 Closure of Leyland Cells

Councillors consider the proposed closure of Police cells at Leyland. Around £9m had recently been spent on improving the cells. The closure will mean Officers using Preston or Skelmersdale resulting in them being out of the area for longer. The closure of this secure facility will impact on Magistrates Courts at Leyland, which may close, and cases in Chorley being reduced. The sitting Magistrates in Preston and Skelmersdale will have no local knowledge to assist in their deliberations.

Resolved: the Council's objections to the closure are to be submitted to the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

123.13 Reports from Outside Bodies (for information only)

Three Tier Forum - all parish issues had been dealt with outside the meeting. Discussions took place as to how the Forum might move forward.

Changing Rooms Monitoring and Evaluation meeting - issues of pitch drainage were discussed. The Football Club has a new committee. The level of contributions towards running costs was also discussed.

Peter Lathom Charity - proposed amendments to the Scheme under which the charity operates were discussed.

124.13 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10 October 2013.

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